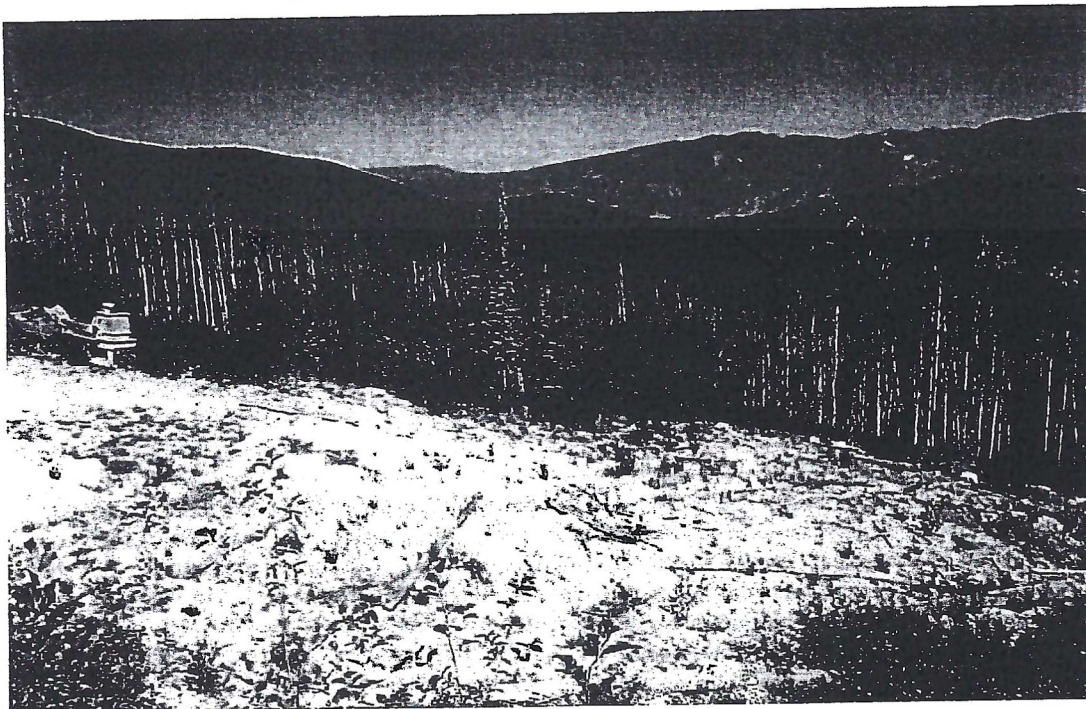


Walla Walla Mine Project
Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

USDA Forest Service
Payette National Forest
McCall Ranger District
Idaho County, Idaho

February 2008

Responsible Official: Shane Jeffries
McCall District Ranger
McCall, Idaho 83638
(208) 634-0400



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Introduction

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Walla Walla Mine Project has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 40 CFR 1500-1508), the National Forest Management Act (NFMA, 36 CFR 219), and the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Background

F & H Mining, LLC of Payette, Idaho has submitted a Plan of Operations for the Walla Walla Mine. The proposed project will construct and operate an underground gold mine and mill. The location of the proposed mine is in Idaho County in Township 24 North, Range 5 East, Section 23 (Attachment C). It lies in the headwaters of the Maxwell Creek drainage, a tributary of the Main Salmon River which is located over five miles from the site.

The environmental analysis was tiered to and supplements the analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Forest Plan. The Forest Plan assigns the project area a Management Prescription Category (MPC) of 3.2, Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources.

The mine site will occupy an area that was disturbed by an earlier mining project. The Walla Walla site is a lode operation which has been explored and mined intermittently by numerous individuals since the early 1970's. It is located near the historic Alberta Mine.

The area is accessed from the south by a primitive road system. The majority of the road is on the Forest transportation system but is in a low maintenance category. The final section of road is not on the system but accesses lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This section of road is slated for decommissioning when the BLM determines it is no longer needed. In the meantime, the Walla Walla Mine project will make improvements to the road that will improve drainage of water from the road and reduce erosion.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need is to approve a plan of operations to allow mineral exploration, including any resource protection measures and mitigation measures that need to be incorporated into the plan of operations. The decision whether to allow mining activity is not within the agency's jurisdiction as long as the proposal is reasonable and the next logical step in mineral development. Through the General Mining Laws of 1872, mining claimants have a right to locate and develop mineral resources on any public lands open to mineral entry. The management of the mineral resource is mainly according to Federal laws and regulations rather than the management discretion of the Forest Service. The Forest Service manages the surface of the National Forest System lands under the 1897 Organic Act, the Multiple Use Mining Act of 1955, and the Forest Service regulations implementing the 1872 Mining Law (36 CFR 228). The 228 Regulations require an operator to submit a Plan of Operations when significant surface disturbance is anticipated and to minimize adverse environmental impacts of mining.

