



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



175

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

INDIV

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

How to provide public input:

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- 2) deliver the form in person to a public scoping meeting,
- 3) mail the form to the address on the reverse,
- 4) send the form by facsimile to the attention of Brian Buck at (801) 942-1852, or
- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@blm.gov using any widely available electronic format such as doc, pdf, rtf, txt, etc



Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

It would be good for ~~the~~ Thompson Creek and the economy.

175.1 ELON

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me



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- 5) provide your input to tem_eis@jbreenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name SIHANE EKSTROM County CLUSTER

Title EQUIPMENT OPERATOR Organization THOMPSON CREEK

Mailing Address PO BOX 1253

City CHALLIS State ID Zip 83226

Email _____

Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

THOMPSON CREEK IS AN IMPORTANT PART FOR CLUSTER COUNTY AND ITS ECONOMY. I HAVE WORKED THERE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS. I FEEL THAT THEY ARE VERY ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE WE ARE CUSTODIANS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND IT IS RELAYED AS A PRIORITY AND ONE OF OUR DAILY AND ANNUAL GOALS. I LOOK FORWARD TO A LONG FUTURE AT THOMPSON CREEK AND HOPE THAT THE EIS IS PASSED IN A TIMELY MATTER.

176.1
ECON
176.2
GEN
176.3
SOP
176

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name John Weston County Custer
 Title Operator Organization Thompson Creek
 Mailing Address HL 63 Box 1570-2
 City Challis State ID Zip 83226
 Email misterwizard76@yahoo.com
 Date 8/26/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I am the father of 5 children and by expanding the mining capability of Thompson Creek I will be further capable of supporting my family in the Challis, ID area. This job is my lifeline and I approve of the expanding of Thompson Creek Mine

177.1
EIS
SUP MINE

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J. v. d. v.

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Name Josh Martin County Lemhi

Title Operator Organization T.C.M.C.

Mailing Address PO Box 461

City Salmon State ID Zip 83467

Email N/A

Date 8/25/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek Mine is a very important asset not only to the people that work there and their families, but the economy as well. Not all the employees are from the Challis area they come from all over the states

178.1 EIS CD
178.2 EIS CD

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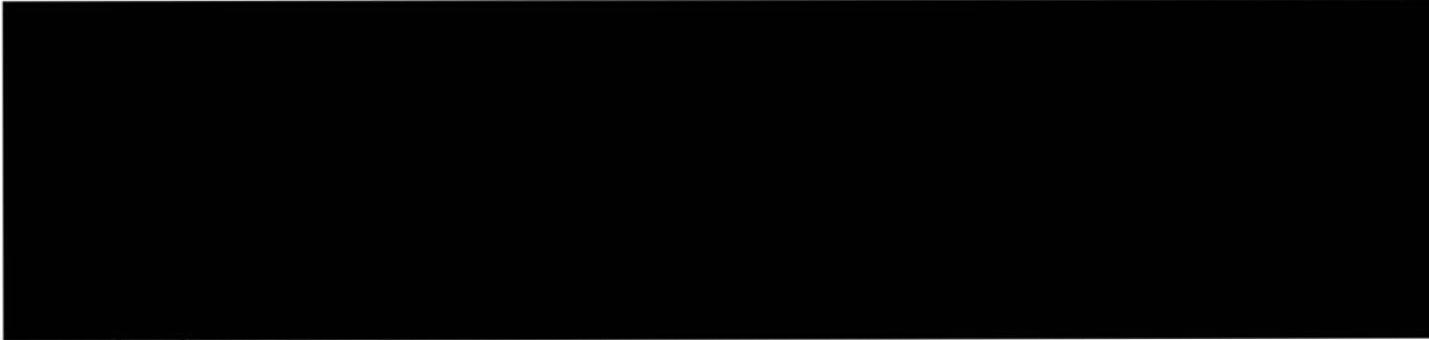
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The expansion is an important part to the success of Thompson Creek Mine, and I feel it's a good plan. Thompson Creek does a lot to help out the local economy and community. The expansion and success of Thompson Creek, ~~that~~ I feel, has a lot to do with the success and failure of the local economy. Thompson Creek has done an amazing job with environmental work and I feel that they will continue to do so.

SUPLEX
179.1
ECON
179.2
GEN
179.3

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F. Ndlin

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Name Wesley Sherwood County Custer
 Title Mine Ops, Operator Organization TCM
 Mailing Address P.O. Box 163
 City Clayton State Id Zip 83307
 Email wesleywood509@yahoo.com
 Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

TCM has always benefited the local economy and neighboring communities. TCM also places the protection of the environment as one of its highest priorities.

180.1
ELDN
180.2
GEN

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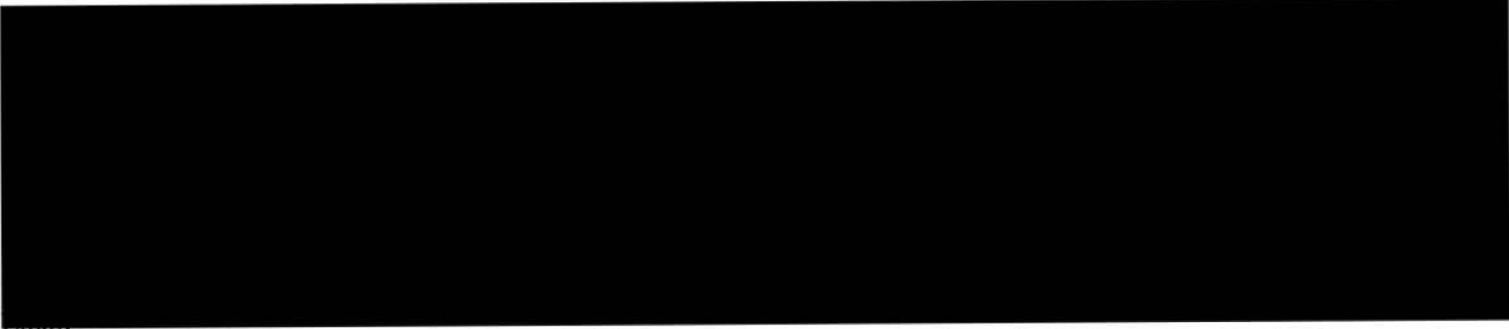
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

THOMPSON CREEK HAS AN EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENTAL
 RECORD IN THE 25 YEARS IT HAS BEEN OPEN
 THEY HELP THE LOCAL ECONOMY
 IT WOULD PUT ALOT OF PEOPLE OUT OF WORK
 IF THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO MINE

181.1 GEN
 181.2 ECON
 181.3 SOC

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SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

7/20/10

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Name Tyler VanWormer County _____

Title Operator Organization Thompson Creek Mine

Mailing Address 15 Reese Ln.

City Salmon State ID Zip 83467

Email _____

Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I think it is a good idea and it will help Thompson
Creek.

182.1 SOP MINE

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T.M.C.M.

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Name Rod Drajevic County Lemhi
 Title Equipment Operator Organization Thompson Creek Mine
 Mailing Address 250 sunset heights Road
 City Salmon State Idaho Zip 83467
 Email _____
 Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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There is no doubt that the Thompson Creek Mine is important to me and all of Idaho. Idaho needs this employment opportunity to continue because it has proven to be positive for 25+ years. A no action alternative would be negative to not only to the economy but the environment as well. This mine and any others in Idaho are extremely important to the economy and environment for future generations. TCMC has 25+ years of experience - over -

183.1
ECON
183.2 ECON

183.3 NO ACTION

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Name Rick Miller County Lemhi

Title Operator Organization TCM

Mailing Address 102 S Vasil St.

City Salmon State Idaho Zip 83467

Email _____

Date 8/25/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

The TCM operation is very important to me & my family.
TCM has a very good environmental track record. I think this
land trade is a win-win situation for all parties involved.

184-1
ECON
184-2
GSA
184-3
SUP
DEX

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1965

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JNDIV

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Name Jordan Brune County Challis

Title operator Organization Thompson Creek Mine

Mailing Address 680 12th Street

City Challis State ID Zip 83226

Email Ø

Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek Mine is important to my family as well as the local economy. The mine is pretty much the life blood of this entire community.

