



File Code: 2800

Date: March 25, 2019

Dear Interested Party,

New Jersey Mining Company has submitted a Plan of Operations (Plan) proposing to utilize Forest Service (FS) roads and trails administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) in order to access the company's privately held mining claims over a five-year period. The Forest Service is obligated to process, administer and manage mining operations on National Forest System (NFS) lands conducted under the authorities of the following laws and regulations: the U.S. Mining Laws of May 10, 1872 (17 Stat. 91 as amended 30 U.S.C. 31-54), the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (30 Stat. 34 as amended 16 U.S.C. 473-478, 419-482 and 551), and Public Law 91-631, entitled the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970. The laws established a statutory right to go upon and use the open public domain land of the NFS. Regulations promulgated on September 1, 1974, enacted 36 CFR 228 Subpart A - Locatable Minerals. The regulations set forth rules and procedures for mining related activity on NFS land to minimize adverse environmental impacts on NFS surface resources. The Forest Service is working closely with the operator on their Plan of Operation which provides the necessary detail to analyze the proposal as directed under 36 CFR 228, Subpart A.

Proposed Project Description

The project area is located in Shoshone County, Idaho; T49N, R4E, Sections 1 and 2, Boise Meridian, within the Osburn 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle; in the Prichard Creek and Beaver Creek-Lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watersheds (Figure 1-Project Location Overview Map). The project area is accessed from County Road 605, Forest Roads 6003 and 605UB, and Trail 151. Forest Roads 6003 and 605UB are designated for administrative use only, and have gates in place to control access; Trail 151 is a seasonally open motorized trail (Figure 2-Project Route Detail Map). All road or trail use would include use by pick-up trucks, a lowboy hauler, a 300 series excavator, up to a D-6 size dozer, a water tender, a Hagby underground core drill on skids, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles. Activities would occur on weekdays during daylight hours

The status of Forest Road 6003 is "Closed" with a road prescription of "Gated, No OHV access" (it has a gate for access control at the intersection with County Road 605). This road has recently undergone improvements and is currently being used for an active timber sale, hence no further improvements or modifications would be needed. Upon completion of the Plan, Forest Road 6003 would return to the standard set in the current Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Travel Management Plan.

The status of the .75 mile-long Forest Road 605UB is "Closed" with a road prescription of "Barriered, No OHV Access" (it has a gate for access control at the intersection with County



Road 605). Use of this road would require moderate brushing of vegetation in the existing road prism. Upon completion of the Plan, Forest Road 605UB would return to a “closed” road with a gate to control access.

Trail 151 is a 6.5-mile motorized trail, seasonally open to vehicles less than 50 inches wide from April 1 through September 5. The trail has been modified to accommodate full-size vehicles, as well as heavy equipment, for timber sales in the area; therefore no improvements or modifications would be needed to utilize the trail for the duration of the proposed Plan. New Jersey Mining is proposing to utilize one mile of the trail to access the private patented land from **April 2 through October 9**. Mixed use of a one-mile section would include regular trail traffic, heavy equipment listed above, pick-ups, snowmobiles, ATVs/UTVs, and water tenders from April 2 through September 5, during the trail’s open period. However, New Jersey Mining would retain motorized access through October 9. Upon completion of the Plan, Trail 151 would return to a 50-inch or less trail to adhere to the Coeur d’Alene River Ranger District Travel Management Plan.

New Jersey Mining has proposed the use of these existing Forest Service routes for a period of five years in order to perform locatable mineral exploration on private patented lands accessed from IPNF lands. Idaho State Best Management Practices would be utilized to control sediment on NFS lands within the project area.

Public Comments

This notice provides an opportunity for those interested in or affected by this project to comment and make their concerns known. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on this proposed project will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice in the paper of record (Coeur d’Alene, Idaho’s *Coeur d’Alene Press*). If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to the IPNF Supervisors Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, 83815. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Electronic comments can be submitted by email to: comments-northern-idpanhandle-coeur-dalene@fs.fed.us or on the project website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55550>. On the right-hand side “Get Connected”, click “Comment on Project” to submit comments on this project. Electronic comments may be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Those submitting electronic comments should put the project name (**Crown Point Access Project**) in the subject line.

For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an

automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, available for public inspection, and released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Administrative Review (Objection) Process

This project is subject to a pre-decisional administrative review process (referred to as the "objection" process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. An environmental assessment (EA) and a draft decision notice (DN) will be prepared and made available to the public for pre-decisional administrative review (objection). Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this scoping period will be eligible to file an objection at that time. After considering all analysis findings and public input, including objection process results, a final DN will be issued.

Future Communications on the Project

If you would like to receive future mailings about this project, please either send us your comments or contact us to let us know that you would like to remain on the mailing list.

You can also manage subscriptions to Forest Service project electronic mailing list(s) and access immediate electronic information to project documents through an electronic messaging Crown Point project web page at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55550>; select the "Subscribe to Email Updates" link from the "Get Connected" menu, and provide your email address. After providing your address, you also have the ability to self-subscribe to additional Forest Service project electronic mailing lists and provide additional contact information if desired through the "Subscriber Preferences" link.

For More Information

The responsible official for this project and the decision is the District Ranger for the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

If you have questions regarding the Crown Point EA project, please contact Courtney Priddy at the IPNF Forest Supervisor's Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; (208)765-7207; or by email at courtney.priddy@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



DAN SCAIFE
District Ranger

Crown Point EA Project Overview Map

Legend

- FR605UB_Closed
- FR6003_Closed
- Trail151_Seasonal50InchOrLess
- Trail151_MixedUse