Decision

Based on my review of the proposal, EA, FONSI, public comments, and the project record, I have decided to proceed with the Walla Walla Mine Project and implement Alternative B – Proposed Action, hereafter, referred to as the **Selected Alternative**. I have determined that this is the next logical step in mineral development at the Walla Walla Mine. Based on my review of information in the FONSI, I have also determined an Environmental Impact Statement does not need to be prepared.

In general the Walla Walla Mine Project will construct and operate an underground gold mine within the previously disturbed footprint of previous mining operations. An adit will be dug into the mountainside and the gold bearing ore will be processed on site using non-chemical methods. Two settling ponds will be constructed to retain water for the processing operation and capture any sediment generated by the operation. A minor amount of road improvement will occur on the access road. A complete description of the **Selected Alternative**, including resource protection measures and mitigation measures, can be found in Chapter 2 of the EA. All resource protection measures and mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the Plan of Operations. In addition, a termination date of December 31, 2015 will be incorporated into the Plan of Operations. A detailed summary of the Selected Alternative follows.

Specifically, the Selected Alternative will:

The proposed project will construct and operate an underground gold mine. All facilities will be constructed within the existing disturbance footprint of previous mining activities. Soil and rock overburden will be excavated from an area to expose a bedrock face from which to begin driving an adit along the mineralized vein system. A 12' x 20' steel and timber portal (mine entrance structure) with a locking gate will be constructed at the mouth of the adit. There are two possible locations for the mine portal as illustrated in Attachment C of this Decision Notice. Because of the topography and previous disturbance, either location will not change the environmental effects. The effects analyses in Chapter 3 took into consideration and analyzed both locations.

Rock will be removed from the mine by means of a rubber tired, diesel powered mining vehicle known as a load-haul-dump (LHD). Gold ore will be separated from the surrounding non-mineralized waste rock. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of this waste rock will be disposed of in an on-site dump (Attachment C). The dump will consist of a loose pile of waste rock placed on the lower slope of the disturbed area.

The gold ore will be milled using a conventional gravity separation process consisting of a jaw crusher, ball mill, classifier, and a gravity circuit where gold recovery will take place. This equipment will be mounted on a 20' trailer. No reagents or chemicals will be used to facilitate gold recovery. The mill will require approximately 4,000 gallons of water per day (EA, pg. 2-2).

The mill will produce approximately 100 tons of tailings per year for 8 years. Tailings are the finely ground rock waste from which the gold has been extracted. The tailings are in the form of a slurry that will be pumped into unlined trenches on site. The solid tailings will settle out as most of the water infiltrates. Any excess water will be directed to settling ponds (described below). When the trenches are full, the material excavated during their creation will be drifted over them and blended to the slope contour.

Two settling ponds will be excavated at the lowest point on the mine site. They will be connected in series by a culvert. All stormwater will be routed to the first pond where most sediment will settle out. The second pond will receive mine drainage, excess tailings water, and any stormwater overflow. After further settling of finer sediment, this will serve as a source for mill make-up water. Excess water in the second pond will be land applied with a sprinkler system on the vegetated slope west of the pond.

Equipment and structures on site will include: fuel storage tanks, air compressor, generator, tool shed, trailers, powder magazine, and heavy equipment (bulldozer, backhoe, dump truck, skidster, and LHDs). A portable toilet will be placed on site during the operating season.

Site reclamation would occur seasonally and at the end of the project. Seasonal reclamation measures would be implemented prior to winter closure of the mine. These include the following:

- removing all petrochemicals
- draining the settling ponds
- clean out and maintenance of all water management structures on the site and access road

Final reclamation that would take place upon conclusion of the project would include the following:

- Partial backfilling of the adit
- Removing all equipment, structures, scrap, and trash
- Backfilling settling ponds, tailings trenches, and ditches
- Placing available topsoil back over backfilled settling ponds
- Ripping all compacted ground and spreading slash when available
- Recontouring the site to restore natural drainage
- Fertilizing, mulching and seeding the site with native plant species

Road related activities include:

The access road will be gated at the point from where motorized travel is currently prohibited (Attachment C). The access road from the gate to the minesite will be maintained to address drainage issues. It will have the surface graded with a slight outslope. Waterbars (driveable dips) will be constructed at points flagged on the ground by Forest Service (FS) personnel. Waterbar outlets will be buffered with either silt fencing or straw bales. Rock armor in the waterbar bottoms may be required if severe erosion is noted. If snowplowing of any portion of the access road is needed, the operator will comply with FS specifications for plowing. Road use will be prohibited when moisture conditions are such that serious rutting and road surface damage would result.