185-1 ECGN

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JWDIV

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Name Jeremiah Martin County _____

Title equipment operator Organization TCM

Mailing Address PO Box 461

City Salmon State Id Zip 83467

Email _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek Mine is important to me and the economy

1861 Econ

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek Mine is important to the economy of Custer county.

187.1 ELOD

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- 4) send the form by facsimile to the attention of Brian Buck at (801) 942-1852, or
- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name DAVID FINDLEY County LEMMING

Title MINE OPERATOR Organization THOMPSON CREEK MINING

Mailing Address PO BOX 84

City LEADORE State ID Zip 83464

Email _____

Date 8-27-2010 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek is very important it bring in jobs that is highly needed in this area. Thompson Creek helps me provide for my family both with insurance and day to day needs. Thompson Creek's excellent record of environmental compliance during the 25+ years the mine been in operation should be taken into account as well. The BLM should complete the EIS process as quickly as reasonably possible to avoid any interruption in mining operation at TCM. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments.

188.1 ECON
188.2 GEN
188.3 SUP MINE

- Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



1899

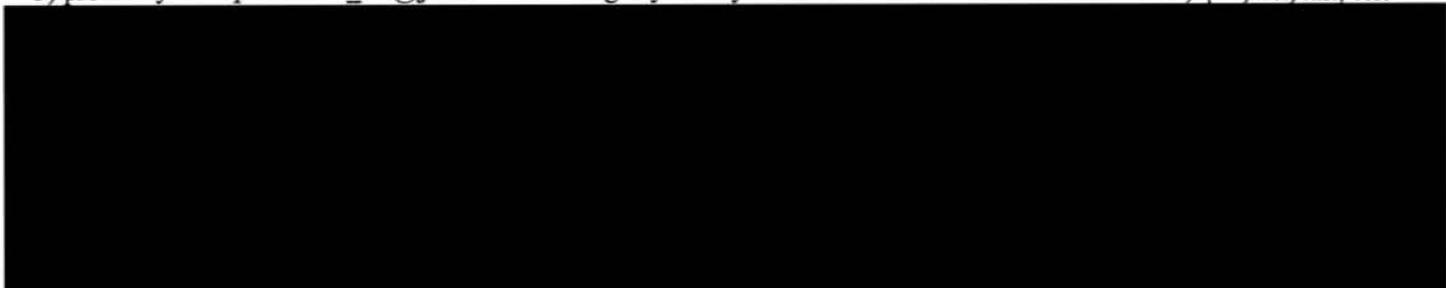
SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!.

How to provide public input:

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.



Email _____

Date 8-26-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek mine is important to
 me and my family and the local economy
 land swap for accessible for inaccessible land
 is good for management and public use

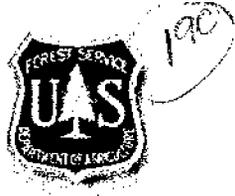
189.1
 ELON
 189.2
 SUP LEX

Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name LEWIE FROST County CUSTER

Title MINE COORDINATOR Organization THOMPSON CR. MINING

Mailing Address P.O. BOX 318

City CHALLIS State IDAHO Zip 83226

Email _____

Date 8-28-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

THOMPSON CR. MINE IS VERY STABLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES & AS FAR AS THE ECONOMY THERE ARE
PEOPLE FROM 6 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES + 3 STATES
ON MY CREW ALONE. I HOPE FOR MYSELF + FAMILY
THAT THERE'S A LONG FUTURE @ TCM.

190.1 GEN 190.2 ECON

Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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191



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Michael C. Wall County Custer

Title Equipment Operator Organization Thompson Creek Mine

Mailing Address P.O. Box 423

City Mackay State Idaho Zip 83251

Email VWall@ATCNet.Net

Date 8-29-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I am a lifelong resident of Custer County Idaho. I have worked at Thompson Creek Mine for over 5 years. The mine has provided me with a very good income as well as providing myself and my family with benefits. I have visited with the local Custer County Commissioner about what a huge benefit Thompson Creek mine is for the Custer county tax base. I feel Thompson Creek Mine is a benefit to the local economics of the Challis, Mackay and Salmon areas. Also extending to other areas such as the trucking industry, equipment companies, ect.

191.1 ECOT
191.2 SOC

Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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RECEIVED SEP 02 2010

Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name John + Cathy Crawney County Lemhi
 Title Owners Organization Rawhide Outfitters
 Mailing Address 204 LARSON Street
 City Salmon State Id Zip 83467
 Email rawhide2@centurytel.net
 Date 8-30-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

We appreciate the opportunity + privilege to comment on this proposal of land exchange. Our out fitting area is in close proximity to area. We fully + completely approve of this land exchange for the following reasons.

- As we examine Thompson Creek Mine's past performance they have demonstrated utmost excellent Stewardship of the land, extracting the resource in a responsible manner.
- The 5,000 acres of land Thompson Creek wants is

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192.1 SUP EX
192.1 GEN

Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S. Highland Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Mrs Cathy Cranney
204 Larson St
Salmon ID 83467-3213



From:

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so address is visible,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

Comment continued:

of substantially less value than what the 900 acres the
government would get in exchange. This 900 acres of land
is prime river frontage + excellent riparian habitat.

- The Thompson Creek Mine has a huge + positive involvement
with local + surrounding communities. They provide employment to
many which in turn helps the local economy.
- This land exchange will be added to the tax base of
Custer County which is greatly needed.

100-1
100-1
SEE
ECON

193



"Environmental Solutions from a Practical Perspective"

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: 09/07/200

801-942-1852

Number of Pages Including this One: 5

To: Brian Buck

From: Rick Richins

Message: My comments attached (4pgs)
R. Richins

This facsimile message contains information that is confidential and which may be subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately by facsimile or telephone and return the original message to us. Thank you.

225 N. 9th St; Ste 220
Boise, Idaho 83702

Telephone: 208.343.8727
Fax Number: 208.343.5115



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



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Page 1

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

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- 5) provide your input to tcem_ets@blm.gov using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Rick Richins County Ada
 Title Owner Organization RTR Resource Management
 Mailing Address 775 North 9th St Suite 220
 City Boise State Id Zip 83702
 Email rrichins@rtr-inc.com
 Date September 7 Meeting Location (if applicable) BLM- Boise Scoping

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I am curious why the BLM was so slow in issuing NOI. This seems like very cumbersome process and gives NEPA process poor reputation. Can it be streamlined? This is huge investment for company, agencies & public.

Do you have a "target" schedule for issuing DEIS? - The final approved mining phase is scheduled for completion

193.1 LAW

193.2 LAW

193.3 LAW

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Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S. Highland Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

From:

Page 2

Place
Stamp
Here

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so address is visible,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

Comment continued:

in 2016. When does TCMC actually need areas w/ the
proposed expansion (45 acres private; 360 federal) to stay consistent
with the current mine plan? This is key to keep the materials
balance in sync for waste management purposes.
How often are the reclamation costs updated? Does
BLM or IDL take the lead on this?

193.4
OTHER
193.5
OTHER
193.6
OTHER



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

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Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Organization _____ *Page 3*

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Date _____ Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

What percent of the county's total payroll is attributed to the mine (direct & indirect)? 193.7
SOC

What will the county ^{and public} do to make up these revenues if the plan is not approved and mining ceases in 2016? 193.8
SOC

Would such a decision interrupt and/or create issues with sound waste management at the TCM? 193.9
OTHER

Does the proposed action affect the NPDES permit (current), and is an EPA decision involved here? 193.10
WTR

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Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S. Highland Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

Place
Stamp
Here

From:

Page 4

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so address is visible,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

Comment continued:

Is there a better more simplified description available
of the land exchange/sale alternatives with
maps and writeups?

