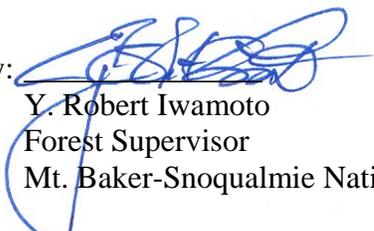


Community Relations Plan

Monte Cristo Mining Area Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Clean-Up Project

Prepared By: David Kendrick
Forester
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Reviewed by: Rod Lentz
On-Scene Coordinator

Approved By:  Date: 10/23/08
Y. Robert Iwamoto
Forest Supervisor
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Updated: 02/22/10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW3

BACKGROUND3

 Site History3

 Site History4

 Site Description4

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES5

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.....5

 History of Community Involvement and Project Awareness5

 Key Community Concerns.....6

TACTICS7

ACTION PLAN.....9

APPENDICES

- A. Project Location Maps**
- B. Interview Questions/Responses**
- C. Key Contacts**
- D. Tribal Consultation**
- E. News Releases/Updates**
- F. Comments/Responses/Meeting Notes**
- G. Legal Notices**

Monte Cristo Mining Area
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
(CERCLA)
Clean-Up Project

Community Relations Plan

OVERVIEW

The Monte Cristo Mining Area Site is located approximately 40 miles east of Everett in Snohomish County, Washington. The area includes numerous abandoned mines, the remains of a concentrator used to treat the ore from those mines, and associated features. These facilities are referred to collectively as the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA). Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments (APAs) were completed for the Monte Cristo Concentrator (2002), Mystery Mine (2003), Sidney Mine (2006), and Pride of the Woods, New Discovery, and Pride of the Mountains Mines (2006). A Site Inspection (SI) was completed by Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) for the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) for the Monte Cristo Mining Area in December, 2007. The SI considered other significant mining features in the district and recommended further investigation, human health and ecological risk assessments, and an evaluation of cleanup alternatives for the Site.

The Forest Service is preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate alternatives for completing a non-time-critical removal action related to metal contamination at the MCMA. That work will include the collection of additional soil, water and sediment samples and Streamlined Risk Assessments, as recommended in the SI.

Site cleanup will be performed by the Forest Service under the “Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act” (CERCLA) of 1980 cleanup authorities [42 USC 9604(a) and 7 CFR 2.60(m)] and Federal Executive Order 12580. The EE/CA report will document risks to human health and the environment, evaluate alternatives and identify a preferred alternative to minimize or eliminate the risks associated with the release of a hazardous substance into the environment or impact on public health and welfare as outlined in 40 CFR 300.415(b)(2)(i)-(viii). The EE/CA will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of “National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan,” 40 CFR 300.415(b)(4)(i).

BACKGROUND

Site Location

The Monte Cristo Mining Area is located near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington 40 miles east of Everett, Washington. (The Pride of the Mtns, New Discovery and Pride of the Woods mines are within

the wilderness) The site is adjacent to Glacier Creek, a headwater tributary to the South Fork of the Sauk River, which flows to the Sauk River, then to the Skagit River, and into Skagit Bay. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Quadrangle Map, Monte Cristo and Blanca Lake, WASH. (1982), published in the Washington Atlas (1995), shows the concentrator site is located in the northeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 21 (unsurveyed), Township 29 North, Range 11 East, Willamette Meridian and the Mystery Mine portal is located in the southwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 22 (unsurveyed), Township 29 North, Range 11 East, Willamette Meridian. The MCMA is situated at elevations ranging from approximately 2,880 feet (ft) above mean sea level (amsl) at the Concentrator to 4,280 ft amsl at the Mystery Mine portal. Darrington and Granite Falls are the nearest towns. Access to the site from either Darrington or Granite Falls is via Forest Service Road (FSR) 20, the Mountain Loop Scenic Highway, to Barlow Pass, then along FS road 4710 to the town site of Monte Cristo. FSR 4710 is gated at Barlow Pass and is currently undriveable due to a large slump just before crossing the South Fork Sauk River. Also, the west approach to the bridges crossing the South Fork Sauk River is washed out. It is approximately four miles from Barlow Pass to the Monte Cristo town site. The remaining distance to the various mine sites can be accomplished by hiking from town site.

Site History

According to Church and others (1983) and Johnson and others (1985), the first claims in the Monte Cristo mining district were staked on sulfide-bearing quartz veins in 1889. By 1891, a road up the Sauk River valley was under construction and in 1893, the Everett-Monte Cristo Railroad was completed, vastly improving access to the mining district. By 1894 a 300-ton-per-day concentrator and aerial tramways between the mill and the Mystery and Pride of Mountains mines were in place and operating. The mines produced high-grade ore that was trammed to the mill and the mill produced concentrates for shipment to the Everett Smelter until 1897, when flooding along the Sauk River destroyed much of the railroad. The mines were basically shut down until 1899 when John D. Rockefeller gained a controlling interest in the mines and related companies. Railroad service was restored in 1900 and mining resumed in the District. In response to an unfavorable 1901 USGS report on the mineral deposits in the District indicating grade decreased with depth, Rockefeller began selling his holdings. Subsequently, the Guggenheim Smelter Trust, later known as ASARCO, acquired the Monte Cristo Mines and Everett Smelter. Their main interest was the smelter and consequently, the mines were shut down in 1903. The mines were sold in 1905 to the Wilmans brothers who in turn sold to mining speculator Samuel Silverman in 1906 (Wolff and others, 2003). Silverman intended to install a roasting plant at Monte Cristo to produce arsenic trioxide, a pesticide, but the company went into receivership in 1907 (Wolff and others, 2003). Limited production resumed in 1906 only to end again the following year (Johnson and others, 1985). Some mining occurred in 1920 but the District has been generally idle since that time (Johnson and others, 1985).

Site Description

The MCMA includes three large mine complexes, the Mystery Mine, Justice Mine, and Comet Mine. Aerial tramways from the Mystery and Justice Mines terminated at a common point, the Ore Collector, from which ore was hauled by rail to a common mill, the United Companies Concentrator (Concentrator). The Mystery Mine is not a single mine, but is actually a series of interconnected mines that used the Mystery Mine's tramway to transport run-of-mine ore to the

Ore Collector (Cascade Earth Sciences – Spokane, WA Site Inspection - Monte Cristo Mining Area PN: 2523017 / Doc: MCMASI2.doc December 2007 / Page 3). These mines are the Mystery, Pride of the Woods, New Discovery, Pride of the Mountains, and numerous smaller mines. The Justice Mine interconnects with the Golden Cord Mine. Ore from the Comet Mine was transported by aerial tramway to a separate terminal for rail haulage to the Concentrator. The Comet Mine ore is effectively addressed by the Concentrator sampling where it was processed. The Comet Mine itself is located high on the mountainside more than one-half mile from Seventysix Gulch and was not investigated as part of this SI. Ruins of the 300-ton per day Concentrator include concrete foundations, old flooring, and partially processed ore. According to a Forest Service report (Forest Service 2002), 14,000 cubic yards (cy) of coarse gravity (jig) tailings were discharged on-land. This volume seems small for the production and mine sizes of the MCMA. The larger portion of tailings were more than likely deposited in Glacier Creek and transported downstream during flood events. Much of this may still be mixed within active stream gravel and can be observed visually and identified by sampling.