The access road is scheduled for decommissioning as part of the Burgdorf Road Management and Inactive/Abandoned Mine Site Reclamation Decision Notice. Timing for the actual decommissioning is dependent upon access needs by BLM to their land to the west. If the BLM determines they have no further need for the access road by the end of the Walla Walla Mine Project, the road will be decommissioned at the conclusion of the project. Otherwise, the road will be left in a stable condition until the BLM determines they no longer have a need for access.

Rationale for Decision

The **Selected Alternative** provides the best balance in meeting the purpose and need, achieving the objectives, and addressing major issues of this project. My rationale is based on five factors:

- The **Selected Alternative** meets the Plan of Operations submitted by F & H Mining, LLC for the Walla Walla Mine Project,
- The **Selected Alternative** will not retard attainment of properly functioning watershed condition indicators (WCIs) due to resource protection measures and mitigation measures,
- The **Selected Alternative** will protect water quality through resource protection measures and mitigation measures,
- Threatened or endangered species are not likely to be adversely affected nor will any species move toward listing as threatened or endangered. Monitoring will ensure protection of listed species, and
- No chemicals will be used in the processing of the gold bearing ore.

Important to my decision is the way in which the **Selected Alternative** addresses the major issues analyzed in the EA. The cumulative effects analysis for each resource in the EA considers past actions and their collective effects on the current condition. This is consistent with direction in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chairman Connaughton's memo of June 24, 2005, "Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis." That memo interprets NEPA as requiring analysis of the "...identifiable present effects of past actions to the extent that they are relevant and useful in analyzing whether the reasonably foreseeable effects of the agency proposal for action and its alternatives may have a continuing, additive and significant relationship to those effects" (CEQ 2005, p. 1).

Additionally, my decision is based on a review of the project record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

Other Alternatives Considered

One additional alternative was considered in the Walla Walla Mine Project EA, the No Action Alternative. The decision whether to allow mining activity is not within the agency's jurisdiction as long as the proposal is reasonable and the next logical step in mineral development. Through the General Mining Laws of 1872, mining claimants have a right to locate and develop mineral resources on any public lands open to mineral entry. The management of the mineral resource is mainly according to Federal laws and regulations rather than the management discretion of the Forest Service. I did not select Alternative A – No Action because the **Selected Alternative** is a reasonable proposal and the next logical step in mineral development.

Pubic Involvement

The public involvement process began with a legal notice in *The Star News* on January 25, 2007 requesting comments on the proposal. The Forest also sent letters to approximately 415 individuals, agencies, and organizations. The public involvement effort combined the scoping period with the notice and comment period for this project. Information concerning the proposal was posted on the Payette National Forest web page and the project was included in the Payette's Schedule of Proposed Actions. *The Star News* also published a news article on the project on March 1, 2007. As a result of this effort, the Forest received comments from thirteen individuals or groups. Seven came from individuals, three from state or county agencies, and three from organizations.

Tribal Consultation

Letters were sent to the Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes during the January 2007 opportunity to comment. Formal consultation, in the form of a presentation, occurred with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley at the March 29, 2007 Wings and Roots meeting. At the May 16, 2007 Wings and Roots meeting the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley indicated they had no objections to the project but would like to be kept informed of how the project was proceeding from time to time.

The Nez Perce Tribe responded during the comment period with concerns about petroleum spills and possible effects to threatened salmon and steelhead. These concerns were noted and resource protection measures and mitigation measures incorporated that address potential spills.

No other tribal concerns regarding this project were raised.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined that this decision is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, either individually or cumulatively. I have determined preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is not required. My determination is based on the following factors, as outlined in 40 CFR 1508.27.

Context

The **Selected Alternative** will be limited in geographic application [40 CFR 1508.27(a)]. Activities associated with my decision will be confined to the previously disturbed area described in the EA (less than 15 acres) and access road and will be limited to those actions disclosed in this document and its appendices. Further, my decision is consistent with the management area prescription, desired future conditions, and Forest Plan standards specified for the area (EA Chapters 1 and 3).

Intensity

1. My decision will not result in any significant effects. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. [40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1)].

