



File Code: 2360

Date: August 14, 2009

Delores Pigsley, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon
PO Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

Dear Chairman Pigsley:

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has received funding through the "Economic Stimulus Act" of 2009 to restore the environmental integrity of the historic Blue Ledge Copper Mine. The site was extensively mined in the early 1900s. Since that activity, seasonal toxic run-off has contaminated Joe Creek, a tributary of the Applegate River. The Blue Ledge Mine Reclamation Project has been identified as one of the highest-priority reclamation projects on National Forest Systems lands nationwide.

The master plan for this site is to remove the contaminated waste rock, transport the rock to a location off-site, cap the replaced waste rock with an impervious layer of soil and/or similar product, and finally, spread a layer of clean soil over the waste rock sites and re-plant vegetation. Impacts will include one mile of road construction, five acres of waste-rock removal, and four acres for the repositories.

Removing and capping the waste rock should dramatically reduce the toxic run-off and allow Joe Creek to recover its vitality and to return to functioning as a viable ecosystem and native fishery.

California SHPO has concurred with the Forest's finding that no traditional or historic sites will be impacted, and that the project is a "No Adverse Effect" undertaking relative to cultural resources.

Please see the enclosed maps for project location. You may remember that we initially contacted you in the early stages of planning for this project, in 2003. At that time your Environmental Protection Specialist, Tom Downey, responded with strong support for the project and asked to be kept informed of future action. I hope you will be as pleased as we are that this critical project will soon be underway.

Should you have any comments regarding this project, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 541-618-2030. For more information, or for answers to technical questions, please contact our geologist, Pete Jones, who is coordinating the project, at 541-951-1429.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert W. Shull (for)
SCOTT D. CONROY
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