Risks to human and ecological receptors in the MCMA are associated primarily with high metals concentrations in waste rock, unprocessed ore, mill tailings, stream sediment and some local soils, as well as elevated metals in the adit and surface water. Potential metals impacts are evident to benthic macroinvertebrate populations in portions of South Fork Sauk River which includes threatened bull trout, steelhead, and salmon.

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

The Monte Cristo Mine Site is located in Snohomish County. According to the 2006 census, the county population was about 669,887. Darrington (population 1,136 according to 2000 census) and Granite Falls (population 2,347 according to 2000 census) are the closest towns to the MCMA. The main industries for residents of both communities are listed as manufacturing (Darrington 25%, Granite Falls 23%); educational, health, and social services (Darrington 22% Granite Falls 14%); and retail trade (Darrington 16%, Granite Falls 13%).

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

History of Community Involvement and Project Awareness

This plan identifies actions to involve local officials and alert the general public, including specific user groups, of the potential hazardous conditions known to exist at the site and planned clean-up actions.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest completed Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments (APA) for the Monte Cristo Concentrator in October 2002, Mystery Mine in February 2003, Sidney Mine in September 2006, and Pride of the Woods, New Discovery, and Pride of the Mountains Mines in September 2006. The APAs were performed by the Forest Service in accordance with the EPA “Guidance for Performing Preliminary Assessments Under CERCLA,” EPA “Improving Site Assessment: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments” of 1999, the “Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act” (CERCLA) of 1980, the “Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act” (SARA) of 1986, and the “National Contingency Plan” as outlined in 40 CFR Parts 300.410(c)(1)(i-v). The purpose of the assessments was to determine whether or not there was potential for release of contaminants to

the environment and/or to humans. Copies of the APAs were posted to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-cleanup-projects/index.shtml>.

The Forest Service retained Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) to perform a Site Inspection at the mine. The inspection was performed in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publication, "Guidance for Performing Site Inspections under CERCLA" (EPA, 1992). The purpose of the site inspection is to determine the potential threat to human health and/or the environment from issues identified during the APA. The work was performed under an existing five-year Forest Service Contract (#10181-1-D007) and in accordance with Purchase Order #AG-046W-P-06-0037.

The primary objectives of the Site Inspection was to:

- 1) Assess the immediate or potential threat that mining wastes pose to human health and/or the environment.
- 2) Collect sufficient information to support a decision regarding the need for further action.

The information was collected in general accordance with CERCLA protocols and documentation requirements for assessments involving hazardous substances. Specifically, as outlined in the EPA CERCLA guidance document (EPA, 1992), "the sampling locations are strategically planned to identify the substances present, determine if hazardous substances are being released to the environment, and determine whether or not hazardous substances have impacted specific targets." The site investigation field activities included sampling and analyzing soil, waste rock, plant tissue, surface water, and sediment samples from the site and vicinity.

A copy of the SI report was posted to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-cleanup-projects/2008-01-09_MCMA_SI_report--CES.pdf.

Key Community Concerns

Several key contacts (see attached Interview Contacts on page 17) were interviewed to gauge initial understanding of and interest in the Monte Cristo Mining Site and its associated risks to humans and the environment. Those who indicated concerns generally listed threats to water quality, especially from arsenic. Protection of artifacts was also listed by tribal contacts and by the Monte Cristo Preservation Association as a concern.

Those interviewed expressed near unanimous interest in receiving information regarding the mine site and status of cleanup. As the Community Relations Plan is implemented, the public will become informed of site contamination and efforts to do clean-up. As a result, there may be individuals and organizations that will become more interested and involved as they learn more about the situation. As cleanup efforts are implemented at the site, additional concerns may surface as a result of the impact those actions may have on the environment. Public notice and a 30-day public comment period will be provided following completion of the EE/CA.

The MCMA receives moderate human use. Tribal contacts indicate long-term historical use by tribal members. The popularity of abandoned mine sites for recreational exploration is common

in the area. Many people enjoy exploring these sites. Snohomish County records show 32 landowners in the Monte Cristo vicinity. As cleanup activities occur the site may experience increased interest from curious local residents and recreational users.

TACTICS

The community relations program for Monte Cristo Mining Area is intended to allow Forest users and adjacent communities the opportunity to learn about and give feedback to the cleanup effort, without unduly alarming people about present potential hazards. To be effective, the community relations program must present the project in the light of “a real need to take action” for the benefit of the environment and Forest users, recognizing the impacts it might impose on certain recreational and historic values.

The community relations program provides the following approaches:

1. Enlist the support and participation of local officials in coordinating community relations activities. Appropriate officials to involve in the community relations program include the Snohomish County Commissioners and County Health District officials, as well as, the Mayors and City Councils of Granite Falls and Darrington. To enlist the support of these officials, an orientation meeting(s) will be requested by the Forest Service with the county governments and health district. Regular updates of community reaction and progress with the project will follow. (See [Interview Questions/Responses, Appendix B](#))
2. Contact Federal and State Elected Officials. Send letters to provide information and offer to meet with representatives at both the Federal and State levels, as needed. The letters need to reach these officials at the same time County and Local officials are notified. This will be done prior to providing information to the general public. (See [Key Contacts, Appendix C.](#))
3. Contact Sauk-Suiattle, Stillaguamish, and Tulalip Tribes Send a letter to provide information and offer to meet with representatives as needed. This letter needs to reach the Tribe at the same time County and Local officials are notified. This will also be done prior to providing information to the general public. (See [Tribal Consultation, Appendix D](#))
4. Advise the general public of the project. News releases will present factual information about the existing conditions at Monte Cristo Mine Site and the timeframe in which cleanup actions will occur. These releases will be designed to inform the public and identify ways in which the public can provide input to the project. (See [News Releases/Updates, Appendix E](#))
5. Contact Special Interest Organizations. Send letters outlining the project to organized groups that have shown interest in Forest Service actions or requested they be informed of new projects or proposals. Provide them with the opportunity to comment on the project or otherwise become engaged. (See [Key Contacts, Appendix C](#))
6. Community Interests and Involvement. A public meeting will be held in the Darrington and/or Granite Falls communities to inform local residents of the

project and how they may provide input. The public will be invited to the meeting via flyers, news release, etc.