Both beneficial and adverse effects have been taken into consideration when making my determination of significance. Based on my review of the analysis, I have determined that there will be no significant effects associated with implementing the Selected Alternative (EA Chapter 3, Water Quality, Fisheries Resource, and Other Disclosures sections).

2. The Selected Alternative will not result in substantive effects on public health or safety [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)].

This project was designed to reduce risks to public health and safety. A gate will be installed at the top of the access road, the point where motorized public access is currently prohibited. In addition a gate will be installed on the mine portal to prohibit unauthorized public entry into the adit. No chemicals will be used in the processing of the gold ore. Fuel haul to the mine will be prohibited on weekends and holidays. For these reasons, the project will not result in substantive effects on public health or safety.

3. My decision will not result in any significant effects on any unique characteristics of the geographic area, historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)].

The project area is not within any Inventoried Roadless Area, Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Wilderness Area, wetland or historic area. The project will be entirely within an area that has been previously disturbed by historic mining. The project has no effect on wetlands or other floodplain areas (EA Chapter 3, Other Disclosures) due to RCA buffers and lack of floodplains in the project area. There are no park lands or prime farmlands in the project area (EA Chapter 3, Other Disclosures).

4. The Selected Alternative will not result in any effects that are likely to be highly controversial [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)].

This project is similar to many other mining operations and of a limited scale. Effects of mining operations are well known. Based on the limited context of the project and my review of the public comments and the project's analysis, I do not find any controversial effects to the human environment. I have not been informed of any substantial scientific controversy over the effects of the proposal.

5. The effects associated with the Selected Alternative will not result in any highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)].

Based on my review of this project's analysis (EA Chapter 3), I find the possible effects on the human environment do not involve unique or unknown risks. My determination is based on the use of best available data, the small scale of the project, and local experience with similar projects on the Payette National Forest.

6. My decision does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)].

The Walla Walla Mine Project is a site-specific project that does not set precedence for future actions or present a decision in principle about future considerations. Any future action must be evaluated on its own merits and effects.

7. The analysis documented in the EA discloses that my decision will not result in any significant short-term, long-term, or cumulative effects [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)].

Short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects on the various resources are discussed in detail in Chapter 3 of the EA. There will be no cumulatively significant effects on Water Quality or Fisheries Resources (EA Chapter 3, Water Quality, Fisheries Resources, and Other Disclosures).

8. My decision will not adversely affect sites or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)].

There are no sites or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places within the project boundaries. The area has been surveyed by Payette National Forest Heritage personnel and a report sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO has concurred with the Forest Archaeologist's determination that there are no significant historic properties affected by the action.

9. My decision will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitats [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)].

No threatened or endangered animal or plant species or their habitat will be adversely affected by my decision (EA Chapter 1, Issues Not Analyzed in Detail; Chapter 3, Fisheries Resources; and the Biological Assessment/Evaluations for Fisheries, Wildlife, and Plants for the Walla Walla Mine Project).

10. My decision is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)].

The project meets the above requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and meets disclosure requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Chapter 1 of the EA, Required Permits, Licenses, and Certifications and Chapter 3, Other Disclosures, summarize findings related to major environmental and other related laws.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

My decision is consistent with all the laws, regulations, and agency policies related to this project. Findings related to major environmental and other related laws are summarized in the EA, Chapter 1, Required Permits, Licenses, and Certifications and Chapter 3, Other Disclosures. My decision is consistent with the Payette National Forest Plan (EA Chapter 3, Water Quality and Fisheries Resources). Additionally, my decision is consistent with the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 9 pages 3244-3273, January 12, 2001) as documented in the EA Chapter 1, Issues Not Analyzed in Detail.

Appeal Opportunities

My decision is subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215, only by those individuals and organizations who provided comments during the previous comment period. The appeal must meet the requirements at 36 CFR 215.14.

The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer, Suzanne C. Rainville, Payette National Forest Supervisor. Appeals filed by regular mail or express delivery must be sent to:

Appeal Deciding Officer
Intermountain Regional Office
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

Hand delivered appeals must be submitted to the Appeal Deciding Officer at the above address between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM MST, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Appeals may also be submitted via fax at (801) 625-5277.

Electronic appeals must be submitted in a *rich text format* (.rtf) or *Microsoft Word* (.doc) format or as an email message to: *appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us*. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the legal notice of decision in *The Star News*, the newspaper of record, McCall, Idaho. Attachments postmarked or received after the 45-day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in *The Star News*, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Implementation of the Decision

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of my decision may occur on, but not before, the 5th business day from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Before any activities can begin pursuant to my decision, all resource protection measures and mitigation measures found in Attachment A of this decision shall be incorporated into the Plan of Operations. In addition no work shall commence until a performance bond has been posted in the amount determined necessary by the Payette National Forest minerals program manager. The Plan of Operations shall terminate on December 31, 2015.