193.11
SEL
OFF

Thank you, Rick Richards

[Signature] Sept 1, 2010

194



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

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Name Jon Marvel County B Custer

Title Executive Director Organization Western Watersheds Project

Mailing Address PO Box 1770

City Hailey State ID Zip 83433

Email WUP@Westernwatersheds.org

Date 9/9/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

See Attachment

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Box 1770
Halley, Idaho 83333
tel: (208) 788-2290
fax: (208) 788-2298
email: wwp@westernwatersheds.org
web site: www.westernwatersheds.org

Working to protect and restore Western watersheds and wildlife

Western Watersheds Project

September 9, 2010

Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S Highland Drive
Sandy UT 84093

Also sent by email and fax to: tcn_eis@brenv.com,
Ken_Gardner@blm.gov and (801) 942-1852

Dear Mr. Buck:

This letter provides the scoping comments of Western Watersheds Project (WWP) in regard to the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange.

WWP is providing these scoping comments a few days later than the requested comment period; however, WWP also called Ken Gardner of the BLM to let him know of the slight delay and received a callback from him saying that if the comments were provided by the end of this week (i.e. September 10, 2010) they would be accepted without a problem.

WWP is extremely concerned about the land exchange portion of the proposed action. The proposed land exchange would affect the BLM Thompson Creek grazing allotment whose livestock grazing use is permitted to Valley Sun, LLC. Western Watersheds Project has a management agreement and a conservation agreement with Valley Sun LLC that, in part, involves WWP in Valley Sun LLC's management of its grazing allotments, and therefore WWP has a cognizable interest in the future disposition of the Thompson Creek grazing allotment. The exchange as proposed would also place in private ownership the access to and protection of Thompson Creek itself, a stream that provides habitat for protected native fish.

194.1
RAN

194.2
FISH

The proposed Land Exchange would convert about half of the BLM Thompson Creek grazing allotment into private property owned by the Thompson Creek Mine. That exchange would effectively eliminate the Thompson Creek grazing allotment as a useable allotment.

194.3
RAN

In light of this potential outcome and for reasons relating to conservation of wildlife and fisheries habitat discussed further below, WWP recommends that an alternative be developed for the EIS analysis of the Land Exchange portion that would assess a different boundary for the

194.4
SEL



proposed land exchange locating the south boundary of the proposed area to be privatized at least 500 yards from Thompson Creek itself.

194.5
RAN

Such an alternative would protect potential livestock grazing, which, because of steep terrain, is limited to the riparian corridor. ~~It would also protect current public and state and federal agency access to the upper portion of Thompson Creek and enable better protection of habitat for terrestrial wildlife and native fish species including three species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA): bull trout, chinook salmon and steelhead trout.~~

194.6
TRAN
194.7
FISH

While WWP recommends that the BLM eliminate from analysis in the EIS any land exchange boundary extending south to Thompson Creek. If any Alternative is analyzed in the EIS that includes the proposed south boundary of the Thompson Creek land exchange at the creek, the BLM needs to assess whether that is a reasonable alternative as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to respond to the purpose and need for the project as stated on page 5 of the scoping document; *"TCMP proposed the land exchange primarily to consolidate its land position, so that TCMC may best manage the mine."* This purpose and need does not reflect in any way the need for the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and recover populations of ESA listed native fish that are resident in Thompson Creek and is clearly not in the best interests of the American public as expressed through Congressional creation of the Endangered Species.

194.8
SEL

WWP believes that any alternative that could result in the privatization of publicly owned habitat for ESA listed species should not be considered by the BLM.

194.9
SEL

The EIS also needs to assess in all alternatives the impacts on ESA listed fish species and their habitat by all outfalls of mine waste water during the life of the mine and thereafter in perpetuity. The risks to fish and wildlife of the NPDES waste water outfalls (or any other surface or subsurface water outfalls) are significant and need full analysis and development of mitigation actions for all possible outcomes of the mine operations and subsequent to mine closure.

194.10
FISH

In regard to the private and public lands proposed for exchange by the mine, the EIS needs to provide in the Draft EIS (DEIS) copies of all appraisals of the public and private properties to be exchanged so the public can understand if equal values are being exchanged.

194.11
SEL

WWP recommends that a reasonable alternative for the EIS analysis that would result in the Broken Wing Ranch being returned to native vegetation with no irrigated agriculture or diversion of surface or subsurface water for irrigation purposes.

194.12
OFF

If an alternative is analyzed for the future management of the Broken

Wing Ranch that includes irrigated agriculture, the EIS needs to provide a financial analysis of the cost to operate the acquired lands as irrigated agriculture and how that would be paid. Part of that analysis needs to include analysis of the lost and gained value from the land exchange on ad-valorem property taxes of local taxing districts on the exchanged parcels. The impacts to listed fish species and wildlife of continuing active use of the parcel for irrigated agriculture would also need to be examined as well as whether the BLM can hold water rights for purposes of irrigation.

194.13
OFF

If an agricultural use activity is planned for the Broken Wing Ranch, the EIS will need to explain how the BLM can operate irrigated agriculture pursuant to the existing Challis Resource Management Plan (RMP) or whether the EIS will amend that plan to allow the BLM to embark on a farming business. The EIS needs to analyze reasonable alternative business plans for the operation of the Broken Wing property including the level of public access and examples from other locations in the west on BLM managed lands where similar agricultural activities are already taking place.

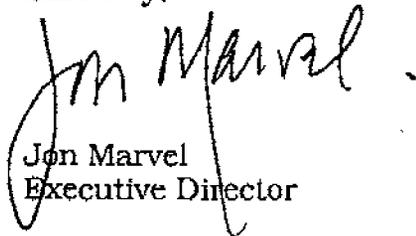
194.14
WTR
194.15
FISH

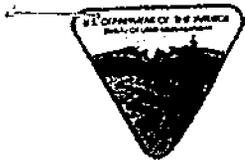
194.16
LAW

194.17
OFF

Please be sure to include Western Watersheds Project on the notification list for all future information about this process.

Sincerely,


Jon Marvel
Executive Director



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



195

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

T. Reder

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you.

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Ron Rembelski County CLUSTER

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address 520 EIKLANE

City Challis State ID Zip 83226

Email SKR@custer.net

Date 8/23/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I AM in Support of the Thompson Creek Mine Expansion.

195.1
SOURCE

Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

How to provide public input:

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- 3) mail the form to the address on the reverse,
- 4) send the form by facsimile to the attention of Brian Buck at (801) 942-1852, or
- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Dennis L. Thornock County Custer

Title General Manager Organization Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Mailing Address PO Box 324

City Challis State ID Zip 83226

Email dennis@custertel.net

Date _____ Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek has historically operated environmentally responsible and have shown they are Stewards of our public lands. _____

196.1 GEN

I fully support the new mine plan and land exchange. _____

196.2 SUP MINE
196.3 SUP LEX

The plan provides for sound environmental practices, social and economic benefit for the County of Custer, State of Idaho and our Nation in these trying economic times. _____

196.4 GEN 196.5 SOC 196.6 ECON

- Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Tony Gilliam County Custer

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address Box 41

City Challis State IA Zip 83226

Email tgilliam69@yahoo.com

Date 8-24-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I've been familiar with the Thompson Creek Molybdenum Mine since 1981, having worked there for contractors and as a miner/employee over the years. This country & this county/area need mineral extraction/natural resource use in order to survive. This mine is operated cleanly & efficiently and should be allowed to continue to do so in favor of their most recent mining plan & hope you will decide such.

[Signature]

197.1 ECON 197.2 GEN 197.3 SUP MINZ

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



198

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

I. Netiv

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- 5) provide your input to tcem_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name JD. BENNETTS County CUSTER

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Date 8/23/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

SEE ATTACHED

RECEIVED

SEP - 1 2010

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Challis, Idaho

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Thompson Creek Mine is critically important to the economy of Custer and Lemhi counties. TCM is also a big component of the tax roll for an already under funded Custer County. Additionally, the benefits of TCM extend far beyond Central Idaho. The movement of our Nation towards relying on foreign production of goods is ill advised. If our Nation is going to continue to be a world leader we will need to rely on our natural resources, and PRIVATE industry to get us there. We have become so scared of these radical environmental groups and their lawsuits that we are painting ourselves into an economic and political corner. We have begun to see the affects of this recently with the economic instability we have been experiencing. With responsible and fair management practices I have no reservations about allowing TCM to expand to gain access to new reserves. I feel it is important for us locally and nationally to send a clear message that we will not be bullied by extremist environmental groups and politically minded judges. I hope the BLM and Forest Service can have the insight to see how important it is for us to send this message at this time.