7. Public Comments. Public comments will be collected and analyzed throughout the project. The comments and agency responses will be recorded in the administrative record. Upon completion of the EE/CA, a notice of availability will be published in the newspaper of record. A public comment period of not less than 30 days will be provided for submission of oral and written comments. (See [Comments/Responses/Meeting Notes, Appendix F](#))
8. Official Notices. The official paper of record will be identified and all legal notices will be posted in a timely fashion. (See [Legal Notices, Appendix G](#))
9. Information Repositories. Fact sheets, technical summaries, site reports (including the Community Relations Plan), and other key documents for this CERCLA project will be placed in the information repositories.

Paper copies of the key documents will be located at the Darrington Ranger District Office; the Forest Supervisor's office in Everett; and the public library in Darrington. These sites will also serve as collections sites and boxes will be provided for the public to provide written comments on the project.

The complete Administrative Record File for the project is available on forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-cleanup-projects/index.shtml>.

Monitoring Public Response. Through the course of the project, the determination for additional contact, either by the Forest Service or by other local officials, will be made. The Forest Service will not be overly aggressive in trying to generate interest in this project, but will provide the public the opportunity to get involved and respond according to their level of interest.

Providing Updates. The project will be monitored, and officials will be provided with regular updates and progress reports. Keep the lines of communication open to all who desire to be informed of the project and specifically with County officials. (*Ongoing*)

ACTION PLAN

Task & Who Develops or Sets Up	Contacts	Who Is Responsible for Delivery	When
Letters to Federal, State, County, and Local Elected Officials –	Use Contact List	David Kendrick	October 2008
Letters to Tribal Contacts – Project Manager	Sauk-Suiattle Tulalip Stillaguamish	David Kendrick	October 2008

Tasks & Who Develops or Sets Up	Contact	Who Is Responsible for Delivery	When
Interview Meetings with County Officials (set up by District Rangers)	Whatcom County Council Whatcom County Commissioners	Peter Forbes Darrington DR	Ongoing, Initial interviews conducted in May and June 2008. Complete by August 2008
Letters to Notify Special Interests; Use District Mailing List	District Reviews Mailing List and Makes Determination; Emphasize this is not a NEPA Project.	David Kendrick	October 2008
Public Meeting;	To be held at Darrington.	Peter Forbes, DR	Following completion of a Draft EE/CA
Website	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Internet Website.	Rod Lentz	As needed
News Release	See attached media list.	Peter Forbes and Rod Lentz	As appropriate
Flyer Announcing Public Meeting (in addition to news release)	Places of gathering in Granite Falls, Darrington, etc.	Peter Forbes	As needed
Official Notices in Paper of Record	Paper(s) of record; consult Curtis Spalding.	Rod Lentz On-Scene Coord.	Upon availability of the EECA

Tasks & Who Develops or Sets Up	Contact	Who Is Responsible for Delivery	When
Information Repositories	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Supervisor's Office; Darrington RD; Verlot Visitor Center; Darrington Library	Peter Forbes and Rod Lentz	Upon the availability of the EECA
Monitoring of Public Response - All	Ongoing Process	All	Ongoing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Additional information about this project can be obtained from the following Forest Service sources. Public response to the project is welcomed.

- Rod Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator (Technical Contact)
 Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forests
 1240 South Second Ave.
 Okanogan, WA 98840
 Phone 509-826-3274
 Email: rlentz@fs.fed.us

Appendix A

Project Location Maps

Appendix B

Interview Questions/Responses

MONTE CRISTO MINING AREA -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

1. When and how did you first learn about the Site?
2. How long have you lived in the Monte Cristo area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?
3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?
4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?
5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].
6. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g. fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?
7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?
8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?
9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

10. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?
11. How would you like to be involved in future activities?
12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?
13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?
14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on Monte Cristo Site activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

Return to: David Kendrick, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201.

MONTE CRISTO MINING AREA -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Joyce Jones/Lyla Boyd

Title: Mayor/City Clerk

Organization: City of Darrington

Which Site(s) are you interested in? Rainy _____ Sunset_____ Kromona_____

1. When and how did you first learn about the MCMA Site?

Visited mine area when she was young w/family. Stayed at Lodge at Monte Cristo – 65 yrs ago

2. How long have you lived in the MONTE CRISTO area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?

71 years – Darrington

3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?

Old mine shafts; high levels of arsenic in water.

4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?

No

5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].

a) 3

b) 3

6. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g., fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?

- Fact sheets for dispersal to citizens
- Quarterly or as important points come to light

7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?

Darrington Community Center - evenings

8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?

As aesthetically pleasing as possible given the location

9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

N/A at this point

10. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?

DOE & EPA

11. How would you like to be involved in future activities?

To be kept in contact for developments

12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?

Historical Societies – Darrington, Granite Falls, Arlington, others?

13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?

Haven't looked, but seems like it should help.

14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on the Monte Cristo activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

Return to:

Curtis Spalding, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201 (425 783-6033).

MONTE CRISTO MINING AREA -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Kal Klass

Title: President

Organization: Monte Cristo Preservation Association

Contacted by Peter Forbes ~ 6/19/08

3. When and how did you first learn about the Monte Cristo Site?

1983 +/-, due to history and popularity as a hiking area.

4. How long have you lived in the Monte Cristo area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?

Property owner since 1987 (in MC), lives in Seattle.

3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?

- Preservation of artifacts because that's all that's left of the history (MCPA)
- Why does government want to send money to fix problem when no body "lives" there, why spend money?

4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?

- Personally sampled water out of 76 Basin – showed e. coli in miniscule amounts and no arsenic (two locations)
- Documentation of artifacts found on site by Louise Lindgreen
- Short work season to get things done (3 months).

5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].

a) 5

b) 5

6. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g., fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?

Emails, as often new information becomes available.

7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?

Fridays; Everett, WA

8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?

Active MCPA members are concerned with

1. Fragile nature of environment.
2. Protection of artifacts in area.
3. Accurate signing of area where there may be contaminated soils/water
4. Signs pointing to leaving artifacts alone

9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

With lands/special uses staff recreation staff & district ranger on district; yes

12. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?

Hotline phone for hazmat; DOE

13. How would you like to be involved in future activities?

Notification through email; potential to help w/ some aspect of cleanup not requiring specialized training/equipment.

