

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

Corby Mine – Plan of Operations

Bureau of Land Management - Coeur d'Alene Field Office

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coeur d'Alene Field Office recently received a Plan of Operations (Plan) from Corby Mining, LLC (CM) to extract and haul away both ore and waste rock from an existing mine on an unpatented mining claim located ½ mile south of Pinehurst, Idaho in Shoshone County. (See Map on page 4.) The BLM is proposing to approve CM's Plan; however, the BLM must first review the proposal to ensure it is in conformance with the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan, approved June 2007. And, because any decision the BLM renders regarding CM's Plan is considered a Federal action, the proposal must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences and ensure compliance.

The following information is being provided to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the NEPA review of the proposal. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to help identify and analyze potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and any alternatives developed through the review process.

The BLM will also use this public participation opportunity under the NEPA to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 U.S.C. 470(f)] pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter VIII, Subpart A, §800.2 (d) (3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Purpose and Need for Action

The BLM must respond to the claimant's request which is authorized under the *Mining laws* as defined at Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR), §3809.5. CM's Plan is subject to 43 CFR, Group 3800, Mining Claims Under The General Mining Laws, Subpart 3809, Surface Management.

The purpose for Subpart 3809 is provided at §3809.1 (a); "*Prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands by operations authorized by the mining laws.*" Action is necessary by the BLM because in accordance with §3809.411 (d), "*Upon completion of the review of your plan, including analysis under NEPA and public comments,*" the BLM must notify the operator of its decision to approve, approve with modification(s), or disapprove the Plan.

Hence; the purpose of BLM's action is to comply with federal regulations and prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

Existing Condition

Corby Mining, LLC (CM) is currently in the process of removing up to 1,000 tons of presumed ore from the old mine for sampling. This work is being completed under a *Notice* in accordance with explorations activities described at 43 CFR, §3809.21, and did not require a Plan of Operations. Initial work has included restoring the portal of the old underground mine, re-establishing a working set of rails from the working face (underground) out to the existing rock dump, and getting air and power into the mine. All of the presumed ore and waste rock removed from the mine is being loaded into a dump truck and hauled to New Jersey Mining Company's fully permitted mill east of Kellogg, Idaho. Currently the mined material is being loaded into the truck with a front-end-loader; however, CM intends to construct a self-loading chute/bin at the edge of the rock dump so that the truck driver can pull in, load, and haul the material offsite without assistance.

On the private lot between the unpatented claim and the Pine Creek road, CM has placed two conex units that are being used as an office and supply storage, a compressor to provide fresh air for the mine, a power pole for electricity, and several pieces of equipment. To get the air and electricity into the mine, CM buried the air and electrical lines in a trench that runs from the compressor and power pole, across the claim, up the face of the rock dump, and across the dump to the mine portal.

Proposed Action

The BLM would approve CM's Plan to continue extracting ore and waste rock (exceeding 1,000 tons allowed under a *Notice*) from the Corby Mine and hauling it to the mill located at the mouth of Gold Run Gulch. Access to the mine site is gained by traveling about ½ mile south of Pinehurst on the paved Pine Creek road, then turn left (east) at 1925 Pine Creek Rd. (See Map on page 4.) The mine portal is about 250 yards from the turn and located about 30 feet above the valley floor. Equipment and workers would use the existing ramp on the south end of the rock dump to gain entry into the mine.

CM intends to work one shift per day, five days per week (Monday through Friday), using a crew of three to four workers from the local workforce in the Silver Valley. Thirty to forty tons of ore and/or waste would be mined per shift (drill, blast, load) and hauled out of the mine in rail cars. The broken rock would be placed into a chute/bin at the edge of the rock dump, loaded into a dump truck, and hauled an estimated twelve miles to New Jersey Mining Company's mill. The ore would be processed through the mill and the waste rock would be used for the mill's tailings pond dike construction. CM estimated two to three truck loads per day would be required to keep up with mining.

Reclamation of the mine site would include removing the chute/bin and the rails from the mine mouth to the chute/bin, disconnecting the air and power lines, re-contouring (if necessary) and re-seeding any disturbed areas on the claim, and subsequent monitoring/maintenance to ensure a desired vegetative cover is established.

Preliminary Issues

- Air Quality – Will CM's proposed operations impact air quality in the Pinehurst area?

- Soils – Will CM’s proposed operations impact soils?
- Vegetation – Will CM’s proposed operations impact vegetation, to include special status plants and weeds?
- Wildlife - Will CM’s proposed operations impact wildlife, to include special status species?
- Economic and Social Values – What will be the impacts to the local economy and transportation network from CM’s proposed operations?

Preliminary Alternative Development

Alternative 1: The BLM would approve CM’s Plan with modification(s). The modification(s) would include stipulations and/or design features identified during the environmental analysis that are needed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

No Action: The BLM would disapprove CM’s Plan because unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands would occur even with incorporation of stipulations and/or design features.