Contact Person, Signature, and Date

For further information or a copy of the Walla Walla Mine Project EA and DN/FONSI, please contact Dan Anderson, (Payette National Forest, 800 West Lakeside Avenue, McCall, ID 83638; Telephone: 208-634-0435, Fax: 208-634-0433).

A. SHANE JEFFRIES
District Ranger
McCall Ranger District

Date

Attachment A

Resource Protection Measures and Mitigation Measures Specific to the Walla Walla Mine Project

The analysis documented in the Walla Walla Mine Project EA disclosed the possible effects that may occur from implementing the Selected Alternative. Resource Protection Measures and Mitigation Measures were developed to reduce adverse impacts and achieve desired outcomes. These measures were guided by direction from the Payette National Forest Plan and the Plan of Operations submitted by F & H Mining, LLC.

Resource Protection Measures

Mining activities in general have the potential to adversely affect surface water and groundwater quality and quantity. Possible contaminants include increased acidity, dissolved metals, nitrates, sediment, and petrochemicals. Possible routes of contamination include mine adit drainage, mill wastewater, waste rock leaching, and stormwater runoff. The risk of adverse impacts to surface water, groundwater, and fisheries from this project will be greatly reduced by the implementation of the following resource protection measures, operational requirements, and mitigation measures.

Sediment Reduction Methods

Potential stormwater-transported sediment sources are the access roads, roads and compacted areas on the minesite itself, excavated slopes around the portal, topsoil and overburden stockpiles, any stormwater conveyance ditches, and the waste rock dump (see Attachment C). Resource protection measures and mitigation measures will be applied at the source for these features.

The access road from the gate to the minesite will be maintained to address the drainage issues identified in Appendix F of the EA. It will have the surface graded with a slight outslope. Waterbars (driveable dips) will be constructed to FS standards at points flagged on the ground by FS personnel. Waterbar outlets will be buffered with either silt fencing or straw bales. Rock armor in the waterbar bottoms will be required if severe erosion is noted. If snowplowing of any portion of the access road is needed, the operator will comply with FS specifications for plowing. Road use will be prohibited when moisture conditions are such that serious rutting and road surface damage would result.

The pond access road surface will be insloped to drain directly to the ponds or to the ditch between the road and the overburden storage pile. The road parallel to the tailings trenches will be insloped to drain to the trenches. All ditchlines on site will be monitored periodically for downcutting and will be armored with rock if they are eroding severely. All areas of the minesite will drain to the stormwater pond with the exception of the downhill fillslope on the pond access road and the waste rock dump. Silt fencing will be installed at the toe of the road fillslope. Once the ponds and the portal area have been excavated and the topsoil & overburden stockpiles are no longer in use, they will be seeded, fertilized, and mulched according to FS specifications.

The waste rock dump is expected to consist of fairly coarse angular rock removed from the underground workings. This is unlikely to generate any transportable sediment,

therefore, no erosion control measures will be required unless there is enough fine-grained material present that significant sediment transport is noted on the dump face. In this case, straw bales will be placed at the toe of the slope. The toe of the waste rock dump will be located 100 feet away from the stream channel to the east. If, in the future, the amount of waste rock generated exceeds the available space currently delineated on the site plan, a Forest Service hydrologist and minerals administrator will identify other sites within the previously disturbed area that could be used for waste rock disposal. The total waste rock volume on site will not exceed 2,000 cubic yards. Any greater volume will require a supplemental plan of operations and new environmental analysis.

The mill tailings decant water and the adit drainage water will likely contain some suspended sediment. This is unavoidable and this water will be piped to the make-up water pond (see Attachment C). After they are filled, the tailings trenches will be covered with the material excavated from them and then seeded, fertilized, and mulched according to FS specifications. If more area is needed for tailings disposal, a Forest Service hydrologist and minerals administrator will identify other appropriate sites within the previously disturbed area.

Ultimately, the settling ponds will be the final mitigation for minesite water quality. Stormwater will be routed to an unlined pond. Depending on groundwater levels (see Land Application section below), water entering the pond will either infiltrate into the ground or flow into the make-up water pond via a culvert with slotted riser. Tailings decant water and adit drainage will be routed to the make-up water pond. Material in this pond will be compacted in order to reduce infiltration since this pond will serve as storage for the mill make-up water. The pond will incorporate a rock or geotextile armored spillway to transition to the undisturbed slope below. Sediment in both ponds will be removed by gravitational settling. Some very fine sediment may remain in suspension depending upon source composition and total residence time.

