2025

State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
Mineral Exploration License Supplemental Information

Please return this document via email to DEQSMESandExploration@mt.gov

SECTION A – APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Type: ☐ New License ☑ Amendment to Existing License (# 00878)

1. Licensee Name (Person or Company): Falcon Copper Corporation
2. Date Submitted: 31 December 2025
3. Contact Name: Eric LeLacheur

Address: 304 Milwaukee Ave. Office 22 Box 16 City: Deer Lodge State: MT Zip: 59722

Phone: 406-980-0626 Email: elelacheur@falconcopper.com

NOTE: All official correspondence will be directed to the email provided above.

Authorized Agent: Eric LeLacheur

Phone: 406-980-0626 Email: elelacheur@falconcopper.com

Additional Information: The exploration license does not convey a right to occupy land not owned by the licensee. A licensee is responsible for obtaining and maintaining a lease or other authorization from the landowner to occupy the land on which the licensee is to conduct exploration activity. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not confirm whether the licensee has obtained such authorization and does not resolve any disputes regarding access between a licensee and the landowner.

SECTION B – PROJECT LOCATION

1. Project Name: Blue Copper, Amendment #4
2. County in which the proposed site is located: Powell County
3. Project Coordinates: *(Decimal Degree Only)* Latitude: 46.67169 Longitude: -112.53494
4. Landowner: ☑ Private ☐ BLM ☐ USFS ☐ DNRC/State ☐ Other

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

SECTION C – PROJECT TIMELINE

1. Proposed Start Date of Exploration: 1 May 2026 Proposed End Date of Exploration: 30 December 2031
2. Proposed Start Date of Reclamation: June 2026 Proposed End Date of Reclamation: 30 December 2033

NOTE: Final reclamation of all surface disturbances would be required to be completed no later than 2 years following the conclusion of exploration unless otherwise incorporated into an Operating Permit.

3. Hours of Operation:

Shifts per Day: 2 Hours per Shift: 12 Total Hours per Day: 24

Total Days per Week: 7 Additional Information: _____

SECTION D – Maps

1. **Refer to Map Guideline for further information: https://deq.mt.gov/mining/assistance**
2. **General Location Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to provide a map showing the location of the proposed operation sufficient to allow the public to locate the proposed site. The General Location Map may be displayed on an aerial or topographic background and must show the site's location in relation to the nearest town or city. Roads must be labeled from the nearest town to the site on the General Location Map.
3. **Project Map (Required) –** The intent of this map is to show the location of the proposed project with an aerial background. The map must be at a scale to adequately display the features of the project. The Project Map must display all project disturbances including but not limited to:
    a. New roads
    b. Overland travel routes
    c. Label all Trenches
    d. Label all Portals
    e. Label all Drill Pads
    f. Sump Locations (if outside of drill pad footprint)
    g. Buildings (existing, proposed and temporary)
    h. Camp Area
    i. Lay down/loadout area
    j. Fuel Storage Area
    k. Water Crossings
    l. Other features pertinent to the project

NOTE: Provide as many Project Maps as necessary to depict the proposed area(s) at a viewable/readable scale.

SECTION E – Exploration Methods and Description

1. Exploration Methods (check all that apply):

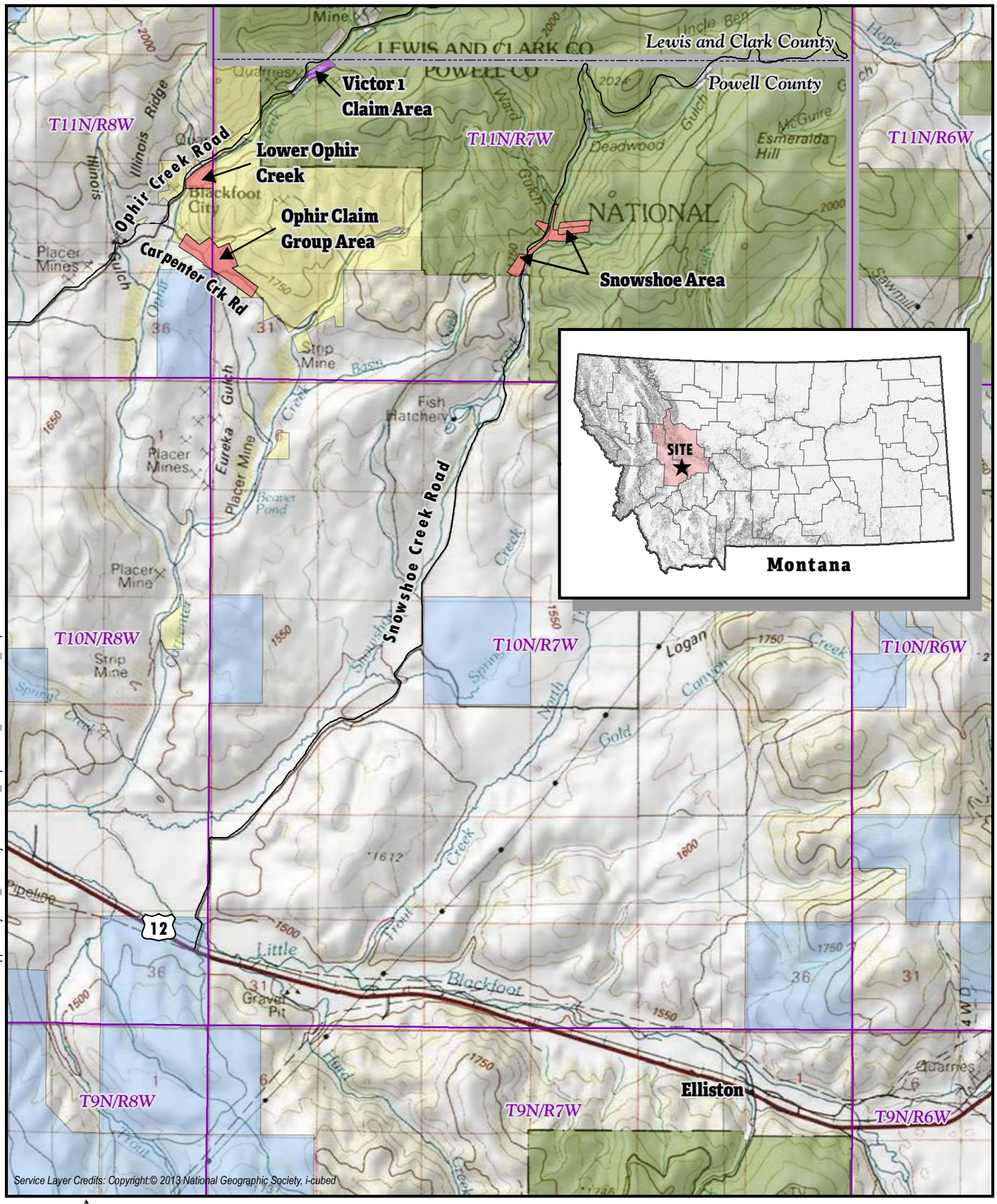
    ☑ Drilling ☐ Trenching ☐ Placer ☐ Underground

    ☐ Other (describe): _____

2. Volume of Material to be tested: No bulk sampling.
3. Description of Project:

See next page - Maps and Project Description.

SECTION D – MAPS



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0 1.5 Miles

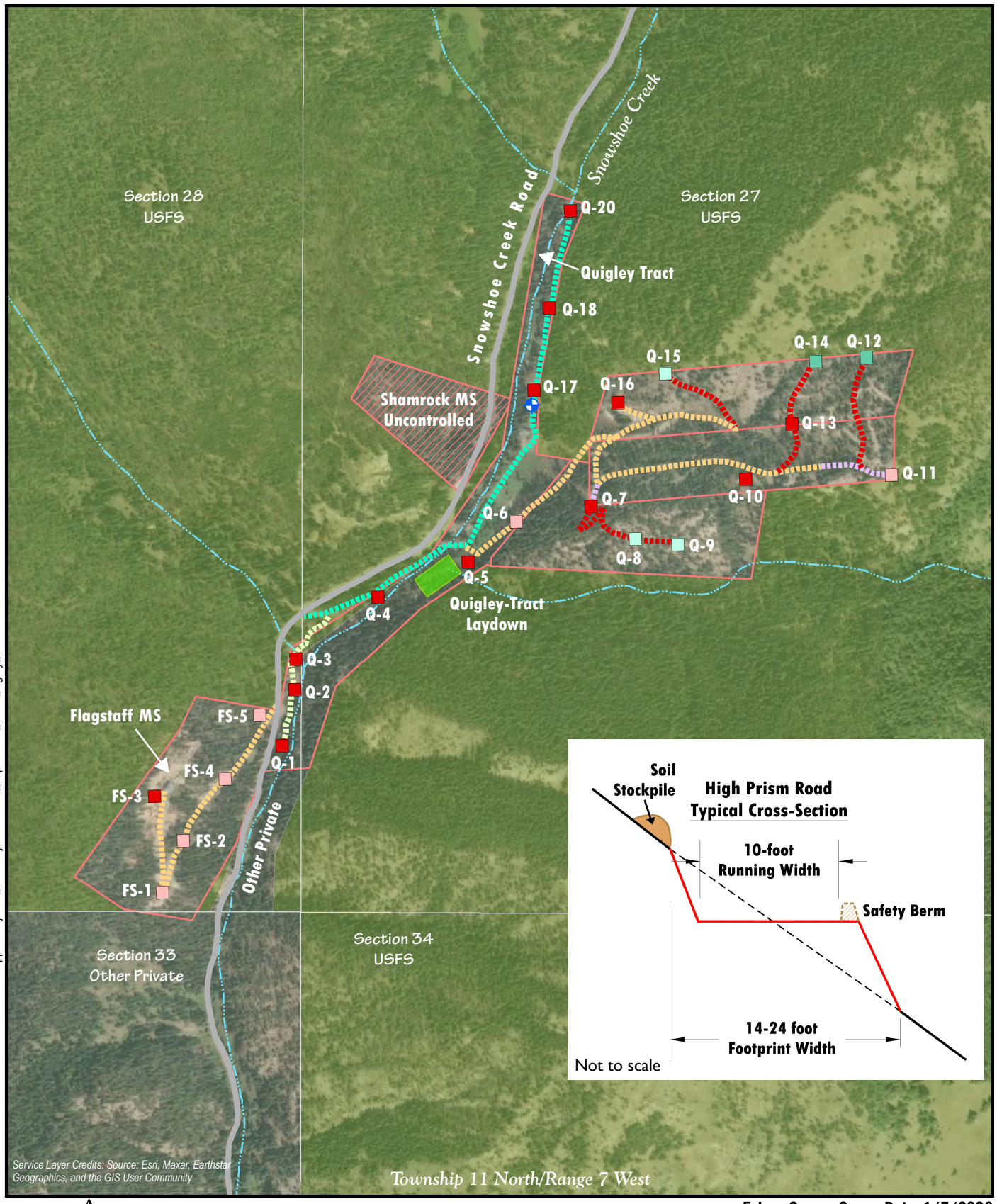
GSI ENVIRONMENTAL

- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Montana
- US Forest Service
- Private Parcels and Target Development Areas
- Private Parcel and Laydown Area

Note: All other land is private.