} 198.1
CCO
} 198.2
G150
} 198.3
S...
} 198.4
S...

J. Bennett



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



199

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET *Indiv*

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- 5) provide your input to tcem_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Doug Hammond County CUSTER

Title MEMBER Organization TEA PARTY

Mailing Address Box 705

City CHALLIS State ID Zip 83226

Email cupe1@CUSTER TEL.NET

Date 8/24/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) CHALLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

SEE ATTACHED

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2010

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Challis, Idaho

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TCM Scoping Comments

To:
BLM Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Id. 83226

From:
Doug Hammond
405 Hammond Lane
P.O. Box 705
Challis, Idaho 83226

I attended the Public Scoping meeting at the Challis Middle School on Aug 24. I would have liked to have had some introductions and an explanation of the process during the event. I did talk to some mine people that I knew and some other people in attendance but there was no briefing or explanation on what was planned. I do have these opinions though:

In am in favor of Mine Expansion, It is one of the few permitted activities that is happening in the County now and should continue.

199.1
SUP MINE

In am favor of Land Exchange with some additions. This TCM exchange is a value for value trade at present appraised prices now. The land at TCM will not be available for continued productive use after it closes like the farm/ranch land that it is being traded for. Sometime in the future after the mine closure the property taxes on this property will not be nearly as much. To make up for this future shortfall additional public land should be made available now to the County or to private industry to make up for this future loss. Custer County currently is 97% public land to 3% private land. The public portion of lands owned in Custer County constantly increasing, taking away our tax base to fund the local County Government.

199.2
SEL
OFF

Additional comments:

If there is a land exchange it should be for private land outside the Custer County borders and not some of the agricultural property currently in production (see the above ratio).

199.3
OFF

This land exchange process seems to be unduly complicated to get future projects going. Only a large well established company could afford to get a project going or to start a new one.

199.4
OFF WEX

Local input should have more clout on the outcome of a local project than National organizations that are against any development projects in isolated public land rich counties like Custer County.

199.5
OTHER

Doug Hammond
Doug Hammond

200

RECEIVED

Dan Strand & Family
P.O. Box 81
Challis, Idaho 83226
(208) 879-5300 or (208) 390-9562
email: dstrand@custertel.net

AUG 24 2010
Bureau of Land Mgt.
Challis, Idaho

Ford

To: Whom It May Concern 8-24-2010

Thompson Creek Mine is and has been since its conception in the 1980's a very important part of our economy not only locally but statewide, nationally, and TCM's production has put us on the map as a producer of a product that has a worldwide impact.

200.1
ECON
200.2
GEO

Not only has TCM been a supplier of jobs & education for all those years but TCM's employees have been very active in our community's as well.

200.3
SPE

We understand that a "No Action" alternative must be included in the EIS however this action would have extremely negative impacts on our region and would have no positive environmental benefits.

200.4
NO ACTION

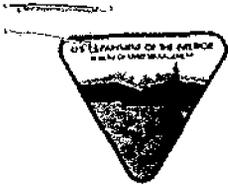
We are hoping that TCM's excellent environmental record during the 25+ years of operation will be taken into consideration while the BLM is completing the EIS which it is our hopes will be done as quickly as possible to avoid any interruption in operations at TCM.

200.5
GEN
200.6
SUP MINE

Thanks for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Dan Strand
Sally Strand
Iver Strand
Hether Lambson



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

RE

Aug 16 2010 KSG



201

Bureau of Land Mgt. Challis, Idaho
Incliv

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

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- 5) provide your input to ten_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name MARVIN + INGRID STROPE County CUSTER

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address P.O. BOX 34

City CLAYTON State ID Zip 83227

Email MBSTROPE@CUSTERTEL.NET

Date 8/16/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

SEE ENCLOSED SHEETS

Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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**Thompson Creek Mine Land Exchange
Scoping Comments
Marvin B. and Ingrid G. Strobe**

Public Access on Squaw Creek Road

Figure 1 shows that part of the Squaw Creek road would belong to Thompson Creek Mine. The public should retain access to all parts of this road, as it leads to several Forest Service trails.

201.1
SEL

No Development Adjacent to our (Strobe) Property

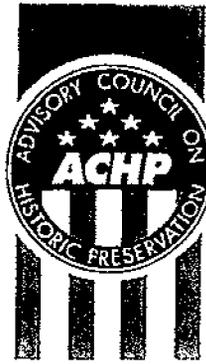
On Figure 2, we would object to any development across Highway 75 (on the unlettered triangle) or across the Salmon River (in the area marked G) that would devalue our property. In particular, we request that no buildings or campgrounds be built in these areas. Any roads should discourage frequent or noisy traffic.

201.2
OFF

Trees along Irrigation Canal

Part of the Broken Wing Ranch Irrigation canal runs through our property. Along the canal are many trees that depend on the water for irrigation. Please do not cut down these trees or discontinue water flow through the ditch.

201.3
OFF



Preserving America's Heritage

2008
LOCAL 6
AUG 24 2010
Bureau of Land Mgt.
Challis, Idaho

August 24, 2010

Mr. Joe Kraayenbrink
Idaho Falls District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Manager
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Ref: *Proposed Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Project
Custer County, Idaho*

Dear Mr. Kraayenbrink:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your notification regarding the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the referenced undertaking. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided the ACHP an opportunity to submit comments as part of the public scoping process, if the undertaking is of interest. We have no comments at this time.

However, in order to ensure compliance with the *National Historic Preservation Act*, the ACHP encourages the BLM to initiate the Section 106 process for this undertaking and to determine the appropriate strategy to meet the requirements of Section 106. Should the undertaking have adverse effects to historic properties and meet the thresholds for ACHP involvement in the *Programmatic Agreement among the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers regarding the Manner in which BLM will meet its Responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act*, please notify us and we will review the case to determine our participation in the Section 106 process.

202.1
CVL

Thank you for informing us of the preparation of an EIS for this undertaking. For assistance with Section 106 compliance, please contact Nancy J. Brown of our staff by telephone at (202) 606-8582, or by e-mail at nbrown@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

Caroline D. Hall
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Property Management Section

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803 • Washington, DC 20004



"Jeff Cook"
<Jeff.Cook@idpr.idaho.gov>
08/30/2010 07:20 AM

To <Ken_Gardner@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Thompson Creek Mine NOI

JK3

LOCALS

Ken,

The e-mail in the Notice of Intent did not work. Here is a copy of IDPR's scoping comments

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Recreation Bureau
Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0065
(208) 514-2483
jeff.cook@idpr.idaho.gov

From: Jeff Cook
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 11:03 AM
To: 'tcm_eis@jbr.com'
Subject: Thompson Creek Mine NOI

August 23, 2010

Ken Gardner, Project Lead
Challis Field Office, BLM
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, ID 83226

RE: Thompson Creek Mine Expansion EIS

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation staff reviewed the Thompson Creek Mine Expansion Notice of Intent (NOI). Thompson Creek Mining Company is considering to expand the Thompson Creek Mine and exchange private and federal lands.

This project will impact recreation activities and recreation access primarily through the land exchange. This EIS should examine on how recreation will be affected with this project.

