



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Kootenai National
Forest

31374 U.S. Highway 2
Libby, MT 59923



Montana Department of
Environmental Quality

PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

File Code: 2810/1950
May 4, 2011

Dear Interested Party,

The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have completed the Troy Mine Revised Reclamation Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The project proposes to reclaim disturbed lands associated with the Troy Mine, located about 15 miles south of Troy, Montana, near the Cabinet Mountains of northwestern Montana. Troy Mine, Inc. has submitted a revised reclamation plan for approval that updates the approved 1978 plan in anticipation of future mine reclamation. Either a Summary or the full Draft EIS is enclosed for your review and comment.

The Troy Mine Revised Reclamation Plan Draft EIS describes the land, people, and resources potentially affected by the proposed revised reclamation activities. The purpose of the proposed revision is to return lands disturbed by mining to a condition appropriate for subsequent use of the area. Alternatives considered in detail include a No Action Alternative (the previously approved 1978 reclamation plan), the Proposed Action (Troy Mine, Inc.'s Revised Reclamation Plan), and an Agency-Mitigated Alternative (the Agencies' preferred alternative). The Draft EIS analyzes Troy Mine, Inc.'s revised plan as well as agency-proposed modifications (e.g., adit closure, mine water management, water treatment and monitoring, reclamation cover requirements, subsidence monitoring, debris disposal, and road closures). The major state and federal actions include approval of a reclamation plan and any necessary permits to implement the reclamation activities, including construction and long-term monitoring.

Your comments will be invaluable to the agencies as they prepare the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed or otherwise submitted by the end of the 45th calendar day following the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register*, which will be on or about May 20, 2011. The date of publication and the end of the comment period, along with an electronic version of the Draft EIS will also be available on the internet at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/kootenai/projects> and <http://deq.mt.gov/eis.mcp>.

Written comments should be submitted to either the KNF or the DEQ. Comments can be submitted via postal mail, e-mail, or fax and addressed to:

Bobbie Lacklen
Kootenai National Forest
31374 U.S. 2
Libby, MT 59923-3022
TroyMineReclamation@fs.fed.us

Emily Corsi
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
DEQTroyMine@mt.gov

Comments may be faxed to (406) 283-7709 (KNF) or 406-444-4386 (DEQ Director's Office), or hand-delivered to the KNF Supervisor's Office and DEQ Director's Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Hand delivered comments must be time and date imprinted by the respective agency by the close of business on the 45th calendar day following publication of the NOA in the *Federal Register*.



One public hearing is scheduled to provide a forum for public comment. The hearing will be June 8, 2011 at the Troy High School Auditorium, 116 East Missoula Avenue, Troy, MT at 7 pm. An open house will be held at 6 pm, before the hearing, where you may ask technical and procedural questions of agency personnel. Both written and oral comments may be submitted at the hearing.

As outlined in 36 CFR 215.13, only those who submit timely comments will be accepted by the Forest Service as appellants following the release of the Troy Mine Revised Reclamation Plan Final EIS and Record of Decision. Comments must be specific to the proposed activities and area being analyzed. Comments should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted; (3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the decision makers to consider; and (4) signatures.

All comments become part of the public record associated with this project, and are available for public review, along with the name(s) of the commenter(s). Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.12.

Thank you for taking time to be involved with the environmental review process for the Troy Mine Revised Reclamation Plan. For more information or to request a copy of the Draft EIS, please contact one of the project coordinators, Bobbie Lacklen or Emily Corsi.

Sincerely,



Paul Bradford, Forest Supervisor
Kootenai National Forest



Richard H. Opper, Director
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

enclosure