Falcon Copper Corp. - Date: 1/8/2026

General Location Map
Blue Copper Project
Exploration License #00878
Amendment 4
Lewis and Clark and Powell Counties, Montana
FIGURE 1



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N

0 800
Feet

GSI ENVIRONMENTAL

U.S. Forest Service
Laydown Yard
Patented Claim Boundary

Road Types
- Existing Road - Improve
- Recondition Existing Road
- New Construction - High Prism
- Overland Access
- Previously Utilized Route
- Public Access

Drill Pads
- Small Pad - Narrow
- Small Pad
- Large Pad - Narrow
- Large Pad

GWIC Well #135820

Falcon Copper Corp. - Date: 1/7/2026

Snowshoe Area
Blue Copper Project
Exploration License #00878
Amendment 4
Powell County, Montana
FIGURE 2

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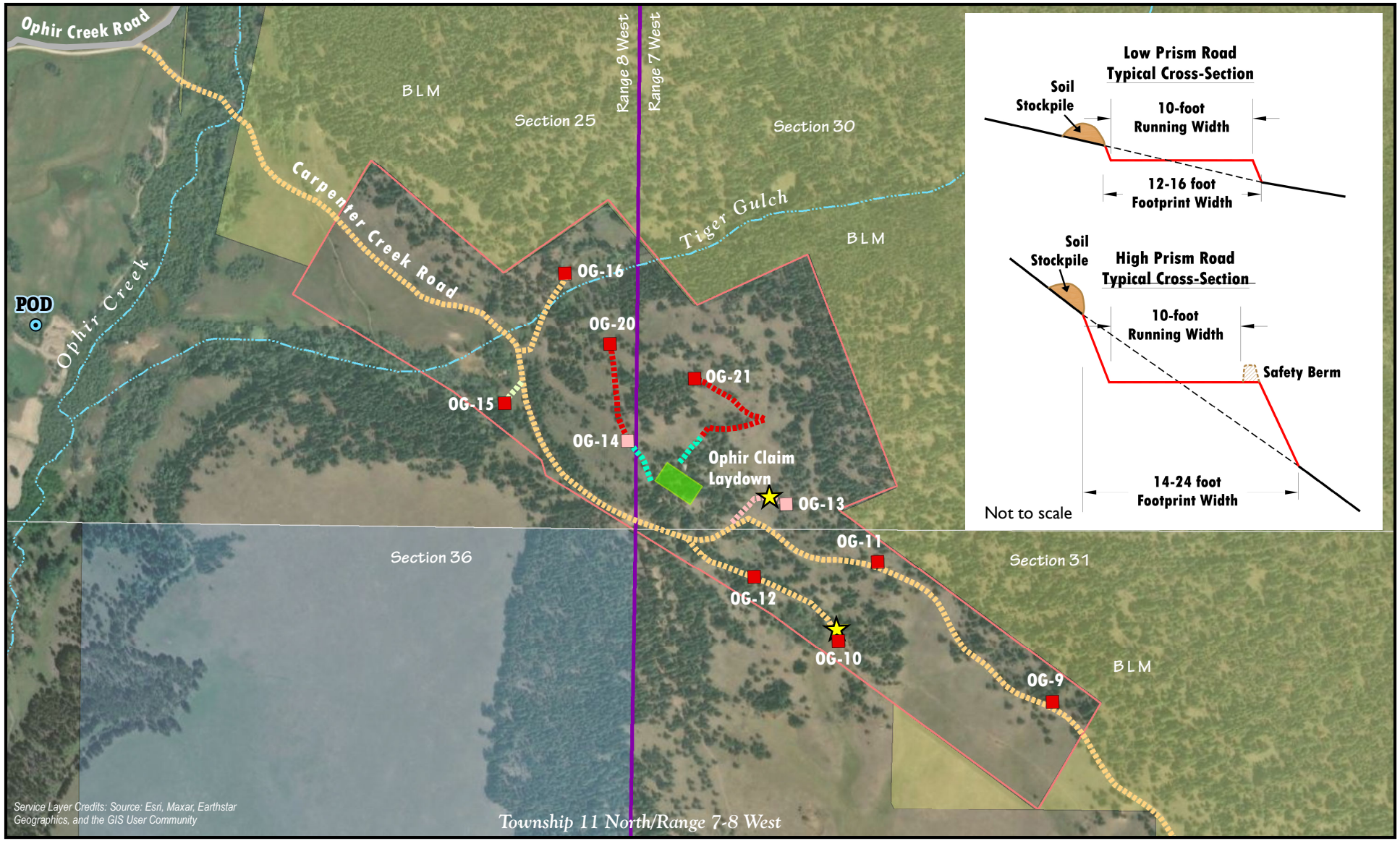

0 800 Feet

GSI ENVIRONMENTAL

- Bureau of Land Management
- State of Montana
- Patented Claim Boundary
- Township/Range
- Laydown Yard
- Road Pull-outs
- Point of Diversion (POD)

Road Types
- Existing Road - Improve
- New Construction - High Prism
- New Construction - Low Prism
- Overland Access
- Previously Utilized Route
- Public Access

Drill Pads
- Large Pad - Narrow
- Large Pad

Falcon Copper Corp. - Date: 1/7/2026

Ophir Claim Group
Blue Copper Project
Exploration License #00878
Amendment 4
Powell County, Montana
FIGURE 3

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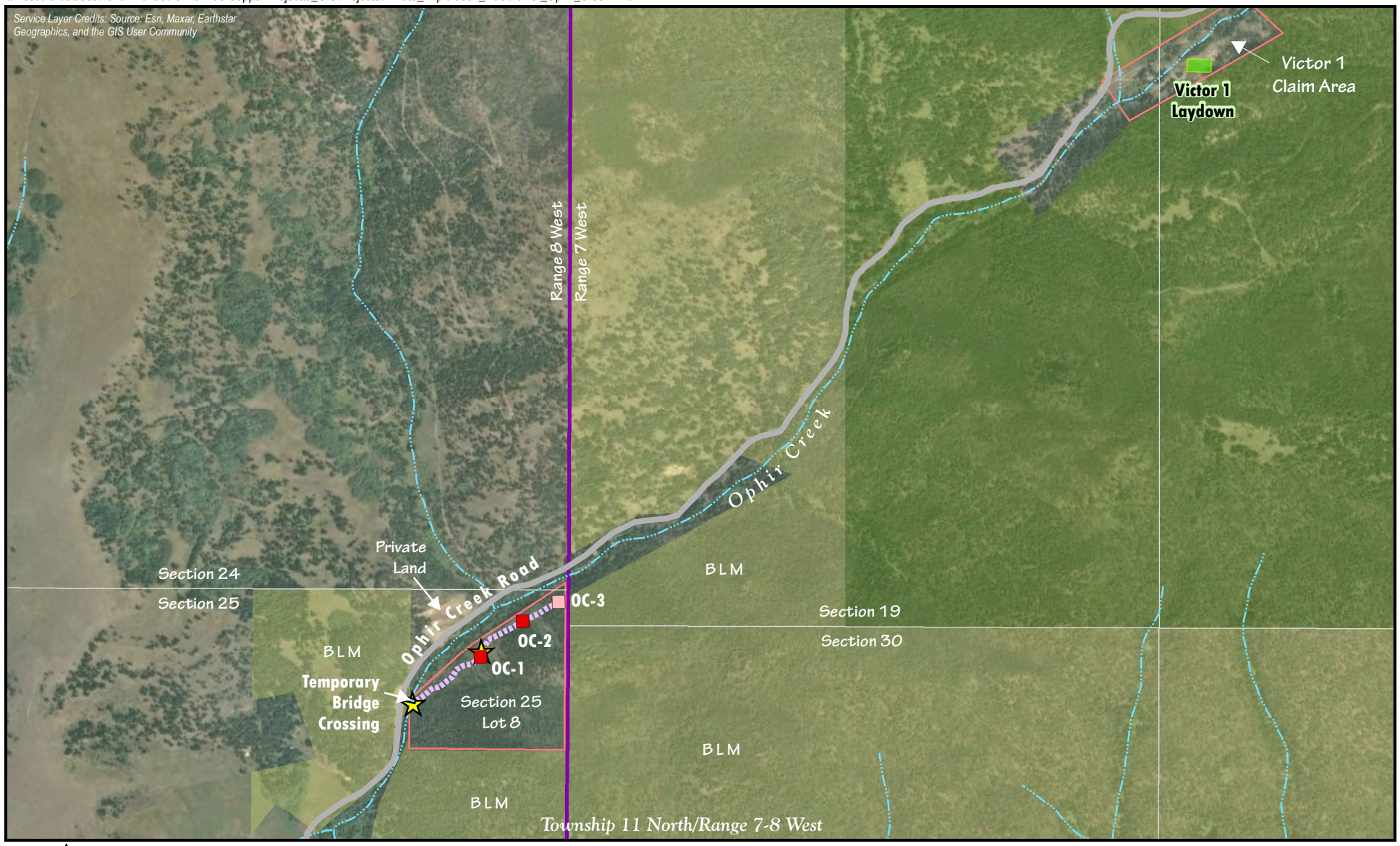


