

File Code: 2820

Date: December 4, 2012

Mr. Jerome Perez, BLM State Director
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 2965
333 SW 1st Ave
Portland, OR 97208

RE: Consent Decision to BLM for Issuance of Prospecting Permits

Dear Mr. Jerome Perez:

The attached Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact documents Cowlitz Valley District Ranger, Gar Abbas's decision to consent to issuance of two hardrock mineral permits with specified required conditions for use and protection of the National Forest System (NFS) lands involved.

I have reviewed the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Plan and my staff has cooperated with BLM in the analysis of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the permit applications submitted by Ascot USA Inc. The subject lands are acquired lands within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, T10N, R6E, Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, and 19, Willamette Meridian, Skamania County, Washington (also known as lands within Mineral Survey MS-708, MS-774, MS-779, MS-1329, and MS-1330).

In order to consent or deny consent to issuance of the prospecting permits, the Forest Service needs to make two findings: would mineral development interfere with the primary purposes for which the lands were acquired, and would mineral development be consistent with the Forest Plan? My determination of those findings is further documented and explained in the Decision Notice enclosed with this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Seath, Forest Geologist, at 360-891-5233.

Sincerely,



JANINE CLAYTON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Cheryl Seath, Erica Taecker, Gar Abbas, Lisa E Freedman, Kent Connaughton, Claire Lavendel, Robert W Fujimoto, Tom Snoberger, Diane Sommervold, Mailroom R6 Gifford Pinchot
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