The make-up water pond will be designed to accommodate five days worth of adit drainage and decant water (approximately 72,000 gallons). The stormwater pond will accommodate the runoff from a 24-hour storm event having a 25-year return interval (approximately 30,000 gallons). See Appendix G of the EA for a worksheet showing the volume calculations and the general pond design. The operator will be required to submit a detailed design for the ponds that will be reviewed and approved by a FS engineer prior to approval of the Plan of Operations. The ponds will be the first facilities constructed before subsequent land disturbing activities take place on site.

Fuel Transport, Storage, and Handling

Fuel and lubricants will be hauled to the site in a 1-ton truck in a Department of Transportation (DOT) approved container that is securely fastened into the bed of the truck. No more than 250 gallons of gasoline or diesel fuel, in one container, will be hauled to the site at one time. Oil will be transported in DOT approved 5-gallon containers. To reduce potential accidents with recreational traffic, fuel haul will be prohibited on weekends and holidays. The fuel haul truck will be parked at the fuel storage site when not actively in use refueling equipment.

A maximum of 300 gallons of fuel and a maximum of 100 gallons of oil shall be stored on the Walla Walla Mine site at any one time. Stationary storage tanks or barrels for fuels, oils, lubricants, and other liquids required for the operation of the heavy equipment

will be stored in a containment area which is stabilized and underlined by a polysynthetic material of at least 30 mils thickness in such a way that any contaminants will be collected and confined in that area. Effective storage capacity of the containment area will be 125% of the materials being stored. The fuel storage site is located approximately 600 feet from live water (Attachment C).

Minor petrochemical contamination may occur from leaky equipment (e.g. hydraulic fluid, engine oil) both underground and on the site. The operator shall be required to maintain all equipment free of leaks. The fuel and lubricants shall be hand or mechanically pumped into the fuel tanks of the equipment. There shall be a person attending such operations at all times. Sorbent pads shall be used in the event of a spill or release. They shall be stored in the truck that is used to haul the fuel and oil and in readily accessible locations on the project site. An underground bermed containment area shall be designated for fueling equipment that is not regularly brought to the surface. Any petrochemical contaminants carried to the settling ponds by adit drainage or stormwater shall be removed by a floating oil-absorbent boom deployed around the outlets.

Spill Procedures

All spills, regardless of size or quantity, shall be reported immediately to one of F & H Mining, LLC Site Managers. The following information regarding the spill will be immediately communicated to the Site Manager:

- The chemical name of the substance that spilled or leaked,
- An estimate of the quantity that spilled or leaked,
- The time and duration of the release,
- Where the release is deposited,
- Why the release occurred, and
- Any immediate health and safety, or environmental threats or issues.

Spills that shall be reported immediately to the following agencies include:

- Spills of any substance that exceeds 5 gallons, or
- Spills that cannot be totally cleaned up within 24 hours, or
- Spills of any substance that reaches or threatens a water body or that has the potential to cause environmental damage.

The above spills shall be reported to these agencies:

- Idaho County Sheriff: (208) 983-1100,
- Idaho State Communication Center: (800) 632-8000 or (208) 846-7610,
- National Spill Response Center: (800) 424-8802,
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality: (208) 373-0550, and
- United States Forest Service: (208) 634-0700.

Mitigation Measures

Table 1. Mitigation Measures.

Mitigation Measure	Objective	Enforcement Mechanism	Enforcement Responsibility	Effectiveness/ Basis for rating
Water Quality and Fisheries Resources				
Place silt fence, or straw bales down slope of waterbars, settling ponds, and pond access road	Minimize the extent of sediment routing to stream channels	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Burroughs and King 1989; USDA 1996;
Place coarse rock armor in ditchlines and waterbars	Minimize erosion and sediment transport due to concentrated flow	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience
Prevent road use during wet periods	Minimize road surface rutting and resultant concentrated flow erosion	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience
Implement snowplowing specifications	Minimize road surface and fillslope erosion	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience
Revegetation of surface-disturbed areas	Protect soil productivity and water quality by minimizing soil erosion	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience
Construct stormwater ponds	Settle sediment out of water to prevent transport off site	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	HIGH: Fact, experience
Place absorbent booms across settling pond in contact with the water	Absorb any petroleum products present in runoff waters	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience

Mitigation Measure	Objective	Enforcement Mechanism	Enforcement Responsibility	Effectiveness/ Basis for rating
Identify and approve water removal location from small stream prior to use. Project mine administrator will coordinate with the fish biologist and hydrologist in identifying suitable sites	Minimize impacts to stream banks and potential sediment delivery to streams	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	MODERATE: Fact, experience
On-site fuel storage must be in a lined containment area capable of holding 125% of the fuel stored. The containment area will be lined with a material sufficiently impervious to contain spilled fuel. A spill contingency plan approved by the Forest Service will be required. The plan will contain, at a minimum, response procedures for handling a spill, the measures to be taken, and a map of designated containment locations. This plan and a spill response kit will be carried in all transport vehicles	Reduce the potential for spilled fuels to reach and affect fish habitat. Reduce response time should a spill occur that potentially endangers fish habitat	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	HIGH: Fact, experience
Recreation / Public Safety				
Install a gate at the top of the access road to the mine site	Prevent the public from entering the mine site and help preserve the sediment reduction improvements to the road	Plan of Operations	Minerals administrator	HIGH: Fact, experience

Attachment B

Monitoring Plan Summary

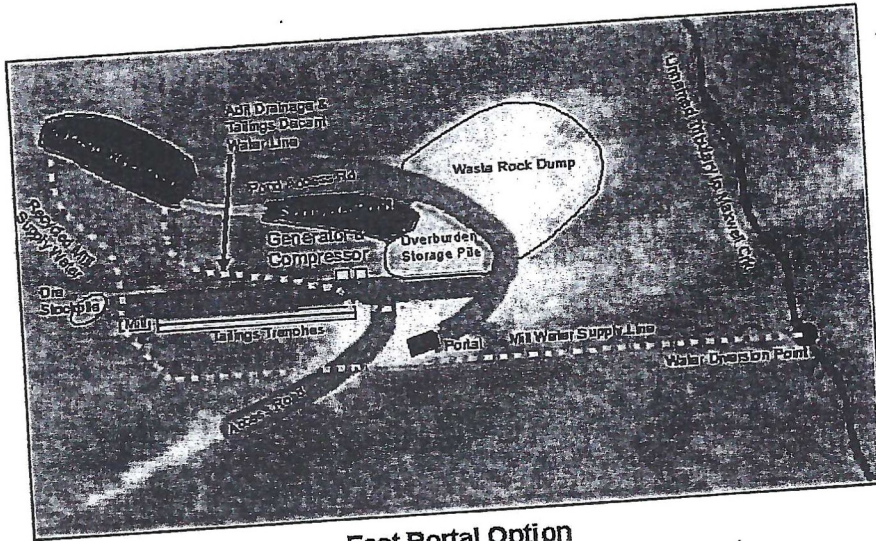
Table 2. Monitoring Plan Summary.

Monitoring Item	Timing	Personnel	Monitoring Type
Water Quality			
Implementation monitoring of BMP's and SWCP's	Annually	Geologist, Hydrologist, or Hydrologic Technician	Implementation
Mine discharge water for acid mine drainage and dissolved metals	Annually	Geologist, Hydrologist, or Hydrologic Technician	Implementation
Noxious Weeds			
Noxious weed inventory and monitoring	Annually	Forest noxious weed crew	Implementation

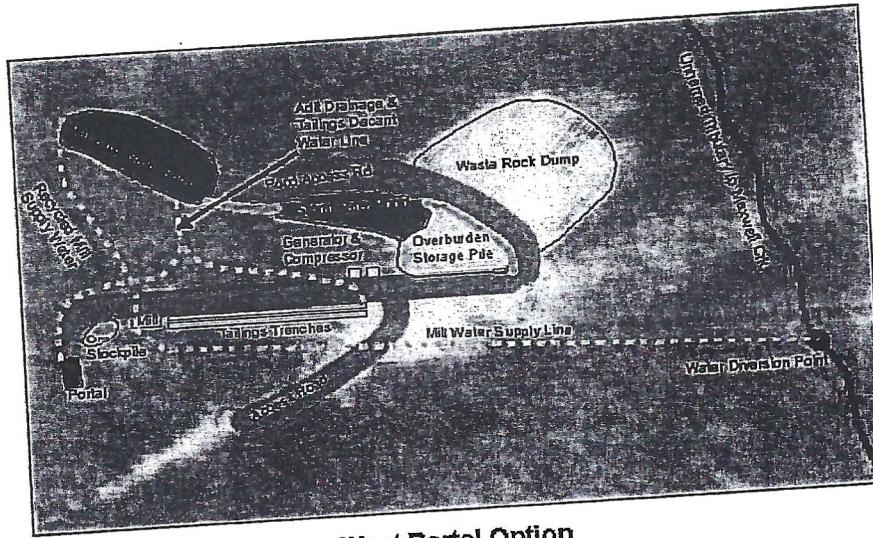
Attachment C

Maps of the Selected Alternative.