12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?

Bill Rawlins, Louise Lundgrin, Dave Cameron (MCPA members)

13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?

N/A

14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on the Monte Cristo activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

- Bill Rawlins,
- Dave Cameron, camlind@richpoor.net
- Louise Lundgren, camlind@richpoor.net
- Kal Klass, Klasstwin@gmail.com

Return to:

Curtis Spalding, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201 (425 783-6033).

MONTE CRISTO MINING AREA -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Michael Mayer

Title: Legal Director

Organization: Washington Environmental Council

1. When and how did you first learn about the Monte Cristo?

As part of some of the reports related regarding Monte Cristo in 2005 or so.

2. How long have you lived in the Monte Cristo area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?

Organization based in Seattle, membership (visits) & recreate in area.

3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?

Ensuring process moves forward appropriate pace, ensure priority and funding are maintained.

4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?

Probably not anything the FS doesn't already have.

5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].

a) 5

b) 5

6. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g., fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?

Fact sheets & progress reports at a quarterly schedule – show timeline & bench marks.

7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?

Early evening in Everett or Seattle.

8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?

Nothing specific – not trying to design cleanup, just want to ensure work is completed.

9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

Some contacts prior to lawsuit and 6 day notice of intent; FS has been responsive.

10. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?

DOE (Wash State Dept of Ecology)

11. How would you like to be involved in future activities?

Make sure parties stay informed and work on track. Would like to have a contact person they go to.

12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?

Wa PIRG, Hiking Clubs, but no one specific.

13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?

Yes, has looked at web page.

14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on the Monte Cristo activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

Michael Mayer
Washington Environmental Council
1402 3rd. Ave, Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98101
Michael@wecprotects.org

Return to:

Curtis Spalding, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201 (425 783-6033).

MONTE CRISTO MINING AREA -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Shawn Yanity

Title: Chair person

Organization: Stillaquamish Tribe Board of Directors

Which Site(s) are you interested in? Rainy _____ Sunset_____ Kromona_____

1. When and how did you first learn about the Monte Cristo Site?

Tribe has historic/pre –historic (??) of the area.

2. How long have you lived in the Monte Cristo area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?

Tribe hunted elk in Monte Cristo area Village sites on S.F. Stillaquamish; passes & trails used for trade & travel.

3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?

Levels of arsenic; water quality issues

4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?

Not sure, but will look into it

5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].

a) 5

b) 5

6. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g., fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?

Whatever works best; quarterly meetings w/natural resource staff & cultural resource staff.

7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?

Time or location not as much a concern offered up tribal (??) meeting room.

8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?

Not at this time until there is more information; want to work w/us on resolution.

9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

So far yes

10. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?

Tribal Police handles Hazmat, working DOE;

11. How would you like to be involved in future activities?

Quarterly meetings as identified in #6; establish a working relationship.

12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?

Not at this time

13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?

Hasn't looked at the website

14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on the Monte Cristo activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

Shawn Yanity
P.O. 277
Arlington, WA
98223 – 0277
syanity@stillaquamish.nsn.us

Return to:

Curtis Spalding, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201 (425 783-6033).

MONTE CRISTO AREA MINES -- SITE STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Joyce Jones/Lyla Boyd

Title: Mayor/City Clerk

Organization: City of Darrington

Which Site(s) are you interested in? Rainy _____ Sunset _____ Kromona _____

5. When and how did you first learn about the Monte Cristo Site?

Visited mine area when she was young w/family. Stayed at Lodge at Monte Cristo – 65 yrs ago

6. How long have you lived in the Rainy/Sunset/Kromona area? Where do you live in relation to the Site?

71 years – Darrington

3. What are your current concerns regarding the Site or the proposed cleanup?

Old mine shafts; high levels of arsenic in water.

4. Do you have information about the Site which might help us in our cleanup?

No

5. How would you rate the overall level of interest within this community (a) in environmental issues generally (b) in the Site activities? [On scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high)].

c) 3
d) 3

7. How can the USDA Forest Service best provide you information concerning the Site? (e.g., fact sheets, public meetings). How often would you like to receive information?

- Fact sheets for dispersal to citizens
- Quarterly or as important points come to light

7. When we hold public or community meetings, what times and locations would be most convenient?

Darrington Community Center - evenings

8. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Site cleanup?

As aesthetically pleasing as possible given the location

9. What contacts have you had with government personnel about the Site? Were the employees responsive to your inquiries?

N/A at this point

14. Who would you or your community call if you had questions about hazardous substance or chemical contamination?

DOE & EPA

15. How would you like to be involved in future activities?

To be kept in contact for developments

12. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information?

Historical Societies – Darrington, Granite Falls, Arlington, others?

13. Is the placement of Site related documents on the MBS National Forest internet web page for public viewing helpful?

Haven't looked, but seems like it should help.

14. If you would like to be added to a mailing list for future updates on the Monte Cristo activities, please provide your mail and e-mail addresses.

Return to:

Curtis Spalding, Community Involvement Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2390 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201 (425 783-6033).

Appendix C
Key Contacts

Monte Cristo Mine Area

CONTACTS

A. Federal Elected Officials

Senator Maria Cantwell Sally Hintz—Northwest Washington Director	2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9B Everett, WA 98201 Phone: (425) 303-0114
Senator Patty Murray Rita Beal—Northwest Regional Representative	2930 Wetmore Avenue, Ste. 903 Everett, Washington 98201 Phone: (425) 259-6515
Representative Rick Larson Adam LeMieux—District Agriculture Staff Brenda White—Deputy District Director	2930 Wetmore Ave, Ste. 9F Everett, WA 98201 Phone: (425) 252-3188

B. State Elected Officials

Senator Val Stevens	105 Newhouse Building P.O. Box 40439 Olympia WA 98504-0439 Phone: (360) 786-7676
Representative Dan Kristiansen	427A Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (360) 786-7967
Representative Kirk Pearson	720 Murdock St. Ste. 101 Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 (360) 793-0565

C. Local Officials

John Koster County Council Snohomish County Council District 1	Snohomish County 3000 Rockefeller Ave Everett, WA 98201 Phone: (425) 388-3411
Lyle Romack Mayor City of Granite Falls	City of Granite Falls P.O. Box 1440 Granite Falls, WA 98252 Phone: (360) 691-6441
Joyce Jones Mayor City of Darrington	City of Darrington P.O. Box 397 Darrington, WA 98241 Phone: (360) 436-1131

D. State and Local Agencies

Jason Shira Washington Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program, Abandoned Mine Lands	15 W. Yakima Ave -- Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 (509) 454-7834
---	--