We look forward to reviewing the draft EIS. Please use the mailing address below as a contact to mail or



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

INDIV

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Todd Buhler County Lemhi co

Title PROPANE Delivery Driver Organization SAL River propane

Mailing Address 21 BLUE CAMAS RD

City SALMON State IDAHO Zip 83467

Email _____

Date 8-24-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

the land exchange to keep mine running is a good thing
it helps the schools in a bunch of counties and cities
people from all over are spending money in all
cities around the state. it help me to have a job
here in salmon from all the people employed from here
need the mine to keep running

204.1 Econ

- Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



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Indiv

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Name Ron Austin County Lemhi
 Title Service Tech. Organization Salmon River Propane
 Mailing Address 53 Hwy 93 N.
 City Salmon State Id Zip 83467
 Email ron8128@hotmail.com
 Date 8-24-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I feel that Thompson Cr. Mine has been very beneficial to Lemhi & Custer Counties, I feel if there is areas that have minerals or Timber or other natural resources that can be utilized that it should be utilized and that way it can help boost our struggling economy. Help provide jobs and help support local communities

205.1
ECON
205.2
SOC
205.3
ECON

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
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306

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INDIV

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- 5) provide your input to tem_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Steve Carter County Custer
 Title Exec Mgr Organization Salmon River Program
 Mailing Address PO Box 538
 City Challis State Id Zip 83226
 Email stave@salmoncountry.net
 Date 8-25-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

It's very hard to put a value on Thompson Creek for the entire State of Idaho. Thompson Creek has been a great partner for water & banki countries. They have stepped up to the plate for many places in our communities. Their environmental concerns have held the mining industry for many years. Safety has been a number one priority within their company.

206.1
ECON
206.2
SOC
206.3
GEN
206.4
EIS / SAFETY

- Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



207

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

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- 5) provide your input to tem_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Allen Robins County Cluster

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address 430 Rod & Gun Club Loop

City Challis State IDAHO Zip 83226

Email a.robins@clusterid.net

Date 8/25/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

MINE HAS BEEN GREAT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
THIS COUNTY RELYS ON THE MINE FOR TAX BASE AND
EMPLOYMENT, THE MINE IS AND HAS BEEN A GREAT
BENEFIT.

207.1
ECON

Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers (if provided) of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Challis Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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 your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



208

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

How to provide public input:

- 1) deliver the form in person to the BLM Challis Field Office at 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, Idaho,
- 2) deliver the form in person to a public scoping meeting,
- 3) mail the form to the address on the reverse,
- 4) send the form by facsimile to the attention of Brian Buck at (801) 942-1852, or
- 5) provide your input to tcmeis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Gersie Williams County CUSTER
 Title Executive Staff Assistant Organization Custer Telephone Coop. Inc.
 Mailing Address P.O. Box 324
 City Challis State Idaho Zip 83226
 Email Gersie@CUSTERTEL.NET
 Date 8-24-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I fully support the Thompson Creek Mine expansion -

208-1-597-4123

- Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange
Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

J. and W.

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- 5) provide your input to tcem_eis@jbr.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Jenness R. Butterfield county Custer
 Title Central Office Supervisor Organization Custer Telephone
 Mailing Address Box 324
 City Challis State Id Zip 83226
 Email jen@custertel.net
 Date 8/24/10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

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- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

209.1
ECON

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

Thompson Creek Mine is the primary contributor to Custer County's economic success. They have proven since 1980 that they can operate the mine in an environmentally sound way. With proven reserves, they can provide a valuable product to the world, which is resource hungry, to improve the lives of all people. It would be a shame to limit the life of this mine when they have all the facilities in place to mine Moly well into future.

209.1
GEN
209.2
209.3
209.4

- Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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310



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement



SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Indiv

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- 4) send the form by facsimile to the attention of Brian Buck at (801) 942-1852, or
- 5) provide your input to tcm_els@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Patty Sensabaugh County Custer
 Title Equip. Op. Organization Thompson Creek Mine
 Mailing Address P.O. Box 994
 City Challis State Id. Zip 83726
 Email pattysensabaugh44@yahoo.com
 Date 8-31-10 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

- Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.
- Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I'm a single working mother at Thompson Creek Mine. Since working there I have been able to purchase a home for myself and two teenage children, which is located in Challis.

Thompson Creek employs many people who love living, and raising their children in the small but outstanding community of Challis, whom wouldn't be so lucky to do without

210. E-05

- Please check box if you do not want your name released when comments are made public.

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being employed at Thompson Creek.

They provide excellent benefits for many families.

Thompson Creek donates thousands of dollars back to the community.

And working here, I get to see first hand how important the environment is to all the employees who work here, and how much we respect it.

210.2
SOC
210.3
MEM

211

Comments -



"Jack Alkire"
<JALKIRE@alliancepackagin
g.net>

09/14/2010 03:41 PM

To <tcm_eis@brenv.com>, <Ken_Gardner@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Thompson Creek Mine - BLM

Gentlemen:

Please find attached Valley Sun's scoping comments on the referenced matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack Alkire 2010 0914 JDA letter0001.pdf

VALLEY SUN, LLC
1000 S.W. 43rd Street
Renton, Wa. 98057

Ph: 425-291-3423
Fax: 425-291-3510

September 14, 2010

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2010

Bureau of Land Management
Challis, Idaho

Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S Highland Drive
Sandy UT 84093

Also sent by email and fax to: tcm_eis@brenv.com, Ken_Gardner@blm.gov
and (801) 942-1852

Dear Mr. Buck:

This letter provides the scoping comments of Valley Sun, LLC ("Valley Sun") in regard to the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange.

Valley Sun is providing these scoping comments a few days later than the requested comment period; however, Valley Sun also called Ken Gardner of the BLM in early September to let him know that it would provide comments within about 10 days, and did not hear back from him.

Valley Sun owns base property called the "Greenfire Preserve", located near the confluence of the East Fork of the Salmon River and the Main Salmon River, in Custer County, Idaho. Valley Sun holds a BLM grazing permit associated with its base property, which permit includes grazing authorization on the Thompson Creek allotment.

The proposed action calls for a land exchange that would affect significantly the BLM Thompson Creek grazing allotment which is permitted to Valley Sun. Accordingly, Valley Sun has a cognizable interest in the future disposition of the Thompson Creek grazing allotment. (Valley Sun and BLM

211.1
RANGE

presently are engaged in resolution of certain disputes pertaining to, *inter alia*, the Thompson Creek allotment, which disputes are pending before the Department of Interior Office of Hearings and Appeals, Nos. ID-330-2009-03, and ID-330-2010-01.)

The proposed land exchange would convert about half of the BLM Thompson Creek grazing allotment into private property owned by the Thompson Creek Mine. That exchange would effectively eliminate the Thompson Creek grazing allotment as a useable allotment and, in turn, affect negatively the value of Valley Sun's base property, directly or indirectly.

211.2
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Accepting for purposes of this discussion, but without conceding, that Valley Sun may have no legal right to compensation for this likely diminution in value, nevertheless we would suggest that the EIS consider whether the precise land exchange as proposed, which would effectively terminate grazing on the Thompson Creek allotment and diminish the value of Valley Sun's base property, is necessary or appropriate to further the stated purposes of land consolidation and mine management to benefit TCMC.

211.3
SEL

Correlatively, we suggest the EIS should consider as an alternative a land exchange configuration that would support TCMC's goals of consolidation and management efficiency yet at the same time preserve the grazing permit opportunities presently available to Valley Sun. One useful idea in this regard, although by no means the only one, is that expressed by Western Watersheds Project (WWP) in its September 9, 2010 comment letter to you, namely to limit the area to be privatized to those lands which are located at least 500 yards from Thompson Creek itself.

211.4
SEL

In its communications with BLM over the years, Valley Sun consistently has emphasized the need for conservation of land, water, and natural resources in the affected areas, including the Thompson Creek grazing allotment. Valley Sun is concerned that the proposed land exchange, which would place much of this allotment in private hands, would unnecessarily jeopardize the protection of habitat for terrestrial wildlife and native fish species including three species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA): bull trout, chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Valley Sun suggests that the declared purposes and needs of land consolidation and mine management can be served without extending the land exchange to Thompson Creek itself and thereby jeopardizing the environmental interests

211.5
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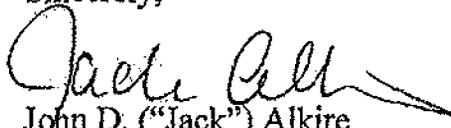
211.6
SEL

described above. Alternatives taking into mind the above considerations should be examined in the EIS.

Valley Sun agrees with the comments and suggestions contained in WWP's letter to you of September 9, 2010, and joins in those comments and suggestions.

Please be sure to include Valley Sun on the notification list for all future information about this process.