N

0 1,000 Feet

GSI ENVIRONMENTAL

Patented Claim Boundary
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Township/Range
Laydown Yard
Road Pull-outs

Road Types
Recondition Existing Road
Public Access

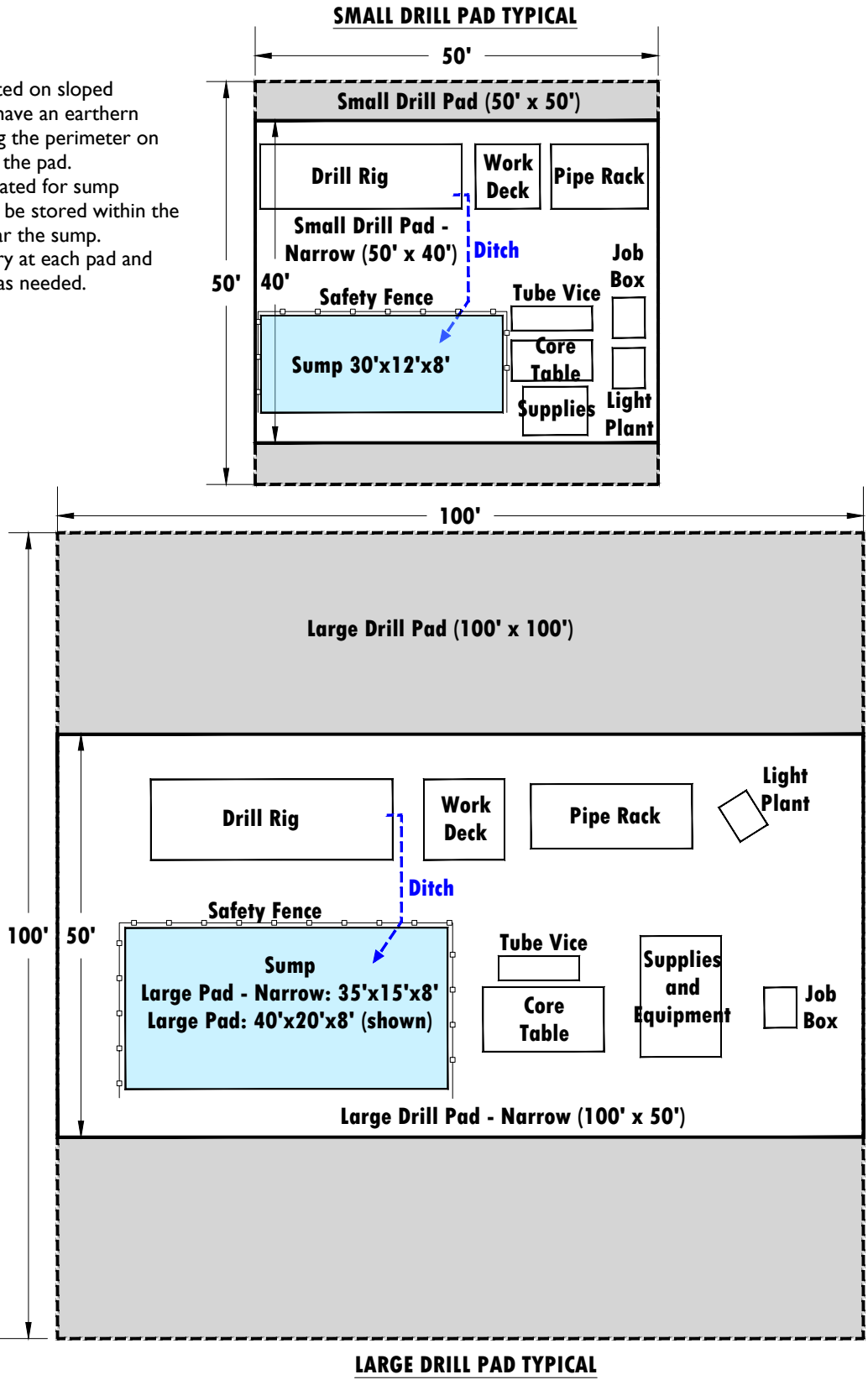
Drill Pads
Large Pad - Narrow
Large Pad

Falcon Copper Corp. - Date: 1/8/2026

Lower Ophir Creek
Blue Copper Project
Exploration License #00878
Amendment 4
Powell County, Montana
FIGURE 4

Notes:

1. Drill pads located on sloped topography will have an earthern safety berm along the perimeter on the uphill side of the pad.
2. Material excavated for sump construction will be stored within the pad footprint near the sump. Locations will vary at each pad and will be "field fit" as needed.



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Falcon Copper Corp. - 1/7/2026

Schematic of Typical Drill Pad Layouts
Blue Copper Project
Exploration License #00878
Amendment 4
Powell County, Montana
FIGURE 5

0 Feet 20

GSI ENVIRONMENTAL

SECTION E – EXPLORATION METHODS AND DESCRIPTION

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

1.1 Introduction

Falcon Copper, Corp. (Falcon Copper) intends to conduct ongoing/expanded mineral exploration for copper, gold, silver, tungsten, germanium, and gallium within three exploration target areas on privately held land in the same general location as the existing Blue Copper Project (Project) area in Powell and Lewis and Clark counties, Montana (**Figure 1**). This will be Amendment #4 to Falcon Copper's existing Exploration License #00878, as previously amended in December 2023 (Amendment #1) and October 2024 (Amendment #2). Amendment #3 was submitted in November 2025, as explained below.

On November 17, 2025, Falcon Copper submitted an Exploration Plan of Operations (EPO; also referred to as the Joint EPO) to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Joint EPO focuses on exploration activities on surface mineral estates located on public land administered by the USFS and BLM and controlled by Federal unpatented lode and placer claims owned by Falcon Copper. The Joint EPO is currently under agency review.

The purpose of Amendment #4 to Exploration License #00878 is to allow Falcon Copper to continue mineral exploration on privately held land through 2031. Activities under Amendment #4 would begin in 2026 while the Joint EPO (submitted in November 2025) goes through separate state and federal permitting processes. Amendments #1 through #3 to the existing Exploration License #00878 will be incorporated into the Joint EPO. Amendment #4 will remain separate from the Joint EPO.

Falcon Copper has been conducting exploration since 2022. In 2022, an airborne geophysical survey was completed in the Project area. In 2022 and 2023, Falcon Copper completed surface and underground (from historic underground workings in the Project area) detailed geologic mapping in selected areas within the Project area along with a rock sample survey over much of the known legacy mining areas. Falcon Copper initiated soil geochemical sampling in 2023. Exploration on drill pads situated on privately held lands has occurred

1.2 Proposed Exploration Activities

Under Amendment #4, Falcon Copper will focus mineral exploration activities on private land within three primary target areas (see **Figure 1**):

- Snowshoe;
- Ophir Claim Group; and
- Lower Ophir Creek.

Proposed drill pad information is presented in **Appendix A**.

General activities associated with Amendment #4 will include:

- Construction of 37 drill pads (including sumps).
- Construction of access roads (including overland travel).
- Maintenance of access roads including grading and stormwater management.
- Improvements to access roads including one temporary bridge over Ophir Creek and road widening, as needed.

- Drilling (core, sonic, auger, Reverse Circulation [RC]). Exploration drilling will utilize up to 7 drill rigs at a time. Falcon Copper expects to drill with both Core and RC rigs.
- Geophysical exploration with no additional mechanized disturbances.
- Utilization of three laydown areas.

The following sections describe the proposed exploration activities under Amendment #4.

1.2.1 Construction of Drill Pads and Drilling

Drill Pads

Falcon Copper proposes to construct up to 37 drill pads in 3 different target areas. Locations of the 3 target areas are shown in **Figure 1**. For detailed location maps by target area see **Figures 2** through **4**.

Falcon Copper will construct four different drill pad sizes (small, small-narrow and large, large-narrow), depending on specific location, slopes, and drill plans. Narrow drill pads are typically designed for steeper slopes proximal to existing roads. Plan view sketches of typical small and large drill pad sites (at both widths) are presented in **Figure 5**.

Drill holes will be vertical or angled, with up to six drill holes per drill pad. Depths are anticipated to range from 300 to 2,000 feet in depth, with a maximum/not to exceed depth of 7,000 feet. Borehole diameters for geotechnical drilling will vary depending on the method selected, not to exceed 10 inches, and depth will be limited to no more than 150 feet.

Drill pads supporting multiple angled drill holes will require a wider footprint (i.e., 50 feet by 50 feet for small or 100 feet by 100 feet for large) to safely accommodate drill rig rotation and set up for each new hole direction. Doing so allows for efficient directional drilling while maintaining operational safety and minimizing the need for additional pads (limiting surface disturbance).

The majority (over 80 percent) of drill pads will be large-narrow or large with 35 feet long by 15 feet wide by 8 feet deep sumps and 40 feet long by 20 feet wide by 8 feet deep sumps, respectively, to contain drill cuttings and fluids from the drilling process within the designated drill pads disturbance limits. The remaining small-narrow or small drill pads will have 30 feet long by 12 feet wide by 8 feet deep sumps. The volume of excavated material from a sump will range from approximately 133 to 237 cubic yards and will be stockpiled near the sump within the proposed drill pad disturbance limits until the sump is backfilled (see **Figure 5**). The excavation is sized to accommodate drill cuttings up to 7,000 feet below ground surface and will be situated on the drill pad in a location where they can be fully constructed. Growth media will be salvaged and stockpiled in the side cast fill for constructed drill sites and sumps for use in reclamation. Constructed drill sites may be used as temporary laydown areas for staging equipment and related material storage and conveyance, water storage, and portable toilets.

Alternatively, a Solids Removal Unit (SRU) may be utilized instead of a sump. These units separate the drilled rock material from the drill fluid (mud) and allow the drill fluids to be reused. The solids are collected at the unit, then can be transported to a nearby sump on another pad for burial. These units are advantageous on pads that have conditions that make sumps difficult to build or have limited volume. If used, a SRU would be located in a similar area to where a sump would have been constructed on the drill pad.