Washington Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program, Abandoned Mine Lands	3190 -160 th Ave. SE Bellevue, WA 98008-5452 (425) 649-7054
Bob Everitt Director Region 4 Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard Mill Creek, Washington 98012-1296 (425) 775-1311 ext. 118
Bill Wallace Northwest Region Manager Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources 919 N Townsend Street Sedro Wooley, WA 98284-9395 Phone: (360) 854-2801
Shawn Tobin Park Ranger & Manager Wallace Falls State Park	Wallace Falls State Park 14503 Wallace Lake Rd Gold Bar, WA 98251 Phone: (360) 793-0420
Steven Thomsen Public Works Director Snohomish County	Snohomish County Public Works 3000 Rockefeller, M/S 607 Everett, WA 98201-4046 Phone: (425) 388-6667
Snohomish Health District Environmental Health Division	3020 Rucker Avenue Everett, WA 90201 Phone: (425) 339-5250

E. Tribes

Mel Sheldon Chairperson Tulalip Board of Directors	6700 Totem Beach Road Marysville, WA 98271-9714 Phone: (360) 651-4000
James Roberts Chairperson Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Council	5318 Chief Brown Lane Darrington, WA 98241-9420 Phone: (360) 436-0131
Shawn Yanity Chairperson Stillaguamish Board of Directors	3439 Stoluckquamish Lane P.O. Box 277 Arlington, WA 98223-0277 Phone: (360) 652-7362
Marilyn Scott Chairperson Upper Skagit Tribal Council	24944 Community Plaza Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9721 Phone: (360) 856-5501

F. Community Organizations, Environmental Groups, and Citizens' Groups

Michael Mayer Washington Environmental Council	615 Second Ave., Suite 380 Seattle, WA 98104 Phone: (206) 622-8103 x 201 Email: Michael@wecprotects.org
Kal Klass President Monte Cristo Preservation Association	Phone: (206) 324-3800 Email: klasstwin@gmail.com
Lauar Skaer, Executive Director Northwest Mining Association	10 N. Post St., Suite 305 Spokane, WA 99201 509-624-1158 Email: lskaer@nwma.org
Curt Veldhuisen, Program Director/Hydrologist Jeff Phillips, Watershed Scientist	P.O. Box 368 La Conner, WA 98257-0368

Devin Smith, Sr. Restoration Ecologist Skagit River System Cooperative	Phone: (360) 466-7228
Jim Davis Executive Director North Cascades Conservation Council	512 20th Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: (360) 715-3458 Email: jimdavispc@comcast.net
Kathy Johnson Pilchuck Audubon Society	1429 Avenue D, PMB 198 Snohomish, WA 98290 360-659-7252 Email: kathyanddavid@earthlink.net

G. Private Citizens and Site Land Owners

William Lider	Gerald Moran	David Hiscock
Forrest Johansen	Nathan Jensen	Paul L Rose
Darrell Jacobson	JP Smith	Paul K Wichman
Scott Bower	Jayce James	Judith T Cales
John Burnett	Jay Hyde	Pad Smith
Bob Dietel	Ernest Anderson	Tim D Klass, Trustee
Kurt Munnich	Jonathan Guzzo	Stanley V Larson
Matthew Speten	Kim Brown	Alberg family
Rep. Dan Kristiansen	Doug Hammond	Victoria A Ward
Kim Mann	Ruth Danielson	Mark A Nysether
Abby Hook	Luke Loeffler	Bradley M Myserter
Trey Werner	Ken Oakes	Tanis W Marsh
Charles Miller	Daryl Jacobson	John V. & I.R. Knickerbocker
James Vandecoevering	Robert McCoy	Elizabeth Garrison
Karen McKinney	Joe Roberts	Greg & Slater Showalter
Dean & Sandi Nelson	Gerald Thompson	Eras L Gattshall
Kal Klass	David Williams	Steven A McKee
Bill and Karen Amman	Breck Marsh	Karl Erick Karlsson
Bill and Karen Rawlins	Heidi Hooper	Peter Cameron/Laura Cameron- Behr
Richard Morell	Bob & Diane Boyd	Cameron & Louise Lindgren
Sharon Henry	Gerhard Schmidt	Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
David MacFarlane	George Winters	David Vineberg
Martha Rasmussen	Alan Gibb	Marjorie Williams Estate
Catherine Austin	Brad Matter	Florence E. McDaniel
Robert Burkhart	June Schutz	Katherine L Johnson
George Winters	Phyllis Reed	Alan F. & Crystal Macks Trust
Kurt Munnich	Bridget Wisniewske	Monte Cristo Properties
Mathew Rikken	Daniel and Doreen Finney	Mark R Wagner
Bill Rawlins	Elaine Brown	
Fred Kruger	John H Tiland	

John L. Taylor	Alberg Properties LLC	Rodney C. Olson
David A. Cameron	Steve Schue	Mark S & Angie Bonanno
Daniel E Finney	Dana G Andrews	Calvin B and Lindee A Stanford
Fred F & Carol Poyner	Larry D Annis	Todd Baker
Donald A MePherson	Robert Stalter	Paul M & Shellie Clarke
Jon H Landaas	Margaret Duryee	Fan Family Trust
Flora J Schilaty	Linda V Tune	Michael M Vergillo
Gerhard Schmidt	Betty Ermence	
Harbor Lands Limited Partnership	Charles Reiser	

H. Media Contacts

Newspaper	Address	Phone	Newspaper
Seattle Times	P.O. Box 70 Seattle, WA 98111 newstips@seattletimes.com	206 464-2121	Seattle Times
Everett Herald	PO Box 930 Everett, WA 98206 newstips@heraldnet.com	425 339-3000	Everett Herald
Snoqualmie Valley Record	P.O. Box 300, Snoqualmie, WA 98065	425 888-2311	Snoqualmie Valley Record
PNWLocalNews.com	http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/contact_us?c=y&curSection=&returnPath=/about_us		PNWLocalNews.com
Darrington Newspaper	Use: Everett Herald & Skagit Publishing		Darrington Newspaper
Skagit Publishing	P.O. Box 578 Mt. Vernon, WA 98274 http://www.goskagit.com/contactbiznews@skagitpublishing.com	360 424-3251	Skagit Publishing
Skykomish Newspaper	Use: Everett Herald or Seattle Times or PNW local news		Skykomish Newspaper

I. Interview Contacts

Contact	Person Responsible
Washington Environmental Council	Peter Forbes, Darrington District Ranger
Monte Cristo Preservation Association	Peter Forbes, Darrington District Ranger
Darrington Mayor and City Clerk	Peter Forbes, Darrington District Ranger
Stillaguamish Tribe Board of Directors	Peter Forbes, Darrington District Ranger
Tulalip Tribe	Barb Busse, Skykomish District Ranger

State Representative Dan Kristiansen's Legal Assistant	Barb Busse, Skykomish District Ranger
Louise Lindgren	Barb Busse, Skykomish District Ranger
Snohomish Public Utility District	Barb Busse, Skykomish District Ranger
City of Everett	Barb Busse, Skykomish District Ranger

KEY MESSAGES

Who/What/Where/When

Key Message #1: Asarco and the Forest Service are preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA) for completing a removal action related to metal contamination at the Monte Cristo Mine Area. We expect the EECA to be completed late summer or fall.