Sincerely,


John D. ("Jack") Alkire

Dave Kikkert

From: Bill Jones [wmjones55@mac.com]
Posted At: Friday, September 10, 2010 7:53 AM
Conversation: Thompson Creek
Posted To: Thompson Creek

Subject: Thompson Creek

Hello,
My only comment is that the mitigation offsets and land exchange is inequitable to the all Forest users. A larger land exchange is a necessity. The value of the land ceded does not equal the land given to the mine.

Thanks,
Bill
10506 W. Sundance Mtn.
Littleton, CO. 80127

212.2 OFF

212.3 OFF

212.1 OFF

213



INDIV



Thompson Creek Mine Expansion and Land Exchange Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and other cooperating agencies believe that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!.

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- 5) provide your input to tcm_eis@jbrenv.com using any widely available electronic format such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, etc.

Name Doyle Lamb County Custer

Title OWNER Organization Lambs Market

Mailing Address HC63 Box 1744

City Challis State Idaho Zip 83226

Email Lambs@CusterTel.net

Date 8-20-2010 Meeting Location (if applicable) Challis

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project. The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Challis Field Office website. You will be notified when it is available.

Please check box if you want to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (on CD) in the mail.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

I feel that Thompson Creek Mine has been an asset to Custer Co. & Challis, they have helped the community very much have contributed to the tax base & also to many fund raisers as well as to the senior City. They have been a good steward to the land & have done everything they have been asked. They have spent a lot of money keeping the streams & rivers cleaned up.

ECON
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WTR
213.4

Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

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Thompson Creek Mine EIS
c/o Brian Buck
JBR Environmental Consultants
8160 S. Highland Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

From: *Boyle Lamb*
PO Box 1794
Provo UT 83936

Place
Stamp
Here

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:

Fold in thirds so address is visible,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.

Comment continued:

*I feel that it would be a good trade for the
BLM & Forest service & no impact on the
environment I am very much in favor of TCM
as a candidate for Custer Co. Gov. I will fight
to keep TCM in operation*
Boyle Lamb

213.5
SUP LEX



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

September 27, 2010

Dave Rosenkrance
Bureau of Land Management,
Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Idaho 83226

Re: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Thompson Creek Mine Expansion (TCM). EPA Project Number 95-141-BLM.

Dear Mr. Myers:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the NOI for Thompson Creek Metals Company's (TCMC) proposed Phase 8 molybdenum TCM expansion in Custer County, Idaho. Our review was conducted in accordance with EPA responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

EPA is a cooperating agency for the development of the BLM led EIS due to our expertise in water resources and Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations. Other cooperating agencies include the US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho Department of Lands. EPA participates in regular cooperating agency conference calls and meetings and has provided comments on draft Chapter 1, draft Chapter 2, and the Pit and Groundwater Study Plan.

TCM has been in operation since 1983 and currently produces approximately 30,000 tons of ore/day and 107,000 tons of overburden/day. The facilities include two large cross-valley fill waste rock dumps (600 million tons) and a large tailings impoundment (500 feet high and 200 million tons). The waste rock piles are located in Pat Hughes Creek and Buckskin Creek drainages. Both creeks flow into Thompson Creek, which is a tributary of the Salmon River. The modified plan of operations (MPOO) would extend the mine life for 15 years and includes expansion of the two waste rock storage facilities and the tailings impoundment. These proposed actions would require approximately 350 acres of additional surface disturbance on federal lands and 80 acres on private land. The EIS also includes an analysis of a proposed land exchange of 900 acres of private land in Custer and Bannock Counties (owned by TCMC) for 5,000 acres of BLM land near the mine.

Water quality is one of EPA's principal concerns at this facility. EPA's concerns with water quality from mine facilities are based on the existence of acid generating waste rock, the high volume and poor quality of drainage from the waste rock dumps and tailings facility, the demonstrated need for long-term water treatment, pit lake and regional groundwater interaction post closure, concern with tailings impoundment stability, and potential impacts to additional

waters of the U.S. In addition to meeting statutory requirements under the CWA, we believe that adequate mitigation including sufficient financial assurance (FA) is crucial to protecting the public's resources. Our recommendations regarding water quality, modeling, and mitigation are highlighted below.

Existing Water Quality Data and Modeling

A considerable amount of data already exists since the TCM is an active mine, which provides the opportunity to evaluate and utilize available water quality data to support modeling and evaluate predicted impacts. As we have stated previously, it will be important to evaluate the existing dataset to ensure that they are of the appropriate type and quality to support intended uses. We acknowledge that a database hosting many reports is available. However, the list of documents includes over 350 items and therefore, it is challenging to identify which report is the most relevant, what information/data has been evaluated and how this information will be used in modeling. It would help considerably to have direction on which reports and their sections are most relevant to specific analyses. It would also be useful to provide a summary of the referenced report and data in the EIS and make relevant reports easily available to the public.

The analysis will involve modeling to predict future impacts. We would recommend that the EIS use caution in describing absolute outcomes based on modeling. Mathematical modeling used for describing the physical and chemical characteristics of the site and potential impacts includes a level of uncertainty; understanding these uncertainties and associated risks are necessary for informed decision making. One of the upcoming modeling exercises involves the pit lake water quality and groundwater interaction at closure. EPA provided comments (letter dated January 29, 2010) on this plan of study, "Phase 8 Pit Water and Groundwater Study Plan." Our comments stressed the need to have sufficient detail on data, water balance, modeling, and basis for predictions. An updated plan was not provided and we continue to stress the need to provide documents related to this and other modeling that clearly states the purpose, questions of concern, method, data, and limitations of the model to generate valuable interpretations. We also strongly recommend that an appropriately conservative approach be taken with modeling and that a range of predictive outcomes be discussed (e.g., most likely case, reasonable worst case, and reasonable best case scenarios) that reflect a range of climatic settings and critical hydrogeologic and geochemical input values. Including a reasonable range of outcomes allows the agencies to make better informed plans for mitigation, adaptive management, and contingencies to respond to reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts.

404(b)(1) Guidelines

The EIS should discuss how the analysis complies with CWA Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and how impacts to waters of the U.S. would be mitigated. The Corps of Engineers and EPA will be conducting a joint verification of the wetland delineation of the site. We will continue to coordinate with the Corps of Engineers through our review of the 404 permit and alternatives developed to reduce impacts to surface water. The contact for EPA's coordination is Carla Fromm, Wetland Ecologist, in our Idaho Operations Office (email fromm.carla@epa.gov). We recommend that the Corps of Engineers permit be coordinated with the EIS process and that the EIS include the analysis related to this permit.

Financial Assurance

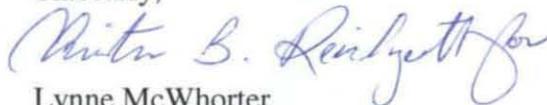
EPA believes that financial assurance is an important element of the proposed project and must be disclosed in the EIS. FA is an important component of the mitigation plan, and disclosing information on the costs and form of FA is essential for the public to understand and comment on the adequacy of mitigation, risks to the environment, and financial risks to the public. EPA believes it is not possible to fully evaluate anticipated effectiveness of the mine and reclamation plan and associated risks to the environment without this type of information.

The TCM proposal also includes a land exchange, which if implemented, would result in operations being limited to private land. The EIS must clearly disclose the implications of this proposal, including implications for FA. For example, a land exchange would transfer ownership to TCMC and eliminate the ability of the federal government to require or administer FA. If the land exchange is implemented, bond administration would transfer to the State. We strongly recommend that the EIS clearly disclose this outcome as a potential impact and be transparent with the current bond amount, the need to update estimates, and the financial assurance mechanism that would exist to protect the public's resources. We recommend that BLM and the Forest Service explore opportunities to develop an agreement with the relevant parties and State FA agency that includes a contingency to approve the land exchange based on requiring bonding for long-term water treatment.

EPA believes that it is critical to anticipate the reasonably foreseeable range of environmental impacts, and not just the specifically predicted or "expected case", and to have financial assurance mechanisms in place to deal with such impacts. Our experience with mining projects in the northwest shows that a number of mines that have been permitted have developed significant problems or impacts that were not predicted during the NEPA process. In fact, the 1997 SEIS for TCMC included critical predictions that were later demonstrated to be incorrect. Lack of planning for such potential problems shifts significant financial risk to the public.