Falcon Copper will use a tracked excavator (CAT 320 or similar sized equipment) and CAT D8 dozer (or similar sized equipment), to construct drill pads and sumps. Falcon Copper will either

use metal corral fencing panels and gates, secured by t-post metal fence posts or more substantial wood posts around the sumps and will construct each sump such that there is a slope at one end to allow wildlife egress (in the event wildlife accesses the sump). Falcon Copper will backfill the sumps after drilling is complete or as soon as the sumps are dry.

The drill sites will be graded, stabilized, and constructed to accommodate a safe working area. Falcon Copper will use traditional cut and fill techniques to build the pads. Falcon Copper will separately stockpile in berms growth media salvaged during initial disturbance associated with construction of drill sites and sumps within designated drill site disturbance limits.

Section 1.4 provides details of anticipated individual drill pad sizes by target area. Falcon Copper will move or adjust site locations as necessary to support adequate pad and sump construction.

Drilling

Falcon Copper will conduct year-round exploration drilling activities with up to seven drill rigs running concurrently, depending on weather and road access conditions. Drill rigs will be core, RC, or a combination of both. Drilling will support mineral exploration to assess the extent of mineralization along with providing geotechnical and geochemical data to support future analyses. Falcon Copper intends to conduct exploration activities year-round in the three target areas, with winter drilling planned to occur from November 30 to April 30. Access will be maintained as needed using a bulldozer (e.g., snow clearing), excavators (e.g., removal of large snow drifts), and bulldozers (e.g., pushing heavy snow), along with use of gravel or sand on steep slopes (if necessary), to support safe passage of equipment, vehicles and materials. In accordance with Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 17.24.104(13), snowplowing will be done in such a manner that runoff water will not be trapped between the snow berms and flow down the road.

Falcon Copper will drill using track-mounted and modular or compact diamond (core) and truck-mounted rotary/RC drill rigs or similar sized equipment with support vehicles. RC drill rigs will have a 6-inch drill size. RC drill rigs will be used on the appropriately sized drill pads within the drill site sizes previously discussed.

Two different types of drill rigs will be used to support core drilling activities. One smaller modular or compact drill rig will be used to access remote sites and limit potential disturbance to sensitive areas. The modular or compact drill rig will be used on the small and small-narrow drill pad sites. Up to six track-mounted drill rigs will be used in more accessible areas on the large and large-narrow drill pads.

Pending selection of drill contractor service, a portable drill assembled on a timbered deck, or a skid mounted, or track mounted Atlas Copco CS-1000, or equivalent drill may be utilized. A comprehensive wellsite package will be submitted to MDEQ prior to calculation of the bond. Other support vehicles may include (but not limited to) pickup trucks, pipe trucks or trailers, water trucks, service and lube trucks, backhoe, telehandler, and portable light plants/generators. See **Table 1** for a complete list of equipment.

The proposed drilling method is anticipated to be core with borehole diameters ranging from 2.98 inches (NQ-size), 3.98 inches (HQ-Size), and up to 4.8 inches (PQ-size). Up to 20,000 feet in total length of rod in 20 foot lengths may be stored within the laydown areas. Other activities may include borehole drilling using one or more of the applicable methods such as solid stem and/or hollow stem auger, rotary/RC, Cone Penetration Testing (CPT), and sonic drilling. The proposed drilling method and the locations where those methods will be utilized will be presented in annual Work Plans.

Falcon Copper will plug and abandon all exploration drill holes according to specifications in ARM 17.24.106. Exploration drill holes will be plugged before the drill rig moves from the drill site.

Falcon Copper will not leave mineral exploration drill holes open during the life of the Project. The number of open drill holes at any given time will be limited to the maximum number of drill rigs operating concurrently (up to seven).

Access Roads and Overland Travel

Falcon Copper proposes to recondition and/or improve existing roads, construct new roads and use overland cross-country routes to access drill pads. Falcon Copper will recondition and/or improve existing roads and use overland travel instead of developing new roads, to the extent feasible, to reduce overall land disturbance associated with the Project.

Proposed new roads (both high and low prism), reconditioned and improved roads, overland travel, and previously utilized roads are depicted in **Figures 2** through **4** and described below. Details are presented by target area in Section 1.4.

- New Construction-high prism (average footprint 22 feet wide; 3,590 total feet in length) - Roads constructed along steep slopes requiring significant cut-and-fill construction giving them a wide footprint.

- New Construction-low prism (average footprint 14 feet wide; 317 total feet in length) - Roads constructed along moderate to flat slopes with small cut and fill slope footprint.

- Improve Existing Roads (footprint 12 feet wide; 12,144 total feet in length) - Old existing tracks with substantial vegetation regrowth and in disrepair requiring significant mechanized dirt work to allow access.

- Recondition Existing Roads (footprint 12 feet wide; 2,006 total feet in length) - Pre-existing but closed roads that are largely intact and usable, but may require minor downfall removal or repairs to roadbed, drainage features etc.

- Overland Travel (10 foot running width; 845 total feet in length) - Routes able to be driven on without any improvement.

- Previously Utilized Roads (3,010 total feet in length) – Roads constructed or improved and used under a previous amendment to the exploration license.

Falcon Copper will construct new roads for single lane travel with 10-foot running widths. Overall road footprints will vary (see **Figure 3** for typical schematics) depending on the topography and underlying ground slope, including safety berms, if required. To the extent possible, Falcon Copper will locate new roads on benches, ridge tops and flatter slopes to minimize disturbance and enhance stability to the extent possible in accordance with ARM 17.24.104(1). Falcon Copper will also avoid construction of new roads in stream channels as described in ARM 17.24.104(3).

Falcon Copper proposes to construct approximately 3,590 linear feet of new high prism exploration roads and 317 linear feet of low prism exploration roads on private land to support exploration activities. High prism roads would have a 10-foot running width and the total footprint width ranging from 14-24 feet (average 22 feet). Low prism roads would have a 10-foot running width and the total footprint width ranging from 12-16 feet (average 14 feet).

Falcon Copper will follow MDEQ guidance, including requirements set forth in ARM 17.24.104 (1-16) in final road designs. Examples of design requirements include ensuring road widths do not

exceed a 14-foot single lane standard, limiting pull-outs to 30 feet in total width, limiting maximum sustained grades to 8 percent and pitch maximums to 12 percent (no more than 300 feet in length; nominal width of 50 feet). In addition, drainage facilities (such as water bars) will be installed as road construction progresses with diagonal drainage barriers placed at intervals specified under ARM17.24.104(11) (i.e., 0-2 percent grade, 150 feet at 3-8 percent grade, and 80 feet at 9-12 percent grade). Falcon Copper will keep road cuts reasonably steep to minimize surface disturbance, and consider nature of the material, compaction, slope height and moisture conditions in selecting a slope angle (i.e., to prevent slope failure). Roads will be outsloped whenever possible. Ditches will be designed in accordance with ARM 17.24.104(5). Cut and fill slopes will be seeded in the first appropriate season following road construction.

Falcon Copper will also rely on Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as standard cut and fill designs, working with the natural contours of the site, and implementing erosion control measures. Falcon Copper will use a tracked excavator (CAT320 or similar sized equipment) and CAT D8 dozer (or similar sized equipment) to construct the new roads. Falcon Copper will salvage growth media, as practicable, during road construction and store it separately in the form of berms or minor push piles within the disturbance footprint of permitted surface disturbance to facilitate reclamation. Falcon Copper will avoid new road construction within drainages, whenever possible.

Falcon Copper plans to recondition approximately 2,006 linear feet of existing road and improve approximately 12,144 linear feet of existing road as part of Amendment #4, respectively. Activities will vary by location but may range from minor clearing, roadbed and drainage repairs to more substantial road grading, subgrade improvements and drainage improvements to facilitate safe access for vehicles and equipment, as needed. Deadfall will be cut and scattered or used in sediment filter barriers. Any growth media and the material removed as part of road construction and reconditioning/improvements will be saved and stockpiled separately in berms or minor push piles within the disturbance footprint of permitted surface disturbance.

Pull-outs will be constructed throughout the access road network to support safe travel of equipment and vehicles but will not exceed 30 feet in total width in accordance with ARM 17.24.104(2). The nominal length of pull-outs will be 50 feet with a maximum length of 100 feet. Pull-outs will also be used as necessary for short-term equipment or supply storage. **Figures 2** through **4** depict proposed locations of 4 total pull-outs by target area.

Falcon Copper anticipates one temporary bridge across Ophir Creek will be required on private land along an existing road (slated for reconditioning) to reduce potential effects to wet areas and water quality, maintain existing drainage patterns and limit erosion and sedimentation to the stream (**Figure 4**). In accordance with ARM 17.24.104(7), the stream will be crossed at or near a right angle unless contouring down to the stream bed will result in less potential stream bank erosion. The general crossing design will be provided to MDEQ prior to the bond calculation. The temporary bridge construction will conform to MDEQ requirements and other Federal and State requirements such as the Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404 and Section 310 permitting with the Powell County Conservation District. A copy of the permits will be provided to MDEQ.

Routine road maintenance will be conducted to support year-round exploration activities over the 5-year exploration period, including but not limited to snow removal, smoothing ruts, filling holes with fill material, removal of large rocks, grading, and re-establishing erosion control features, when necessary. Road maintenance will consist of clearing downed timber, covering low, wet spots with approved matting, and installing approved materials to prevent undue degradation to wet areas on roads. Any material that sloughs or slumps onto the roadbeds or drainage ditches will be managed to ensure there are no obstructions (ARM 17.24.104[14]).

Temporary access roads will be reclaimed when exploration activities are completed on that route. Any temporary access roads that will not be accessed for over the winter season, but occur where exploration activities are not yet completed, will be interim reclaimed including interim seeding. Final reclamation of temporary access roads will include constructing large ditches and mounds and moving boulders at entry points to preclude public access post-reclamation.

1.2.2 Geophysical Surveys

Geophysical exploration will be conducted under Amendment #4 but will not require additional mechanized disturbance. Approximately 1,700 feet of geophysical wire will be used as part of geophysical surveys (see **Table 1**).