Key Message #2: The EECA will examine options for dealing with the site and identify a preferred alternative for isolating or removing contaminated materials. Once the EECA is completed, the public will have a 30-day public comment period.

Talking Points

Monte Cristo Mine Area is located in the Glacier Creek drainage near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, approximately 40 miles east of Everett, Washington.

The MCMA includes three large mine complexes, the Mystery Mine, Justice Mine, and Comet Mine. Aerial tramways from the Mystery and Justice Mines terminated at a common point, the Ore Collector, from which ore was hauled by rail to a common mill, the United Companies Concentrator (Concentrator).

Organized mining at Monte Cristo ended in 1920 when the Boston-American Mining Company abandoned operations after an avalanche buried most of their equipment. Water samples from adit drainages, particularly from the acidic Mystery Mine, exceeded both human health and ecological criteria for the following metals: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, and zinc. Soil samples showed similar results, with elevated concentrations of several metal.

Q&A's

These questions are part of the communication plan, but only for internal use and for the purpose of consistent answers on our part.

Q. How does the CERCLA process differ from the NEPA process?

A. The CERCLA process is designed to address potentially hazardous sites in a time-effective manner. Planning, public input, and cleanup implementation are often on a compressed schedule. Administrative appeal and opportunity for litigation are limited.

Q. What happens to my comments? How much impact do they have? (i.e., Is the decision to do the clean-up a final one?)

A. Comments have the potential of changing the preferred cleanup alternative or part thereof. However, there is no administrative appeal process for CERCLA decisions, and opportunity for litigation must wait until the cleanup action has been completed.

Appendix D

Tribal Consultation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

File Code: 2160/2810

Date: September 23, 2009

Janice Mabee
Chairperson
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
5318 Chief Brown Lane
Darrington, WA 98241

Dear Chairperson Mabee:

As part of our ongoing responsibility to coordinate with the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe concerning activities on ceded lands, this letter is to notify you of a proposed project on a portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The USDA Forest Service has been conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation of contamination associated with numerous abandoned mines and related facilities in the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) since 2002. The MCMA site is located in the upper reaches of the South Fork Sauk River, approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Snohomish County, Wash., in and near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area: T29N, R 11E, Willamette Meridian.

Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) performed a Site Inspection to assess the immediate or potential threat that mining wastes and mine seepage pose to human health and/or the environment, and to collect sufficient information to support a decision regarding the need for further action at the site. The results indicate that a number of contaminants, primarily metals, exceeded the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) values for surface water, sediment, waste rock, tailings, and/or soils. Copies of the Site Inspection and related site documents are available for review at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology, is currently preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA), which will propose clean-up actions of hazardous materials at the site.

The action proposed in the EECA will be a federal undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. As such, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) (4), the Forest Service is initiating consultation with you. The total area of potential effects may include approximately 10 acres for the removal action. Cultural resource surveys of the area are underway.

I recognize that the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe may have special interests or knowledge of traditional cultural uses or properties within the project area. If you have any information or concerns regarding cultural properties for this proposal please contact Jan Hollenbeck, heritage program



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

manager for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest at 425-783-6025. I am aware that much of this information can be sensitive and must be treated confidentially. The provisions and conditions for disseminating and sharing culturally sensitive information relative to this project can be discussed between appropriate tribal leaders and Forest Service representatives. If you would like to meet with me or other Forest Service personnel to discuss this project or if you have questions, please contact me at 360-436-1155.

Also, if you are interested, the Forest Service has scheduled a public meeting to present information about potential clean-up alternatives and to answer questions and accept comments. The meeting is **Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center**, which is located on the corner of Sauk Avenue and Fir Street in Darrington. There will also be a formal 30-day comment period which will begin following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final EECA.

Again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the number above. I will be more than happy to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

/S/ PETER R. FORBES

Peter R Forbes
District Ranger

Enclosure: Executive Summary, Monte Cristo Mining Area Cleanup Project

Cc: Jan Hollenbeck, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Rodney T. Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator
Richard Wolten, Sauk-Suiattle Natural Resources Department
Norma Joseph, Sauk-Suiattle Cultural Department
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River Systems Cooperative



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

File Code: 2160/2810

Date: September 23, 2009

Sandy Klineberger
Chairperson
Stillaguamish Board of Directors
P.O. Box 277
Arlington, WA 98223-0277

Dear Chairperson Klineberger:

As part of our ongoing responsibility to coordinate with the Stillaguamish Tribe concerning activities on ceded lands, this letter is to notify you of a proposed project on a portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The USDA Forest Service has been conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation of contamination associated with numerous abandoned mines and related facilities in the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) since 2002. The MCMA site is located in the upper reaches of the South Fork Sauk River, approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Snohomish County, Wash., in and near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area: T29N, R 11E, Willamette Meridian.

Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) performed a Site Inspection to assess the immediate or potential threat that mining wastes and mine seepage pose to human health and/or the environment, and to collect sufficient information to support a decision regarding the need for further action at the site. The results indicate that a number of contaminants, primarily metals, exceeded the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) values for surface water, sediment, waste rock, tailings, and/or soils. Copies of the Site Inspection and related site documents are available for review at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology, is currently preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA), which will propose clean-up actions of hazardous materials at the site.

The action proposed in the EECA will be a federal undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. As such, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) (4), the Forest Service is initiating consultation with you. The total area of potential effects may include approximately 10 acres for the removal action. Cultural resource surveys of the area are underway.

I recognize that the Stillaguamish Tribe may have special interests or knowledge of traditional cultural uses or properties within the project area. If you have any information or concerns regarding cultural properties for this proposal please contact Jan Hollenbeck, heritage program manager for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest at 425-783-6025. I am aware that much



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

of this information can be sensitive and must be treated confidentially. The provisions and conditions for disseminating and sharing culturally sensitive information relative to this project can be discussed between appropriate tribal leaders and Forest Service representatives. If you would like to meet with me or other Forest Service personnel to discuss this project or if you have questions, please contact me at 360-436-1155.