Please see the attachment for our additional detailed scoping comments. Thank you for considering our recommendations and coordinating with EPA early in the NEPA process. We appreciate the opportunity to review reports and preliminary documents so that we can identify issues and assist in the development of the EIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (206) 553-0205 or via email at mcwhorter.lynne@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lynne McWhorter

Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

cc: Ken Gardner, BLM
 Piper Goessel, USFS
 Troy Saffle, IDEQ
 Greg Martinez, USACE
 Brian Buck, JBR Environmental Consultants

EPA Scoping Comments on Proposed TCM Phase 8 Expansion

General Comments

The EIS should be a stand alone document and include any pertinent information from past analyses and data collection to facilitate a thorough review of the proposed operations and potential impacts. This includes a clear description of the environmental setting; past performance and current water quality issues; detailed mitigation, reclamation, and post closure activities; and existing and proposed mine operations. There is a wealth of information that exists for the TCM as illustrated by the list of documents in the project database and BLM completed an EIS on the last expansion in 1997. We understand that a certain level of reference to past reports is necessary in order to be concise. However, because the last assessment was completed over a decade ago and only specific reports in the database may apply to this analysis, we believe it is important to have a current complete analysis that considers current conditions, mine operations as a whole including updated technology and facilities (e.g., water treatment plant added since last analysis), and any updated permit requirements.

Land Exchange

The proposal includes a land exchange of 900 acres of TCMC private land (Garden Creek property and Broken Wing Ranch) for 5,000 acres of public land near the mine site. It is our understanding that the private land being offered is of high value to BLM and provides an opportunity for environmental education, enhancement of fishery and riparian resources, and recreation. The EIS should discuss the value of the lands being traded and the difference in acreage of public land being exchanged for significantly less acreage of private land. Also, as previously discussed with BLM, we recommend developing an alternative that reduces the acreage of public land being offered.

EPA has expressed concerns with management of public lands that would be converted to private ownership and potential impacts to water resources as a result. We have recommended that all alternatives include conservation easements to protect riparian areas and resources of concern. BLM developed a draft "Management Provisions Alternatives" document and included a proposal to limit development and protect a zone within 1/8 mile of Thompson Creek and Squaw Creek with the exception of any current private land holdings or active mine areas, or the installation and maintenance of pipelines, and associated facilities, for long-term Mine water management, as necessary. We support this provision and recommend that the EIS disclose all potential provisions and what contracting mechanism BLM would use to ensure conservation easements and other provisions are implemented.

Purpose and Need

The NEPA analysis should include a clear and concise statement of the underlying purpose and need for the proposed action, consistent with the implementing regulations for NEPA (see 40 CFR 1502.13). In presenting the purpose and need for the proposed action, the NEPA analysis should reflect not only the purpose, but also the broader public interest and need.

Range of Alternatives to Protect Water and Air Resources

EPA recommends that the NEPA analysis evaluate reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures to reduce or minimize adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water, with special attention to areas where they may be hydrologically connected, and minimize impacts to air.

We recommend that the range of alternatives consider opportunities to reduce the footprint of disturbance, consider risks posed through each pathway, and incorporate treatment as a principal element to remove contaminants from waste streams to reduce post-closure monitoring and management obligations.

The NEPA analysis should clearly outline the physical design of current and proposed facilities (including waste dumps, disposal areas, cover system alternatives, water storage facilities), and address key questions related to water movement and water balance.

In evaluating proposed mine facilities the analysis should include an evaluation of methods for determining performance. This type of monitoring would provide an early warning system in case the proposed mine facilities or cover systems do not conform to model predictions. It is critical, however, that such monitoring be considered during initial design and be incorporated into the plans before construction.

Financial Assurance

NEPA provides for the disclosure to the public and decision-makers all information concerning environmental consequences of a proposed action before the decisions are made and before actions are taken. A key component in determining the environmental impacts of a mine is the effectiveness of closure and reclamation activities, including long-term water management. The amount and viability of financial assurance are critical factors in determining the effectiveness of reclamation and closure activities and, therefore, the significance of the environmental impacts.

The EIS should disclose the estimated cost to reclaim and close the site in a manner that achieves reclamation goals and post-mining land use objectives. The EIS should identify proposed financial assurance mechanisms and demonstrate that these mechanisms would ensure that necessary reclamation work would be completed. The analysis should disclose costs associated with implementing the reclamation plan, as well as costs associated with implementing contingency measures to deal with reasonably foreseeable but not specifically predicted outcomes. This is necessary to inform the public and decision-makers of the financial risk to the public posed by conditions at the site. These financial assurances should be in a form that protects the public interest in the event that a company is unable to implement contingency measures or perform long-term operation and maintenance at a closed mine site.

Modeling

There should be a site-specific conceptual model that describes the system boundaries, time and length scales, hydraulic and chemical characteristics, sources of data and data gaps, and the mathematical relationships used to describe processes. The documentation should include

tables of parameter values used in the model, tables and graphs of results, errors associated with both measured and assumed data, and recommendations for further analysis. We recommend that a discussion on modeling include a clear statement of the management objectives intended to be achieved by the modeling, the level of analysis required to meet the objectives, and uncertainties associated with modeled outcomes. For your reference, below is a link to EPA's guidance that provides recommendations for the effective development, evaluation and use of models in environmental decision making. *Guidance Document on the Development, Evaluation and Application of Environmental Models (PDF)*. EPA/100/K-09/003. March 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/crem/cremlib.html>

Characterization of Ore, Waste Rock, and Tailings

In order to provide reliable projections of wastewater and solid wastes from the project, the physical and chemical characteristics of ore and wastes waste should be determined. Environmental samples used to support projections should represent a range of conditions that currently occur and that could occur in the future as a result of the project. Waste materials used for environmental projections should be generated from ore that is representative of the material to be mined and related to the mine plan and proposed processing methods. Physical and chemical characterization should be conducted in a manner that provides environmentally conservative estimates of impacts.

In addition to analyses and data already collected at TCM, it may be helpful to consider the recommendations in the following report, Maest, A.S., Kuipers, J.R., Travers, C.L., and Atkins, D.A., 2005. *Predicting Water Quality at Hardrock Mines: Methods and models, uncertainties, and state-of-the-art*. 2005. Prepared for Earthworks. 77pp. Available online at: <http://www.mine-aid.org/predictions/>

The following are recommended analyses that may help you with characterization once questions in the study plan for geologic and mineralogy setting/aqueous geochemistry are developed.

- Whole rock analysis
- Mineralogy
- Drill core descriptions.
- Block model or similar model (a computerized estimate of the quantity and characteristics of ore and waste)
- Available literature on the ore deposit
- Mineral occurrences (e.g., on fracture surfaces, in groundmass, using hand specimens and thin section) with an emphasis on sulfides and carbonates
- Acid-base accounting
- Startup of long-term kinetic testing; possible startup of test pads if sufficient material and access to site are available
- Baseline surface and ground water quality and flows (including springs)
- Potentiometric surface for groundwater
- Hydraulic properties (e.g., hydraulic conductivity, porosity, permeability) of soil, vadose zone, and groundwater aquifers, especially under proposed locations of mine facilities
- Examination of characteristics of similar mines in region/area.
- Hydrogeochemical models for prediction of water quality.

Water Quality/Wetlands

The NEPA analysis should discuss current surface water quality and natural background conditions. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the States to identify those waterbodies which are not meeting or not likely to meet State and Tribal water quality standards. Impaired water bodies along with the pollutants of concern should be disclosed in the EIS. The NEPA analysis should discuss how a proposed project will identify which waterbodies may be impacted by the project, the nature of the potential impacts, and the specific pollutants likely to impact those waters. It should also include requirements to report those waterbodies potentially affected by the project that are listed on the State's current 303(d) list and whether Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has developed a water quality restoration plan-Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the waterbodies and the pollutants of concern. If a TMDL has not been established for those waterbodies impacted by a proposed project, on the 303(d) list, as is the case here, then in the interim until one is established, the analysis must include an evaluation of whether or the extent to which the project would achieve requirements that there will be no net degradation of water quality to the listed waters.