1.2.3 Laydown Areas

Falcon Copper will utilize three laydown areas in strategic areas on private land to store drilling material, park equipment and serve as staging areas. The Quigley Tract Laydown area is located on private land and was previously authorized under Falcon Copper's existing exploration license and is in the Snowshoe Area (**Figure 2**). The Ophir Claim Laydown area is located on private land and was also previously authorized under the existing exploration license and is in the Ophir Claim Group area (**Figure 3**). The Victor 1 Laydown area is located on the Victor 1 Claim Area northeast of the Lower Ophir Creek target area (**Figure 4**). There will be no bulk storage of fuel in the laydown areas. Small amounts of lubricants or greases for equipment maintenance may be stored within containment at the laydown areas.

1.2.4 Hazardous Materials and Petroleum Products

Hazardous substances utilized at the Project will include diesel fuel, gasoline, radiator fluid, and lubricating grease. Approximately 300 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of gasoline will be stored in fuel delivery systems (i.e., manufacturer installed gas tanks) on drill rigs and support vehicles. Approximately five gallons of radiator fluid will be stored in manufacturer-installed containment on drill rigs and support vehicles and in delivery containers provided by suppliers. Approximately eight pounds (one case) of lubricating grease will be stored on each drill rig or transported by drill support vehicles.

Nontoxic downhole drilling products expected to be used in the coring operation include the following:

- Liquid gel, quality grade bentonite formulated to promote bentonite mud mixing and provide viscosity and gelling action;
- Lubricants to prevent shale and clay inhibition in polymer-based drilling fluids;
- Highly dispersive polyanionic cellulose polymer used for viscosity and water loss control in water-based drilling fluid systems;
- Sodium bentonite granules mixed with water to form a slurry commonly circulated into the exploration drill hole;
- Soda ash free-flowing powder as sodium carbonate (Na2CO3) used in a fluid system to precipitate calcium (hardness) and increase alkalinity (pH);
- Bentonite pellets compressed tablets made from highly swelling sodium bentonite used for hole abandonment in a dry hole condition; and

- Portland cement is a low temperature sulfate resisting cement capable of setting, hardening and remaining stable in applications such as highly broken ground or caving hole condition. Commonly used for a sealed cap at drill hole collar in abandonment.

Diesel fuel will be transported in a truck-bed-mounted external tank and in internal vehicle fuel tanks. Gasoline will be transported in hand-held containers and in internal vehicle fuel tanks. Lubricating grease will be transported in five-gallon tubs (or similar containers). All containers of hazardous substances will be labeled and handled in accordance with Montana Department of Transportation and Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations.

If hazardous or regulated materials are released, measures will be taken to control the release and the MDEQ, and/or Emergency Response Hotline will be notified, as required. Any hazardous substance releases will be cleaned immediately, and any resulting waste will be transferred off site in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Contract drillers will maintain appropriate spill response kits at the active operating area(s) and within each vehicle and at each drill site.

1.3 General Phasing and Schedule for Exploration

Project work will begin immediately upon authorization (estimated May 2026). Pending approval by MDEQ and the environmental analysis/review under MEPA, Falcon Copper will submit annual Work Plans to MDEQ prior to implementing each phase of the Project that provides details on the activities and identifies the locations of the planned activities, acres of disturbance, and proposed reclamation practices to determine the reclamation bond. Falcon Copper anticipates that Project activities will commence once the MDEQ approves the first annual Work Plan and Falcon Copper has provided the financial guarantees consistent with MDEQ requirements.

Falcon Copper will submit subsequent Work Plans based on the results of exploration activities from previously authorized Work Plans. Disturbances (mostly access routes) from one Work Plan may be required for subsequent exploration in following work years. If this is the case, Falcon Copper will implement Interim Management Plan procedures to manage seasonal closure of the authorized activities. Each Work Plan will provide the estimated time needed to complete each component of the entire proposed program including:

- Road construction earthwork;
- Road maintenance/reconstruction earthwork;
- Drill site construction, including sumps;
- Exploration drilling;
- Geophysical survey and drill hole plugging;
- Drill site reclamation, including sumps; and
- Road reclamation.

Each Work Plan will provide the proposed new disturbance, including existing disturbance that will remain from the previous Work Plan (i.e., roads and overland travel). Each Work Plan will present the remaining authorized acreage for subsequent Work Plans. The Work Plans will include updates to the reclamation cost estimate and financial guarantee. Falcon Copper will provide a summary of activities completed in the previous Work Plan including reclamation. Falcon Copper will provide seasonal disturbance accounting to MDEQ.

The estimated duration of the exploration project is 5 years, with exploration activities ending in December 2031. The exploration drilling program will be conducted as either a single 12-hour

shift per day or two 12-hour shifts per day. Typical crew rotation could result in continuous activity 24 hours per day until exploration is completed. Drilling activities will occur all year round (estimated timeframe based on weather and road conditions).

General Phasing

During Phase 1 (Year 1), Falcon Copper proposes to construct new access roads and recondition or upgrade existing roads strictly to the extent necessary to facilitate the construction of selected drill pads across all target areas within the Project area. Drilling will proceed from one target area at a time throughout the year, with 1-2 weeks of overlap between target areas while moving equipment from one target area to another. Falcon Copper plans to initiate drilling at most proximal locations to existing/planned road development and improvements and continue further into a target area depending upon the results of drilling. Details regarding the location and sequencing of the initial drill pads will be provided as part of the first annual Work Plan.

Based on the results of Year 1 in each of the three target areas, Falcon Copper will focus exploration activities on only the most advantageous target areas. Falcon Copper will generally extend access road improvements as needed to reach more distal locations during the subsequent years of exploration. Up to seven drill rigs (core, RC, or combination of both types) will be used concurrently to support exploration activities, with details regarding phasing and sequencing of exploration by target area and drill pad locations to be included in annual Work Plans. Concurrent reclamation of required access improvements and drill sites will be performed to the extent practicable during exploration.

Reclamation activities will be conducted concurrently with exploration activities, to the extent possible. Additional information on the reclamation schedule is provided in the Reclamation section below.

1.4 Exploration Disturbance Details by Exploration Target Area

Details of proposed mineral exploration activities within each of the three primary target areas are provided below. All figures are attached to this application.

1.4.1 Snowshoe Area

The Snowshoe target area is the easternmost target area (**Figure 1**) and is accessed via Snowshoe Creek Road (FS 708) from the south. Drill pad sizes and locations are presented in **Figure 2**. Drill pads will be accessed via a combination of access road types as shown in **Figure 2**. The Quigley Tract Laydown yard is a previously utilized, existing laydown yard located southeast of Snowshoe Creek (**Figure 2**). Winter operations are proposed to occur within Snowshoe target area. Winter access will be maintained as explained in Section 1.2.1 above. Falcon Copper will source water from an existing private well located within the Snowshoe target area (**Figure 2**).

1.4.2 Ophir Claim Group Area

The Ophir Claim Group target area is accessed from the west via Carpenter Creek Road (**Figure 1**). Drill pads in this target area will be accessed either directly via Carpenter Creek Road, overland access, or via newly constructed access roads as shown in **Figure 3**. Typical cross-sections for both types of new construction access roads (low prism and high prism) are included in **Figure 3**. One drill pad (OG-16) will be accessed via Tiger Gulch Road. Two road pull-outs are planned in the Ophir Claim Group target area. The Ophir Claim Laydown yard is a previously utilized laydown yard located on private land which will serve exploration activities in this area

(**Figure 3**). Winter operations are proposed to occur within the Ophir Claim Group target area. Winter access will be maintained as explained in Section 1.2.1 above.

Falcon Copper will source water from an existing point of diversion at a currently unused placer mining pond adjacent to Ophir Creek (**Figure 3**). Water usage has been obtained through a lease agreement from the current water right holder. A letter of water right agreement with Falcon Copper will be provided by the water right holder to MDEQ under separate cover.

1.4.3 Lower Ophir Creek Area

The Lower Ophir Creek target area is accessed from the west via Ophir Creek Road (**Figure 1**). Falcon Copper anticipates one temporary bridge across Ophir Creek will be required on private land along an existing road (slated for reconditioning) to reduce potential effects to wet areas and water quality, maintain existing drainage patterns and limit erosion and sedimentation to the stream (**Figure 4**). A bridge was located at this crossing for timber hauling purposes but has since been removed. Three drill pads are planned for the Lower Ophir Creek target area including two large pads and one large-narrow pad. Two road pull-outs are planned in the Lower Ophir Creek Area as shown in **Figure 4**. Winter operations are proposed to occur within the Lower Ophir Creek target area. Winter access will be maintained as explained in Section 1.2.1 above.

Victor 1 Laydown area is located approximately 1-mile up Ophir Creek Road from the Lower Ophir Creek target area (**Figure 4**). Falcon Copper intends to use the Victor 1 Laydown area to store and stage equipment.

SECTION F – PROJECT QUANTITIES AND DIMENSIONS

1. Exploration Drilling:

a. Drill Pads

i. Quantity: 37 Length (ft): 100 Width (ft): 100 Depth (ft): _____

b. Internal Drill Sumps

i. Quantity: 37 Length (ft): 40 Width (ft): 20 Depth (ft): 8

c. External Drill Sumps

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0 Depth (ft): 0

d. Drill Holes

i. # Holes per Pad: 6 Total # Drill Holes : 222 Maximum Depth (ft): 7,000

ii. Total depth of all drill holes (ft): a maximum of 1,554,000

iii. Please complete the attached Drill Pad & Drill Hole Inventory (Appendix A)

NOTE: The maximum drill hole depth will be used to in the assessment of environmental impacts of the proposed project. Exceedance of this depth would require a new amendment and MEPA review. It is recommended that operators overestimate the maximum depth drilled so as to avoid unnecessary impacts to drilling operations.

