



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shasta-Trinity
National Forest
Weaverville Station

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File Code: 2810

Date: April 22, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing to authorize open mining on approximately 22 acres on National Forest lands on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC # 605515. Forest Service personnel are preparing to conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the proposed project within the Canyon Creek watershed about nine miles North of the community of Junction City. The legal location is: T.35N., R.10W., Section 30, Mount Diablo Meridian. Please see the enclosed map for a general location of the proposed permit area.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in the environmental analysis by providing your comments about this proposal during what is referred to as the public scoping process. If you have information you believe the Forest Service may not be aware of, or if you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of this proposed action, please send those issues in writing to the project leader (Mike Mitchell, Weaverville Ranger Station, P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093 (530) 623-1760 on or before May 18, 2004. An informational and public comment meeting will be held on May 13, 2004 at 6:30 P.M. at the Weaverville Fire Department for all interested parties. We will use any significant issues that are identified to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service proposes to authorize open pit mining of 22 acres in the Canyon Creek Watershed of the Trinity River Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. This is a high bench placer mining operation. The proposal is to remove vegetation, stockpile topsoil for



reclamation, remove and process valuable placer deposits down to bedrock, replace processed waste in excavation and reclaim the site. It is estimated that the operation will process approximately 1.4 million tons of gold bearing placer gravels from 22 acres from 5 to 25-years.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of the project is to extract locatable minerals (valuable mineral deposits) while providing resource protection on National Forest System lands as authorized by the United States mining laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C.21-54), which confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals.

DECISION TO BE MADE

The decision to be made is whether to authorize the proposed Plan of Operation as proposed, or proceed as modified by an alternative. Also, I will decide which recommended mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be applied.



JOYCE ANDERSEN

District Ranger