Decision to be Made

The BLM will decide to approve, approve with modification(s), or disapprove Corby Mining, LLC’s Plan of Operations.

Public Input Needed

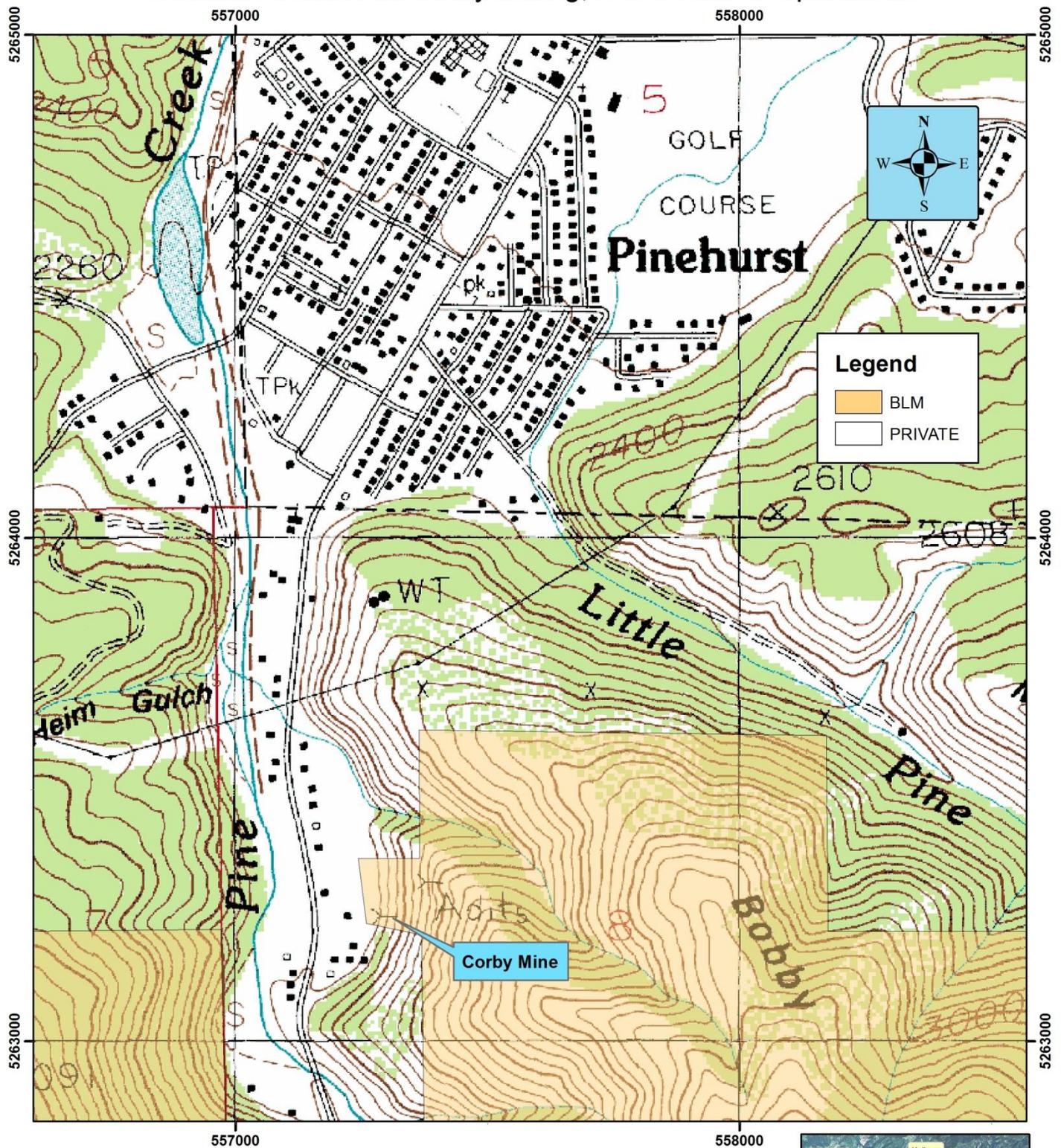
Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received by May 15, 2015 and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA.

Please submit any written comments electronically to **BLM_ID_CORBYMINEPLAN@blm.gov**, or send written comments to: BLM – Coeur d’Alene Field Office, Attn. Scott Sanner, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, 83815. Oral comments can be provided over the phone to Mr. Sanner at (208) 769-5032, or personally by appointment. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

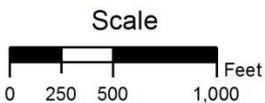
The primary contact for questions and comments for this analysis is Scott Sanner, Mining Engineer, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, 83815, 208-769-5032.

General Location for Corby Mining, LLC's Plan of Operations



Source: BLM Corp. data
10/2014 - S. Sanner

Kellogg West 7.5 Minute Quad
Section 8 (SWNW), T48N, R2E, Boise Meridian



"No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed."