2. Other Surface Disturbances:

a. Trenches/Test Pits

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0 Depth (ft): 0

b. Waste Rock Stockpiles

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0 Volume (yd^3): 0

c. Laydown Area

i. Quantity: 3 Length (ft): 100 Width (ft): 300 Depth (ft): 0

d. New Roads

i. Length (ft): 3907 Width (ft): 22 Depth (ft): 0

e. Overland Travel

i. Length (ft): 845 Width (ft): 10 Depth (ft): _____

f. Culverts

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Diameter (in): 0

g. Slash Piles

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0 Height (ft): 0

h. Heli-Pads

i. Quantity: 0 Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0 Depth (ft): 0

i. Camping Area

i. Length (ft): 0 Width (ft): 0

ii. Arrival Date: 0 Departure Date: 0

iii. List all vehicles, tents, etc. located in the camping area: NA

j. Other (please describe)

Quantity: 1 Length (ft): 15 Width (ft): 15 Depth (ft): _____

Temporary bridge across Ophir Creek. See Figure 4.

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

1. Equipment and Vehicles- What equipment will be on site during exploration and reclamation?

a.	Drill Rig(s)	Quantity:	7	Make:		Model:	
b.	Water Trucks	Quantity:	7	Make:		Model:	3,000-gallon
c.	Fuel Trucks	Quantity:	1	Make:		Model:	
d.	Excavators	Quantity:	2	Make:	Caterpillar	Model:	320
e.	Bulldozers	Quantity:	2	Make:	Caterpillar	Model:	D8
f.	Backhoes	Quantity:	3	Make:	Caterpillar	Model:	440
g.	Haul/Dump Trucks	Quantity:	0	Make:		Model:	
h.	Skid Steers	Quantity:	3	Make:		Model:	
i.	ATV/UTVs	Quantity:	3	Make:		Model:	
j.	Generators	Quantity:	3	Make:		Model:	
k.	Wash Plants	Quantity:	0	Make:		Model:	
l.	Conveyors	Quantity:	0	Make:		Model:	
m.	Personal Vehicles	Quantity:	6	Make:		Model:	
n.	Other	Quantity:	See	Make:	attached Table 1.	Model:	

2. Structures- Identify any temporary structures that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

o.	Core Sheds	Quantity:	3	Size:	10x40	Description:	portable office trailers
p.	Connex/Containers	Quantity:	1	Size:	12x42	Description:	
q.	Campers/Trailers	Quantity:	0	Size:		Description:	
r.	Tents	Quantity:	0	Size:		Description:	
s.	Saw Shacks	Quantity:	0	Size:		Description:	
t.	Warehouses	Quantity:	0	Size:		Description:	
u.	Portable Toilets	Quantity:	3	Size:		Description:	
v.	Water Pumps	Quantity:	3	Make:		Model:	

3. Fluid Storage/Transport- Identify any fluid storage containers or transport lines that would be on site during exploration and reclamation.

w.	Large Fuel Tanks	Quantity:	0	Capacity (gal):	
x.	Small Fuel Containers	Quantity:	0	Capacity (gal):	
y.	Water Tanks	Quantity:	7	Capacity (gal):	4,000
z.	Water Lines	Length (ft):	2,500	Diameter (in):	2

4. Onsite Personnel- Identify the person(s) associated with the project and their position/duties.

a.	Position:	Managing Geologist	Quantity:	1
b.	Position:	Logging Geologist	Quantity:	7
c.	Position:	Field Geologist	Quantity:	2
d.	Position:	Geo-technicians	Quantity:	3
e.	Position:	Operators	Quantity:	3
f.	Position:	Supervisor	Quantity:	1
g.	Position:	Mechanic	Quantity:	1

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

1.0 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

Exploration and drilling personnel will access the site in four-wheel drive vehicles. **Table 1** provides a list of equipment that Falcon Copper may use to complete exploration activities covered under this Amendment #4. Specifications provided in **Table 1** indicate if water tanks, light plants, and generators will be truck- or trailer-mounted or ground-based once mobilized.

Table 1. Proposed Exploration Equipment

Type of Equipment	Projected Quantity of Equipment	Specifications	Number of Roundtrips
Track or Truck Mounted Drill Rig	5		
Modular or Compact Drill Rig (remote site)	1		
Solids Removal Unit	3	8x16 foot trailer mounted unit (not usable if access steep)	Travels with drill.
Truck-Mounted Reverse Circulation Drill Rig	1		
Pipe Truck	3		
Large Excavator	2	Cat 320 or equivalent	1 roundtrip for road reconstruction and drill site construction. 1 roundtrip for reclamation.
Bulldozer	2	Cat D8 or equivalent	1 roundtrip for road reconstruction and drill site construction. 1 roundtrip for reclamation.
Road Grader	1	Cat 140 or equivalent	1 roundtrip for road reconstruction and drill site construction
Backhoe	3	Cat 440 or equivalent	1 roundtrip for road reconstruction and drill site construction. 1 roundtrip for reclamation.
Skid-Steer with Forks and Bucket	3		1 roundtrip to mob to the next drill site.
Telehandler	2	Cat THO642 or equivalent	
Water Trucks (1 per drill rig)	7	3,000-gallon	2 roundtrips per day.
Vacuum Truck	1	2,000-2,500-gallon capacity	As needed
Light Plants	7	Trailer-mounted	1 roundtrip to mob to the next drill site.
Water Pumps	3	American Model 435 hydrostatic pumps or equivalent, ground-based	

Type of Equipment	Projected Quantity of Equipment	Specifications	Number of Roundtrips
Small Water pump	3	2-inch portable, gas-powered, Ground-based	
Air Compressor	2	Auxiliary air compressor, trailer-mounted	
3,000-4,000-gallon standing polypropylene water tanks	7	Ground-based	
Generator – 20 kilowatt (kw) Gas/Propane Portable	1	20kw gas/propane portable genset, ground-based	
Generators – 5 kw Portable Gas/Propane	2	5 Kw portable gas/propane genset, ground-based	
All-terrain Vehicles	3	4-seat vehicles	
2-inch water line	2,500 feet		
Pickup Trucks	6	3/4-ton 4x4 pickups	4 roundtrips per day.
Equipment fuel truck	1	Pickup-mounted 300-gallon tank	2 roundtrips per day.
Conex/Containers	1	12 feet x 42 feet	
Portable office trailers	3	10 feet x 40 feet	
Safety/snow fence	1,050 feet	150 feet per drill	
Metal gate panels	21	3 panels per drill	
Metal t-posts	210	30 posts per drill	
Geophysical wire	1,700 feet		

4.0 Onsite Personnel – Identify the person(s) associated with the project and their position/duties.

Falcon Copper anticipates one managing geologist, one logging geologist per rig, two field geologists and up to three geo-technicians will be on site during the dayshift while activities are underway to oversee drilling logging, and construction/reclamation activities. Construction teams will include three operators, one supervisor and one mechanic during the day shift. Standard drill rig crews will consist of a drill rig operator and three helpers for each shift, including a water truck driver, as well as one supervisor per two drill rigs in service and one mechanic. Falcon Copper proposes to have up to 7 drill rigs concurrently drilling within the Project area (core, RC, or combination of both types).

a. Position:	Managing Geologist	Quantity: 1
b. Position:	Logging Geologist	Quantity: 7
c. Position:	Field Geologist	Quantity: 2
d. Position:	Geo-technicians	Quantity: 3
e. Position:	Operators	Quantity: 3
f. Position:	Construction Supervisor	Quantity: 1
g. Position:	Construction Mechanic	Quantity: 1
h. Position:	Drill Rig Operator	Quantity: 7
i. Position:	Helpers	Quantity: 3
j. Position:	Water Truck Driver	Quantity: 1
k. Position:	Drill Rig Supervisor	Quantity: 3
l. Position:	Drill Rig Mechanic	Quantity: 1

h. Position: Drill Rig Operator Quantity: 7

i. Position: Helpers Quantity: 3

5. Water- Would water be used in the operation? Provide source and daily consumption details.

a. Natural Spring

i. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ Section/Twp/Rge: _____

b. Stream/Pond/Lake Take-Point

i. Latitude: 46.673796 Longitude: -112.547167 Section/Twp/Rge: 25/ 11 N/ 8 W

c. Domestic Water Well

i. Ground Water Information Center ID#: 135820

ii. Completion Date: 6/30/93

iii. Total Depth (ft): 100

iv. Static Water Level (ft): 30

v. Yield (gpm): 15

d. Daily Water Useage (gallons/day): Up to 24,000 gallons/day

6. Supplemental Lighting- would supplemental lighting be required during exploration or reclamation operations?

a. Type of lighting to be used (describe): Trailer-mounted light plant

i. Hours of Operation: 7pm to 7am

b. Light pollution controls to be used:

- [x] Downward Facing Lights
- [x] Light Shrouds/Shields
- [x] Directional Lighting
- [ ] Motion Sensors
- [ ] Automatic Timers
- [ ] Other

7. Air Quality- Identify measures proposed to minimize impacts on air quality.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- [x] Application of water to roads
- [x] Factory Emissions Controls
- [ ] Controlled slash burning
- [x] Reduce speed while traveling
- [x] Reduced traffic volume
- [ ] Other: _____

8. Erosion Control- Identify measures proposed to control erosion and sediment transport.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- [x] Vegetated Buffers
- [x] Temporary Seeding
- [x] Mulch Cover
- [x] Earthen Berms
- [x] Water Diversions
- [x] Surface Roughening
- [ ] Plastic Liners
- [x] Secondary Containment
- [x] Straw Wattles
- [x] Silt Fence
- [x] Spill Prevention/Response
- [x] Sediment Traps

9. Solid Waste- Describe plan to store and control solid waste.

a. Trash Cans/Dumpsters: Quantity: 1 to 4 Capacity (yd^3): 10 to 40

b. Disposal Facility: Name: Helena Transfer Station City: Helena

10. Historic and Archaeological Resources- Describe any measures that would be taken to reduce the impact to any historic and archeological resources that may be encountered. See next page.

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

9.0 SOLID WASTE – DESCRIBE PLAN TO STORE AND CONTROL SOLID WASTE.

Dumpsters will be located in the laydown yard being used to stage the activities. Trash will be collected at the drill sites and work areas between each shift and placed in the dumpsters. Falcon Copper will require about 10-yards of dumpster capacity for each active drill. Dumpsters are available in 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-yard capacity. Falcon copper will utilize the size and number of dumpsters which best fits the capacity needed and the space available. Dumpsters will be emptied regularly to avoid the spread of trash at the site.