The analysis should evaluate impacts to surface water quality and ground water quality from the proposed operations. The proposed operations include not only traditional mining operations, but also impacts related to on and off-site transportation, of ore, and disposal of tailing. The types and magnitude of impacts may vary with the project life cycle (construction, operation, temporary shutdown, closure, and post closure).

Wetlands

The NEPA analysis should include a map of surface water and wetlands in the project area. The analysis should discuss how many lineal feet of streams, acres of wetlands and what type of wetlands would be impacted by the mine expansion. There should be a discussion of how Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 requirements for wetlands would be met if there are activities that could have potential impacts to adjacent wetlands or indirect impacts to wetlands such as hydrologic changes due to increases in impervious surface will be evaluated.

Water Management and Treatment

The NEPA analysis should explain the current and proposed operations plans for water management and treatment. The EIS should evaluate and disclose the adequacy, reliability, and operational uncertainty associated with proposed water management techniques over the range of operating and climatic conditions. The analysis should characterize chemical compositions and quantities of process waters, mine drainage, storm water, and treated and untreated effluents. This information should be supported by the results of treatability testing. Assumptions used in the analysis should be reasonably conservative.

Air Quality

The EIS should include baseline air quality data previous to mine operations as well as data from existing monitoring reports. The EIS should identify any anticipated issues based on past practices and what mitigation would be used. The EIS should also disclose current operation plans used to minimize/constrict air emissions and fugitive dust and how they may be revised for the expansion.

It is reasonable to expect that construction of the mine and ongoing mine operations will result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These emissions should be disclosed in the EIS (metric tons CO₂ equivalents/yr). We recommend implementing measures to reduce GHG emissions and offer the following for consideration as components of a construction air pollutant emissions control plan.

- Evaluate the use of available alternative engines and diesel fuels:
 - Diesel engines that meet the proposed EPA 2007 regulation of 0.01 g/bhp-hr (grams per brake horsepower hour)
 - Diesel engines outfitted with catalyzed diesel particulate filters and fueled with low sulfur (less than 15 ppm sulfur) fuel
 - Fueling on-site equipment, e.g., mining equipment, with lower sulfur highway diesel instead of off-road diesel fuel
- Install control equipment on diesel construction equipment (particulate filters/traps (DPTs), oxidizing soot filter, oxidation catalysts, and other appropriate control devices to the greatest extent that is technically feasible.) Different control devices may be used simultaneously.
- See www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/index.htm for verification of technology retrofit emissions reductions related to any project mitigation measures.
- Establish idling limit (e.g., 5-10 minutes per hour).
- Prohibit any tampering with engines and require continuing adherence to manufacturers' recommendations.

Transportation of Hazardous Materials and Concentrates

A recurring problem at mine sites in the Northwest is related to transportation incidents involving hazardous materials. The NEPA analysis should characterize risks related to transportation incidents, and describe mitigation, response planning, and monitoring programs to mitigate for expected problems.

Roads

Road construction and reconstruction are of key concern to EPA because roads can be a large contributor of sediment to streams and interrupt the subsurface flow of water, particularly where roads cut into steep slopes. In addition, roads and their use contribute to habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, the introduction or exacerbation of noxious weeds, and increased fire danger from recreational activities. The EIS should describe in detail the location of existing roads and proposed construction of roads and how stormwater would be managed to reduce impacts to surface water.

Fish and Wildlife

We recommend that the NEPA analysis clearly discuss and list in a table format any ESA listed species that occur in the project area. This section should be linked to habitat discussion and should include a discussion of what activities are being proposed to avoid impacting listed and sensitive species. We also recommend that the EIS include the biological evaluation and any terms and conditions recommended by NOAA and USFWS.

Monitoring

The NEPA analysis should describe project monitoring in some detail. We recommend as a general rule that the level of effort afforded monitoring be commensurate with the complexity of the project and the risk to and sensitivity of the affected environment if a project is permitted and/or approved. As a first step, we recommend that the NEPA analysis clearly define the goals and objectives of monitoring, and present an overall monitoring strategy for the project. Second, the NEPA analysis should provide enough detail on the monitoring program for reviewers to evaluate whether the goals and objectives of monitoring will be achieved. This can generally be satisfied by providing summary information on monitoring (including a list of measurement parameters, methods, locations and frequency), data analysis, and reporting. In addition, we recommend that alternatives include clear requirements for regular analysis and reporting of data to oversight agencies, and include a requirement that the operator submit a full sampling and quality assurance plan for agency approval. The NEPA analysis should discuss who will conduct monitoring, the frequency and how monitoring will direct management decisions.

Adaptive Management Planning

The NEPA analysis should describe the strategy for responding to unforeseen circumstances at the site. Adaptive management and contingency planning are particularly important projects that carry a high level of uncertainty in predictions of environmental consequences. The strategy should include "trigger levels" (e.g., exceedance of ecological benchmarks) or observations (e.g., statistically significant trends in indicators, permit violations, water balance problems, changes in discharge or chemistry of springs/seeps) that would set in motion a follow-up action. This strategy or plan should be described so that reviewers may comment on its adequacy. This type of plan when coupled with the monitoring program is necessary to mitigate for uncertainties and risks associated with predictions of environmental outcomes, and will provide an early warning system of unexpected outcomes. Such plans are necessary to ensure that post-mining land use objectives can be achieved and sustained in the future.

Cumulative Impacts

The current project exists on federal, state and public land. A cumulative effects analysis should be done for potential impacts to natural resources due to potential foreseeable actions (e.g. expansion of mine on private land or other ground disturbing action that could natural resources) regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) undertakes the action (40 CFR § 1508.7). We recommend that projects that will be covered by the proposed action utilize the best available science through effective watershed hierarchy and a watershed approach when identifying, quantifying and mitigating cumulative impacts. EPA has issued guidance on how we are to provide comments on the assessment of cumulative impacts, *Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents*, which can be found on EPA's Office of Federal Activities home page at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/cumulative.pdf> .

The guidance is a good tool to assess the adequacy of the cumulative impacts assessment in five key areas. EPA tries to assess whether the cumulative affects analysis:

1. Identifies resources if any, that are being cumulatively impacted;
2. Determines the appropriate geographic (within natural ecological boundaries) area and the time period over which the effects have occurred and will occur;
3. Looks at all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have affected, are affecting, or would affect resources of concern;
4. Describes a benchmark or baseline;
5. Includes scientifically defensible threshold levels.

We recommend that BLM review the guidance and include requirements in the NEPA analysis to assure these areas are addressed in the cumulative effects analysis for proposed projects.

Climate Change

The EIS should describe the current conditions related to climate and future predictions of climate shifts in the Northwest. Potential effects of climate change may include changes in hydrology, sea level, weather patterns, precipitation rates, and chemical reaction rates. CO₂ concentrations also lead to preferential fertilization and growth of specific plant species. The cumulative effects analysis should include a discussion on potential changes in precipitation, stream flow, changes in vegetation and wildfire frequency. A key component of site restoration involves success of revegetation to reduce erosion and impacts to the surrounding environment. We recommend that adaptive management be built in to post closure monitoring and management so that measures can be taken in response to potential changes in site conditions that results in mass wasting and affects to COPC source control measures.

Consultation with Native American Tribes

The NEPA analysis should discuss not only the historical structures that exist in the project area but also cultural resources and impacts to Native Americans. The NEPA analysis development should be conducted in consultation with all affected tribal governments, consistent with Executive Order (EO) 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*). EO 13175 states that the U.S. government will continue to work with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis to address issues concerning Indian tribal self-government, trust resources, and Indian tribal treaty and other rights. Documentation of these consultations should be included in the document prepared under this action. Consistent with the July 28, 1999 memorandum from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to Heads of Federal Agencies, we strongly urge the Services to consider inviting affected Tribal governments to participate in the NEPA analysis development process as cooperating agencies. This would provide for the establishment of a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues throughout the planning process. The NEPA analysis should identify Tribal concerns and issues and discuss how these will be mitigated.