Walla Walla Mine Site Plans



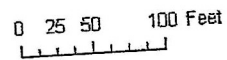
East Portal Option



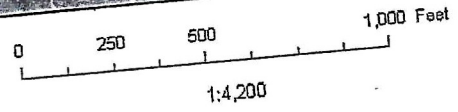
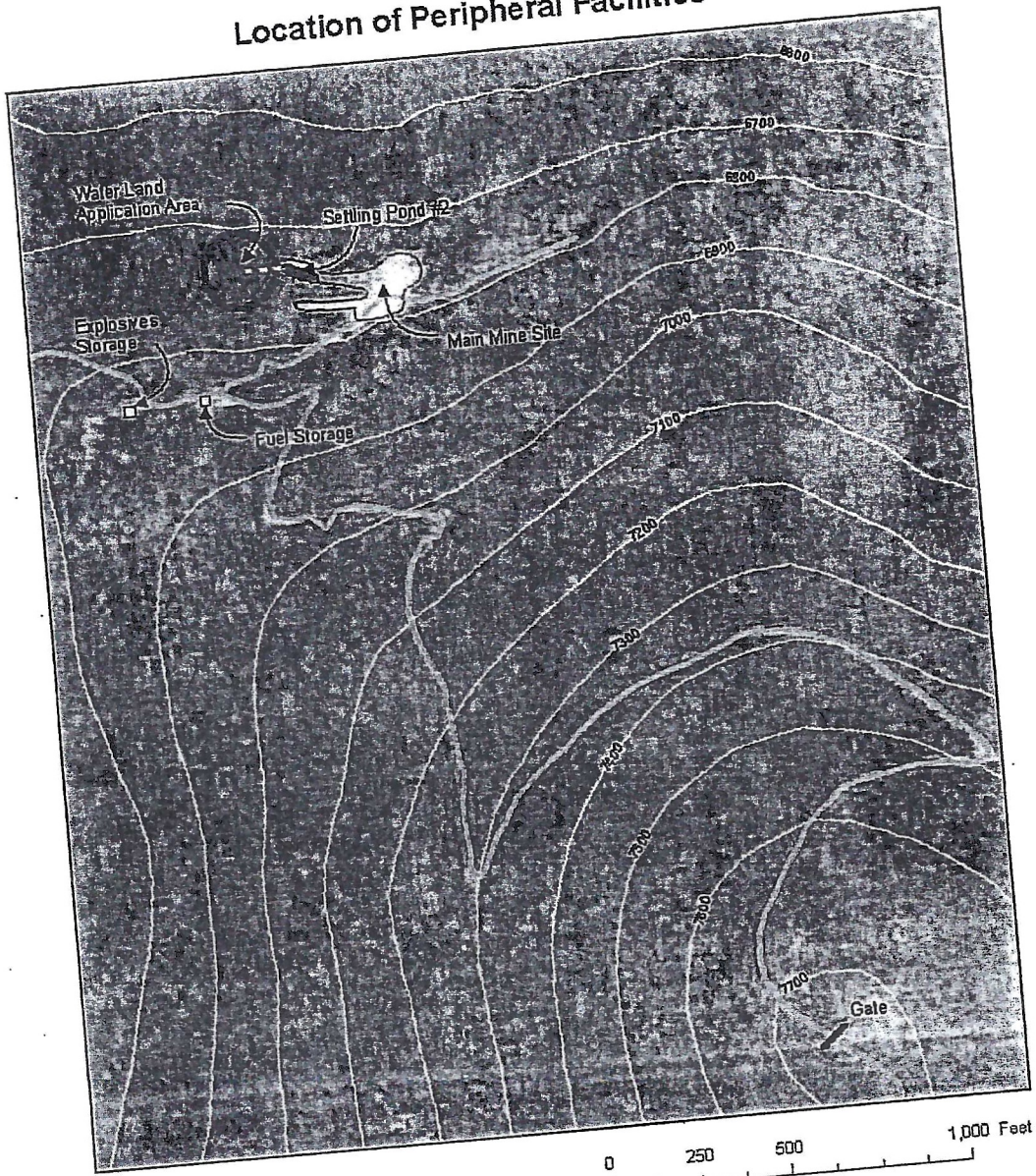
West Portal Option



1:1,100



Location of Peripheral Facilities



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Appendix B