10.0 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES – DESCRIBE ANY MEASURES THAT WOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT TO ANY HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES THAT MAY BE ENCOUNTERED.

10.1 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Falcon Copper will not knowingly disturb, alter, injure, destroy, or remove any scientifically important paleontological deposits; or any historical or archaeological site, structure, building or object on private lands, to the extent possible.

Identified eligible or unevaluated cultural resources (historic or pre-historic) will be avoided by all Project activities. If previously undiscovered cultural resources are exposed because of Project-related activities, Blue Copper will cease operations, leave such discoveries intact, and notify the MDEQ. Blue Copper will not proceed until notified in writing by the MDEQ that compliance with the provisions for mitigating unforeseen impacts has been satisfied.

11. Hazardous Substances- Identify the type, volume, and storage of all hazardous materials and toxic substances which would be on site during exploration and reclamation operations;

a. Petroleum Products

i. Diesel Fuel: Quantity: 1 Capacity (gal): 300

ii. Gasoline: Quantity: 1 Capacity (gal): 100

iii. Lubricants: Quantity: 1 Capacity (gal): 5

iv. Other: Quantity: Capacity (gal):

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of petroleum products to the environment:

☑ Spill Kits ☑ Regular Equipment Maintenance ☑ Secondary Containment

b. Solvents

i. Brake Cleaner: Quantity: 7 Capacity (gal): 0.25

ii. Carb Cleaner: Quantity: 7 Capacity (gal): 0.50

iii. Degreaser: Quantity: 7 Capacity (gal): 0.25

iv. Other: Quantity: Capacity (gal):

Note: BMPs proposed to prevent the release of solvents to the environment:

☑ Spill Kits ☑ Proper and Secured Storage ☑ Secondary Containment

c. Cyanide: 0

d. Millings: 0

e. Process and laboratory reagents: 0

f. Explosives: 0

g. Other: No bulk storage of fuel in Project Area.

SECTION H – RECLAMATION

12. Weed Control Plan

a. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled during exploration operations: See next page.

b. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled after reclamation: See next page.

13. Reclamation Plan

a. Describe ongoing reclamation that may occur during exploration operations: See next page.

b. If proposed work spans multiple operating seasons, describe "end-of-season" reclamation:

c. Describe final reclamation of the site:

d. Describe any surface disturbance or structures that would remain unreclaimed at the request of the landowner:

SECTION H – RECLAMATION

12.0 WEED CONTROL PLAN

a. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled during exploration operations.

Prior to disturbance, a vegetation inventory will be conducted to identify existing weed populations and sensitive native plant communities. This will guide site-specific management actions.

Falcon Copper will implement the following measures to prevent the spread of invasive and noxious weeds during exploration operations.

- Pre-treatment: Areas of known noxious weed infestations, to include all access routes, will be treated with herbicides prior to any surface disturbance.
- Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning: All vehicles and equipment entering the site will be cleaned to prevent weed seed transport.
- Certified Materials: Falcon Copper will use only weed-free gravel, mulch, and straw certified by the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Minimize Disturbance: Falcon Copper will limit surface disturbance to essential areas and maintain vegetative buffers where possible.

Integrated Weed Management will be implemented, to the extent possible, within the Project area and include various management strategies where appropriate.

- Mechanical: Hand-pulling or mowing.
- Chemical: Herbicides will be applied by certified applicators following MDEQ protocols.
- Biological: Where feasible, introduce approved biocontrol agents (e.g., insects).

b. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled after reclamation.

After reclamation, Falcon Copper will perform weed control during the appropriate season to manage infestations of noxious weeds, if necessary. Placement of certified noxious weed-free erosion control materials, including straw mulch and erosion control fabric, and periodic application of herbicide to control weeds may be used where deemed necessary and beneficial. Falcon Copper will monitor revegetation success and the presence of noxious weeds on an annual basis until bond release. Annual reports will be submitted to the MDEQ and County Weed Districts detailing treatment methods, herbicide use, effectiveness, and new infestations.

All field personnel will receive training on weed identification, prevention practices, and reporting procedures. Weed control is integrated into the Reclamation Plan, including reseeding with native species and post-reclamation monitoring for weed resurgence.

13.0 RECLAMATION PLAN

Falcon Copper is submitting this Reclamation Plan to MDEQ for the Blue Copper Project in accordance with ARM 17.24.107.

Falcon Copper will complete reclamation of disturbed areas resulting from exploration activities in accordance with this Reclamation Plan.

a. Describe ongoing reclamation that may occur during exploration operations:

Reclamation activities will be conducted concurrently with exploration activities when portions of the disturbed areas are no longer needed, to the extent possible. Reclamation will begin within inactive exploration areas and associated temporary access roads at the earliest practicable time. Falcon Copper will coordinate reclamation activities with the MDEQ, as necessary.

b. **If proposed work spans multiple operating seasons, describe "end-of-season" reclamation:**

Interim Management Plan

This Interim Management Plan addresses temporary and seasonal closures due to extreme weather conditions. The plan identifies actions necessary to ensure safe care and maintenance of the Project and associated facilities during a period of temporary/seasonal closure in accordance with applicable permits and regulations.

While not anticipated in the normal course of the exploration project, it is possible that Falcon Copper may have to temporarily stop exploration activities due to mechanical or technical difficulties, unfavorable economic conditions (i.e., depressed commodity prices or changing financial conditions), extreme weather events and natural disasters, or other unforeseen situations. In the event of a temporary or seasonal closure, Falcon Copper will follow requirements set forth in ARM 17.24.107 unless circumstances under ARM 17.24.108 apply in which MDEQ may defer the reclamation requirements of acreage disturbed under an exploration license if that acreage is proposed for incorporation into a complete plan of operation that is being prepared or has already been submitted as part of an application for an operating permit.

Measures to Stabilize Excavations and Workings

Prior to cessation of exploration activities for any temporary closure period, Falcon Copper will ensure exploration roads/trails and drill pads that are still required are left in good condition until reclamation is complete to prevent washouts and containment breaches. Falcon Copper will ensure that disturbance areas no longer required for exploration are recontoured and seeded prior to demobilization if a temporary closure period is required.

Falcon Copper will backfill all excavations, including sumps, prior to any periods of interim closure, recontour the area to ensure no depressions are left on surface, and seed the area prior to demobilization if a temporary closure period is required.

Falcon Copper will ensure that all exploration drill holes and boreholes are properly plugged (using temporary plugs or surface plugs as applicable) prior to demobilization if a temporary closure period is required. Geotechnical auger holes will be backfilled with drill cuttings and surface material.

The proposed exploration activities do not include creating or opening mine excavations or workings.

Measures to Isolate or Control Toxic or Deleterious Materials

Prior to a temporary closure period, Falcon Copper will remove and dispose of all refuse generated by the exploration activities at an authorized off-site landfill facility, consistent with applicable regulations. Falcon Copper will haul all exploration materials/supplies, including all fluids (i.e., diesel fuel, oil, drilling fluids, etc.), and equipment off site. The portable toilets will be hauled off site. Equipment (water tanks, mobile trailer-mounted generators, and portable toilets) will be removed if a temporary closure period is required.

Falcon Copper will visit all exploration sites to scatter and cover cutting piles, fill ruts using a hand rake, and perform general cleanup activities prior to the seasonal/temporary closure.

Falcon Copper will ensure all sumps are backfilled prior to leaving the site.

Provisions for the Storage or Removal of Equipment, Supplies and Structures

During extended periods (four months) with no exploration activities occurring at the Project area, Falcon Copper will remove all exploration equipment and supplies from the Project area, including portable toilets.

Equipment (e.g., water tanks, mobile trailer-mounted generators, and portable toilets) will be removed if a temporary closure period is required.

Measures to Maintain the Project Area in a Safe and Clean Condition

In the event that exploration activities are suspended at the site, Falcon Copper will perform regular inspections to ensure that the Project area is kept clean and in safe condition for the public. As previously mentioned, Falcon Copper will remove any trash, supplies, and equipment prior to leaving the Project area for an extended period. Routine road maintenance may be required occasionally and will consist of smoothing ruts, filling holes with fill material, grading, and re-establishing water bars.

During the interim period (depending on weather, snow cover, and road access), Falcon Copper may perform geologic mapping and/or geophysical surveys and visit reclaimed sites to assess reclamation success. Falcon Copper will ensure disturbed areas are properly recontoured and sumps are properly filled. Falcon Copper may also access the Project area to record water levels and sample for water quality if baseline characterization wells are established.

All mineral exploration drill holes and geotechnical boreholes will be plugged prior to interim closure. Falcon Copper will backfill all excavations (usually within the same day they are completed) and will not leave any open excavations in the event of a temporary closure. Falcon Copper will ensure all sumps and trenches are properly backfilled. Falcon Copper will maintain any necessary permits during the period of interim closure.

Schedule of Anticipated Period of Temporary Closure

Falcon Copper may temporarily suspend exploration field work intermittently throughout the project timeline. Work will not cease for a period of greater than 2 years. Falcon Copper will notify MDEQ in writing within 30 days after work is planned to be suspended at the site for more than 120 days (4 months). The notice will state the nature and the reason for the suspension; the anticipated duration of the suspension; and any event which will reasonably be expected to result in either the resumption of activities or the abandonment of activities.

c. Describe final reclamation of the site:

Reclamation Objectives

Falcon Copper's primary objectives for post-exploration reclamation of disturbances are to:

- Comply with applicable State environmental rules and regulations.
- Reduce or eliminate potential environmental impacts.
- Return disturbed areas to a condition which will support land uses like those which existed prior to the onset of exploration activities.
- Control infiltration, erosion, sedimentation, and related degradation of existing drainages to minimize off-site impacts.
- Protect public health by reducing potential hazards within the Project area.
- Limit and/or eliminate long-term closure requirements associated with ongoing care and maintenance, to the extent practicable.