Also, if you are interested, the Forest Service has scheduled a public meeting to present information about potential clean-up alternatives and to answer questions and accept comments. The meeting is **Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center**, which is located on the corner of Sauk Avenue and Fir Street in Darrington. There will also be a formal 30-day comment period which will begin following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final EECA.

Again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the number above. I will be more than happy to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

/S/ PETER R. FORBES

Peter R Forbes
District Ranger

Enclosure: Executive Summary, Monte Cristo Mining Area Cleanup Project

Cc: Jan Hollenbeck, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Rodney T. Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator
Richard Wolten, Sauk-Suiattle Natural Resources Department
Norma Joseph, Sauk-Suiattle Cultural Department
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River Systems Cooperative



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

File Code: 2160/2810

Date: September 23, 2009

Mel Sheldon, Jr.
Chairperson
Tulalip Board of Directors
6700 Totem Beach Road
Marysville, WA 98271-9714

Dear Chairperson Sheldon:

As part of our ongoing responsibility to coordinate with the Tulalip Tribe concerning activities on ceded lands, this letter is to notify you of a proposed project on a portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The USDA Forest Service has been conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation of contamination associated with numerous abandoned mines and related facilities in the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) since 2002. The MCMA site is located in the upper reaches of the South Fork Sauk River, approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Snohomish County, Wash., in and near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area: T29N, R 11E, Willamette Meridian.

Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) performed a Site Inspection to assess the immediate or potential threat that mining wastes and mine seepage pose to human health and/or the environment, and to collect sufficient information to support a decision regarding the need for further action at the site. The results indicate that a number of contaminants, primarily metals, exceeded the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) values for surface water, sediment, waste rock, tailings, and/or soils. Copies of the Site Inspection and related site documents are available for review at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology, is currently preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA), which will propose clean-up actions of hazardous materials at the site.

The action proposed in the EECA will be a federal undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. As such, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) (4), the Forest Service is initiating consultation with you. The total area of potential effects may include approximately 10 acres for the removal action. Cultural resource surveys of the area are underway.

I recognize that the Tulalip Tribe may have special interests or knowledge of traditional cultural uses or properties within the project area. If you have any information or concerns regarding cultural properties for this proposal please contact Jan Hollenbeck, heritage program manager for



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest at 425-783-6025. I am aware that much of this information can be sensitive and must be treated confidentially. The provisions and conditions for disseminating and sharing culturally sensitive information relative to this project can be discussed between appropriate tribal leaders and Forest Service representatives. If you would like to meet with me or other Forest Service personnel to discuss this project or if you have questions, please contact me at 360-436-1155.

Also, if you are interested, the Forest Service has scheduled a public meeting to present information about potential clean-up alternatives and to answer questions and accept comments. The meeting is **Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center**, which is located on the corner of Sauk Avenue and Fir Street in Darrington. There will also be a formal 30-day comment period which will begin following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final EECA.

Again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the number above. I will be more than happy to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

/S/ PETER R. FORBES

Peter R Forbes
District Ranger

Enclosure: Executive Summary, Monte Cristo Mining Area Cleanup Project

Cc: Jan Hollenbeck, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Rodney T. Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

File Code: 2160/2810

Date: September 23, 2009

Jennifer Washington
Chairperson
Upper Skagit Tribal Council
24944 Community Plaza
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9721

Dear Chairperson Washington:

As part of our ongoing responsibility to coordinate with the Upper Skagit Tribe concerning activities on ceded lands, this letter is to notify you of a proposed project on a portion of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The USDA Forest Service has been conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation of contamination associated with numerous abandoned mines and related facilities in the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) since 2002. The MCMA site is located in the upper reaches of the South Fork Sauk River, approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Snohomish County, Wash., in and near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area: T29N, R 11E, Willamette Meridian.

Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) performed a Site Inspection to assess the immediate or potential threat that mining wastes and mine seepage pose to human health and/or the environment, and to collect sufficient information to support a decision regarding the need for further action at the site. The results indicate that a number of contaminants, primarily metals, exceeded the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) values for surface water, sediment, waste rock, tailings, and/or soils. Copies of the Site Inspection and related site documents are available for review at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology, is currently preparing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA), which will propose clean-up actions of hazardous materials at the site.

The action proposed in the EECA will be a federal undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. As such, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) (4), the Forest Service is initiating consultation with you. The total area of potential effects may include approximately 10 acres for the removal action. Cultural resource surveys of the area are underway.

I recognize that the Upper Skagit Tribe may have special interests or knowledge of traditional cultural uses or properties within the project area. If you have any information or concerns regarding cultural properties for this proposal please contact Jan Hollenbeck, heritage program



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 783-6000

manager for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest at 425-783-6025. I am aware that much of this information can be sensitive and must be treated confidentially. The provisions and conditions for disseminating and sharing culturally sensitive information relative to this project can be discussed between appropriate tribal leaders and Forest Service representatives. If you would like to meet with me or other Forest Service personnel to discuss this project or if you have questions, please contact me at 360-436-1155.

Also, if you are interested, the Forest Service has scheduled a public meeting to present information about potential clean-up alternatives and to answer questions and accept comments. The meeting is **Monday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center**, which is located on the corner of Sauk Avenue and Fir Street in Darrington. There will also be a formal 30-day comment period which will begin following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final EECA.

Again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the number above. I will be more than happy to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

Peter R Forbes
District Ranger

Enclosure: Executive Summary, Monte Cristo Mining Area Cleanup Project

Cc: Jan Hollenbeck, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Rodney T. Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator

**Peter R
Forbes/R6/USDAFS**
10/14/2009 05:29 PM

To Rodney T Lentz/R6/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
bcc

Subject Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe preliminary comments from
meeting on MC EECA

Rod,

I had a meeting with the Sauk-Suiattle last week to discuss the Monte Cristo EECA and they shared some of their concerns with me. There should be a formal letter coming, but here is what I gathered from the meeting.

