



**Request for Comments
Proposal for Recreational Placer
Mining
Scoping Notice
Sawtooth National Recreational Area**



Who is proposing the action:

Wally Noe, Claimant/Operator, Pocatello, Idaho

What is the action being proposed: Mr. Noe is proposing a recreational group placer mining activity to be conducted on designated weekends over the course of the summer season on an unpatented mining claim having valid existing rights as of the mineral withdrawal date of August 22, 1972.

How will the action be accomplished: Mr. Noe and associated owners of the unpatented mining claim propose to camp near the mining claim and engage in recreational placer mining activity as a group.

Mining activity is to consist of excavating soil and rock using hand tools within the boundaries of the unpatented mining claim. No placer mining will occur below the highwater mark of the Salmon River. Material would be classified according to size and transported using 5 gallon buckets and wheelbarrows to an area for panning and sluicing. The amount of material to be moved is estimated at ¼ yard per day. The operator is proposing to draw water from the Salmon River. All panning and sluicing would take place away from the river. Waste water would be discharged into a depression on the claim and processed sand and gravel would be used to backfill and reclaim depressions and diggings.

Where is the action being proposed: The legal description for proposed activity is Section 29 of T 11N, Range 16 E, Custer County, Idaho. The Warm Springs unpatented mining claim is located on the south side of the Salmon River between Torrey's and Snyder Springs.

When is the action being proposed: The Plan proposes initiating during the 2014 summer season. Weekends would be designated by the claimant and the Forest Service would be notified 30-days in advance of planned outings.

How you can help us: We ask that you consider this proposal and let us know what you think. Comments are most useful if received by December 15, 2013. Please send written comments to: Joby Timm, Area Ranger, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, Idaho 83340 (FAX 208-727-5029). Electronic comments can be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf) to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth-nra@fs.fed.us.

How we will determine what to do: We will use issues identified by our specialists and those we receive from you to analyze the effects of implementing the project as well as conduct a technical exam in accordance with 36 CFR 292.18(e). The Area Ranger will consider the compatibility of the proposed operating plan with Public Law 92-400 and the Sawtooth National Forest Plan.

The decision to be made: We will decide to complete the project as proposed, with modifications or not at all in accordance with 36 CFR 292.18(e)(vi). Preliminary analysis indicates this project may be documented under an Environmental Assessment (EA).

For more information, please contact:

Heidie Torrealday, Minerals Program Leader
Sawtooth National Forest
2306 Hiland Ave.
Burley, ID 83311
208-678-0430
htorrealday@fs.fed.us

