



LEGAL NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THE THOMPSON CREEK MINE EXPANSION

Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest

The Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest has prepared a Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for The Thompson Creek Mine Expansion Project. This draft record of decision documents the USDA Forest Service proposed decision to authorize a modified mining plan of operations (MMPO) for the Thompson Creek molybdenum mine on National Forest System (NFS) land. A final environmental impact statement was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (lead agency), USDA Forest Service/Salmon-Challis National Forest, and other cooperating agencies that describes the environmental effects of two proposals by Thompson Creek Mining Company: 1) the MMPO for expansion of the Thompson Creek mine near Clayton in Custer County, Idaho; and 2) an exchange of Federal (BLM-administered) land at the mine for private lands owned by the company in Custer and Bannock counties, Idaho. The USDA Forest Service only has authority regarding the effects of the MMPO on NFS land. The final environmental impact statement describes the environmental effects of Alternative M1 - the no action alternative; Alternative M2 - the MMPO as proposed by Thompson Creek Mining Company; and Alternative M3 - the No Name waste rock facility (a modification to Alternative M2). The Responsible Official, Chuck Mark, Forest Supervisor, proposes to issue a decision in the Draft ROD to select Alternative M2 as its agency-preferred alternative, which will authorize additional mining disturbance on 185.5 acres of NFS land. Both documents are available on the Salmon-Challis National Forest project website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/scnf/landmanagement/projects> under the "Thompson Creek Modified Plan of Operations for Mine Expansion" link.

How to Object and Timeframe: This Draft ROD and FEIS are subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B (Pre-Decisional Administrative Review). Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the MMPO during designated opportunities for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). The first designated opportunity was the public scoping period. The second opportunity was the 90-day public comment period for the DEIS. No further opportunities to obtain standing to object are anticipated for the project. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted, timely, specific, written comments regarding the project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

A written objection must be submitted to the objection reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following the publication date of the legal notice of this opportunity to object in The Challis Messenger, Challis, Idaho. The publication date in the newspaper of record (The Challis Messenger) is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivered, express delivery, or messenger service.

The objection must be filed with the objection reviewing officer in writing. The objection must contain the minimum requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). At a minimum, the objection must include the following information (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

- The objector's name and address, with a telephone number if available;
- A signature, or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector and verification of the identity of the lead objector must be provided upon request;
- The name of the proposed project for which the decision will be made,
- The name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the forest and/or ranger district on which the proposed project will be implemented; and
- A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunity for comment;

Filing an Objection: Written objections must be submitted (regular mail) to: Nora Rasure, Objection Reviewing Officer, Federal Building, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 (postal) or (801) 625-5277 (facsimile). Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx) to objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us Please type "Thompson Creek Mine FEIS" in the subject line for email messages and facsimile and include your mailing address and phone number.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this draft decision contact Piper Goessel, Geologist, Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger Station, HC 63, Box 1669, Challis, Idaho 83266, phone (208) 879-4158 or email kgoessel@fs.fed.us. For questions about the Forest Service objection process contact Ken Rodgers, phone (208) 879-4154 or email kroddgers@fs.fed.us

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