- a cost analysis that shows why a road is need versus doing all the work by helicopter
- They asked if the road was "temporary". I answered that it would be needed for at least 20 years
- Is there an opportunity to use the County's Mine to Market Road as mitigation for construction of the new road? this would include decommissioning and bridge removal
- questions on Comet Mine and Lincoln Mine status - why no treatments proposed?
- question on Sheridan Mine and Sidney Mine - why treatment proposed for one and not the other. From the maps they both look equally close to the creek
- would like more detailed information on the design spec for the road and repository (more details so they can determine level of concern)
- Identify the BMP's that will be used during all phases of operations
- they thought it may be useful to show where the private land is and which mines those might cover
- they expressed concerns with monitoring of construction work and the potential discovery of cultural material
- How will Monte Cristo Lakes be dealt with? they wanted a specific timeline. Also a question on fish tissue sampling.
- curious about ongoing monitoring - potential responses to cleanup treatments. Will there be soil and water sampling over this 20 years period? They have offered the potential of some of their staff as help in this endeavor
- clarification on total duration and a schedule of activities for the sites being treated
- will there be ongoing monitoring of water quality when work starts, especially down river

They asked for written responses to these questions. I guess we could wait until we get the formal letter from them before we tackle that, so this is a heads up.

^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^

Peter R. Forbes
District Ranger
Darrington Ranger District
1405 Emens Street
Darrington, WA 98241
phone: (360) 436-1155 ext 3604365248
cell: (360) 333-9792
FAX: (360) 436-1309
email: pforbes@fs.fed.us

The people with whom you work reflect your own attitude. If you are suspicious, unfriendly and condescending, you will find these unlovely traits echoed all about you. But if you are on your best behavior, you will bring out the best in the persons with whom you are going to spend most of your waking hours.

-- Beatrice Vincent

A person is only as big as the dream they dare to live.
-- Unknown

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

-- Confucius

^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^

Appendix E

News Releases/Updates

Renee Bodine/R6/USDAFS

09/22/2009 04:36 PM

To Rodney T Lentz/R6/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

bcc

Subject Monte Cristo Mine Public Meeting Explores Cleanup Options

Please call with questions or to set up an interview.

Renee Bodine
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
Public Affairs
Office: 425-783-6015
Cell: 425-293-1780

Public Meeting Explores Monte Cristo Mining Area Cleanup Options

Everett, Wash. Sept. 22, 2009 — The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is holding a public meeting to discuss alternatives and gather comments about the Monte Cristo Mining area cleanup Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center. The area encompasses numerous abandoned mines and facilities in the upper South Fork Sauk River, approximately 28 miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Wash., in and near the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness.

The Forest Service will take comments during and shortly after the meeting and consider them in the final preparation of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EECA). This report will propose clean-up actions to address hazardous substances and be posted for a 30-day public review. "Cleanup could start as early as next year, depending on the funding process," said Peter Forbes, Darrington district ranger.

Mining began in the late 1800s, and the mine shut down in 1907. The Forest Service began a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation in 2002. Site inspections found a number of contaminants, primarily metals, in the surface water, sediment, waste rock, tailings, and soils, exceeding Model Toxics Control Act values. Copies of the site inspection and related site documents are available for review at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>.

The Darrington Community Center is located at 570 Sauk Ave., Darrington, Wash., 98241.

Appendix F

Comments/Responses/Meeting Notes

Peter R Forbes/R6/USDAFS
09/29/2009 11:44 AM

To Rodney Mace/R6/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc Rodney T Lentz/R6/USDAFS@FSNOTES
bcc

Subject Re: voip - auto attendant

History:

The meeting went well. We had 60+ people. Audience ranged from locals to MCPA folks and MC volunteers. We had a staffer from Larsen's office, several folks from WTA, and one from Pilchuck Audubon. Good presentation and lots of questions. Most of questions were related to the mine cleanup, although several asked about the access road and a few more asked about the road after the meeting. The contractor, CES, did a great job with presentation of the material. I didn't take any comment forms from folks as they left, but I know we will be seeing them very some in the mail.

^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^ ^0^

Peter R. Forbes
District Ranger
Darrington Ranger District
1405 Emens Street
Darrington, WA 98241
phone: (360) 436-1155 ext 3604365248
cell: (360) 333-9792
FAX: (360) 436-1309
email: pforbes@fs.fed.us

Summary of Written Comments On MCMA EECA Summary and Public Meeting September 28, 2009

MCMA Draft EECA Public Comments*

17 Written Comment Letters
1 Sauk-Siattle Tribe verbal comment summary (Forbes)

**No. of Letters
making the
comment**

Comments

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | The impacts of the access and cleanup to the environment and/or historical values are greater than the apparent protective benefits to humans and environment |
| 6 | A convincing case was not made that MCMA is a threat to humans, significant numbers of people or downstream human populations (see esp. Johanson ltr) |
| 6 | Signs need to be posted at key locations to protect people from the soils and water contamination |
| 2 | Need to preserve the historic values at MCMA |
| 2 | Avoid building the new road, repair existing road or use helicopter |
| 2 | Avoid building the new road over historic wagon road to protect historic value |
| 3 | New road needs better evaluation/cost/planning analysis to justify |
| 2 | Leave the new road for continued access to MCMA for the disabled/elderly publics. |
| 1 | Supports new road alignment to overcome flood/landslide problems |
| 1 | The new road will encourage greater use of the MCMA with attendant impacts. |
| 1 | How will the new road be managed after the cleanup? |
| 1 | New access roads and crossings should be constructed to minimize impacts to surface water for the length of time the facility is needed. |
| 1 | Is there an opportunity to use the County's Mine to Market Road as mitigation for construction of the new road? this would include decommissioning and bridge removal |
| 1 | Why are no treatments proposed on Comet Mine and Lincoln Mines? |
| 1 | Why is treatment proposed for the Sidney Mine and not the Sheridan? Maps indicate they are both equally close to the creek. |
| 1 | Identify the BMP's that will be used during all phases of operations |
| 1 | Will monitoring occur during construction work for potential discovery of cultural material |
| 1 | How will Monte Cristo Lakes be dealt with? What is the specific timeline. |
| 1 | Will there be soil and water sampling over this 20 years period? |
| 1 | Will there be ongoing monitoring of water quality when work starts, especially down river |
| 1 | Was the human ingestion of contaminants via sediment considered? |

1 What is the long-term viability of the water infiltration sites? Will they become saturated allowing surface flow to streams?

1 Does the analysis consider the ability of the human body to secrete arsenic and other contaminants?

There is little or no record of historic arsenic poisoning cases at MCMA

1 The concentrator system is a rare example of how mining was done in the 1890's
1 There are galena concentrates on the Williams property that are covered by duff.

1 There are concentrates present on the Williams property covered with duff--"the concentrator ditch"

1 The concentrator ditch, dam and railroad trestle remains are important

1 Further study of the effects on terrestrial and aquatic species are needed before deciding on a cleanup action.

1 Requested use of plants/fungi as a cleanup alternative to remove As and other contaminants

*Comment letters are stored in the Project Site File

Appendix G
Legal Notices

