
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SMOKY CANYON MINE, PANELS F & G

LEASE AND MINE PLAN MODIFICATION PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District
Pocatello Field Office

JOINT LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest

COOPERATING AGENCY: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT LOCATION: Caribou County, Idaho

DATE DRAFT EIS FILED WITH EPA: Same as date of publication in the Federal Register

QUESTIONS ON THE DRAFT EIS CAN BE DIRECTED TO: Diane Wheeler, Project Lead
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ABSTRACT

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes impacts related to lease and mine modifications for the Panels F and G Mining and Reclamation Plan at the J.R. Simplot Smoky Canyon Mine in southeast Idaho. The Proposed Action includes construction and operation of an ore conveyor system at Panel F; lease modification and expansion of the East overburden disposal area; expansion of the South overburden disposal area; replacing the currently approved geologic store and release cover with a geo-synthetic clay laminate liner, and implementation of associated stormwater control measures. Use of existing support and mill facilities would continue. Two Action Alternatives to the Proposed Action are analyzed. Alternative 1 is the same as the Proposed Action; however, a mixed cover would be used to cover overburden in Panel G. Under Alternative 2, the Agency Preferred Alternative, the proposed lease modification area and expanded East overburden disposal area disturbance would be smaller than under the Proposed Action or Alternative 1 and a mixed cover would be used to cover overburden in Panel G. Under the No Action Alternative, the 2008 Record of Decisions, based upon the 2007 Final Environmental Impact Statement would continue to govern development of the phosphate resources of Panels F and G, and the currently approved M&RP would be executed.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL FOR DEIS: Joe Kraayenbrink
BLM Idaho Falls District Manager

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