With these objectives in mind, Falcon Copper will design reclamation activities to stabilize the disturbed areas to a safe condition and protect both disturbed and undisturbed surface areas from unnecessary and undue degradation.

Post-Exploration Land Use

Falcon Copper will return disturbed areas to a condition which will support land uses which existed prior to the onset of exploration activities; these land uses include wildlife habitat, recreation, and mineral exploration.

Reclamation Schedule

Since exploration success determines the reclamation schedule for the exploration roads and drill sites, Falcon Copper will perform reclamation concurrently with exploration activities when that disturbance and access to a specific drill pad is no longer needed. Falcon Copper will begin reclamation in exploration areas considered inactive, without potential, or completed at the earliest practicable time.

Earthwork and revegetation activities are limited to the time of year during which they can be effectively implemented. General earthworks, including regrading and recontouring, could be completed year-round depending on the weather and soil conditions. As a general practice, seeding activities will occur in late spring and fall to take advantage of optimum spring germination and winter and spring precipitation (Table 2). Seedbed preparation will occur in mid-late summer or fall immediately prior to seeding. Site conditions and/or yearly climatic variations may require that the planned schedule for these activities be modified to achieve revegetation success. Falcon Copper will coordinate reclamation activities with the MDEQ, as necessary.

Falcon Copper will complete reclamation of all disturbance areas within 2 years of completion of exploration activities or abandonment of the site. The expected date for completion of all required reclamation is December 30, 2033.

Revegetation success will be evaluated annually after the time of seeding to assess attainment of revegetation standards. When the reclamation of a disturbed area is complete, Falcon Copper will notify the MDEQ so that a MDEQ Specialist can perform an inspection of the area.

Table 2. Anticipated Reclamation Schedule

Reclamation Activity	January-March First Quarter	April-June Second Quarter	July-September Third Quarter	October–December Fourth Quarter
Earthwork[1]				
Seedbed Preparation				
Seeding				
Monitoring				

Note:
[1]= Schedule for earthworks will depend on weather and general soil conditions

13.1 Methods to Prevent Unecessary or Undue Degradation to the Environment and Surface Resources

Falcon Copper will complete reclamation of Project disturbance in accordance with performance standards established by the State of Montana to prevent, eliminate, or reduce effects to the environment.

Falcon Copper will implement the following measures during exploration activities and reclamation of disturbed areas to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation at the Project site.

Regrading and Reshaping

Falcon Copper will, as necessary rip, and complete regrading and reshaping of all drill sites, exploration roads, excavation areas, and other exploration-related disturbance areas to match adjacent topography, to the extent feasible and relevant. Regrading will also provide slopes that would, in conjunction with revegetation, control erosion.

Falcon Copper will use a dozer or backhoe to regrade and reshape exploration roads and drill sites. Tire tracks from overland travel will be lightly scarified and left in a rough state as necessary to relieve compaction, inhibit soil loss from runoff, and prepare the seed bed. Falcon Copper will backfill geotechnical auger holes from the geotechnical investigations with drill cuttings and surface material before moving the drill from the area. The final surface of backfilled sumps and other excavations will also be left in rough condition to hold seed and to optimize germination.

As necessary, Falcon Copper will regrade and reshape any areas where equipment have been removed at the end of the exploration program to avoid any ground depression.

Falcon Copper will pull fill material consisting largely of growth media onto the roadbeds to fill the road cuts and restore the slope to natural contours. For overland travel roads or pads that do not require placement of side cast material, Falcon Copper will scarify the area with an excavator bucket or a dozer to knock down and smooth any ruts and loosen compacted tire tracks. This will “roughen” the soil and facilitate successful revegetation. Following completion of earthwork, all disturbed areas will be reseeded using a broadcast seeder.

Should any drainages be disturbed, Falcon Copper will reshape the area to pre-disturbance contours to the extent feasible. The resulting channels will be of the same capacity as up- and downstream reaches and will be made non-erosive by use of surface stabilization techniques (rip-rap) where necessary and revegetated.

Growth Media Placement

As previously described, Falcon Copper will salvage and stockpile on site or as near intended use area as possible the soils that are suitable for use as growth media. Available topsoil and alluvial material will be evaluated for suitability for reclamation prior to placement on recontoured and reshaped disturbances. Falcon Copper will salvage available plant growth media from disturbed areas and used for reclamation purposes.

Revegetation

Falcon Copper will revegetate regraded areas to minimize wind and water erosion of the reclamation cover, and to return the land to a condition consistent with pre-mining and designated post-mining land uses, as reviewed and authorized by MDEQ. Project activities will be reclaimed using a combination of revegetation practices to promote the establishment of diverse plant communities and soil cover stability. Revegetation practices include growth media salvage and redistribution, adding organic matter or mulch, erosion control measures, and seeding.

Generally, seedbed preparation and seeding will take place in the fall after regrading of disturbed areas or as advised by MDEQ. Falcon Copper will broadcast seed in all reclaimed areas using a cyclone-type bucket spreader or a mechanical blower and cover the seeds by harrowing, raking, or other site-specific appropriate methods as necessary to provide seed cover and enhance germination. Falcon Copper will leave reclaimed surfaces in a textured or rough condition (e.g., small humps, pits, etc.) to enhance moisture retention and revegetation success while minimizing erosion potential.

The proposed seed list and application rate listed in Table 3 is based on known soil and climactic conditions and was selected to establish a plant community that will support the post-exploration land use. The seed mix is designed to ensure completion of reclamation per ARM 17.24.107(11) and provide species that can exist in the Project area, and/or are native species found in the plant communities prior to disturbance.

Table 3. Proposed Revegetation Seed Mixture

Common Name[1]	Scientific Name	Application Rate (pounds per acre Pure Live Seed)
Mountain brome	*Bromus marginatus*	11.5
Sterile Wheat	*Triticale x Secale*	5.75
Tufted hairgrass	*Deschampsia caespitosa*	0.15
Sandberg's bluegrass	*Poa secunda*	0.50
Bluebunch wheatgrass	*Pseudoregneria spicata*	2.75
Idaho Fescue	*Festuca idahoensis*	1.00
Blue wildrye	*Elymus glaucus*	1.75
Total		**23.40**

Source: 2024 Seed Mix - General Area Use Helena Ranger District, Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest
Note:
[1]: Seed mixtures may change from time to time during concurrent and final reclamation. The changes will be based on targeting specific soil/disturbance types and experience gained during concurrent reclamation during the life of the Project, and changes in agency recommendations.

Changes and/or adjustments to the reclamation plant list and/or application rate will be completed with consultation and approval from the MDEQ.

Drill Hole Plugging Procedures

All drill holes (i.e., boreholes) will be plugged in accordance with ARM 17.24.106 (1-5) for Exploration Drill Hole Plugging, which would generally involve plugging holes that encounter groundwater from the bottom to within 5 to 10 feet of the top with bentonite, then capping with 5 to 10 feet of cement.

Falcon Copper will plug all drill holes (i.e., boreholes) prior to the drill rig moving from the drill site in accordance with ARM 36.21.810 unless they are necessary for geophysical survey and for drill holes collared with a RC drill rig and completed with a core rig, which will be plugged prior to the core rig moving from the drill site. The well casing will be removed below ground surface, and the well covers will be removed and disposed off-site.

Falcon Copper will regrade areas associated with monitoring wells or piezometers to blend with natural surroundings. Areas will be ripped, if appropriate, and soil placed consistent with general soil placement plans.

In the unlikely event that any drill hole produces artesian flow, the drill holes will be contained pursuant to state of Montana requirements and will be sealed by the method described in ARM 17.24.106(2 and 5). Geotechnical auger holes will be backfilled with drill cuttings and surface material.

Falcon Copper will file all necessary drill hole plugging forms with MDEQ at the time of plugging.

13.2 Post-Reclamation Monitoring and Maintenance

Post-closure management will commence on any reclaimed area following completion of the reclamation work for the area. Falcon Copper will notify the MDEQ before the commencement of final reclamation work. Post-reclamation maintenance will consist of remedial re-contouring and reseeding, as required.

Falcon Copper will perform quality assurance inspections during Project reclamation activities. Quality assurance will include but are not limited to the following items:

- Inspection of regraded and reclaimed areas to verify that the area blends in with the surrounding topography, to the extent possible.
- Verification of seed tags to ensure the seed mix is certified weed-free.
- Inspections of reseeded areas to evaluate vegetation success and assess the occurrence of noxious weed populations.
- Inspection of reclaimed disturbance for evidence of erosion and to determine whether BMPs need to be implemented.

Falcon Copper would develop and implement corrective action promptly if any issues are identified during these inspections.

Revegetation monitoring will occur based on seasonal growth patterns, precipitation, and weather conditions. Falcon Copper will conduct annual revegetation monitoring (including noxious weed monitoring and treatment, as needed), maintenance, and reporting, for at least 3 years following closure and revegetation activities, or until revegetation success has been achieved and release of the reclamation performance bond (with approval by the MDEQ).

Post-closure management will extend until the reclamation of the site or component has been accepted by the MDEQ. For sites reclaimed early in the exploration schedule, Falcon Copper will manage the reclaimed sites concurrently with exploration site management.

13.3 Reporting

During the Project, Falcon Copper will submit annual reclamation-related reports and a disturbance tracking sheet to MDEQ. Reclamation information for the annual report will include:

- Annual summary of soil salvage, handling, and replacement activities, including areas and volumes of soil removed and locations or stockpiles where soil was placed.
- Annual vegetation survey summary, noting areas seeded during the year and success of areas where seeding/planting was conducted in previous years.

These reports and disturbance tracker will continue until reclamation success has been achieved and the MDEQ has released the reclamation bond.

d. Describe any surface disturbance or structures that would remain unreclaimed at the request of the landowner:

The temporary bridge across lower Ophir Creek will be removed following exploration disturbances and completion of reclamation. All exploration disturbances will be reclaimed.

DRILL PAD AND DRILL HOLE INVENTORY (APPENDIX A)				
DRILL PAD I.D.	**DRILL PAD COORDINATES (Decimal Degree Lat/Long)**	**DRILL HOLE I.D.**	**DRILL HOLE COORDINATES (Decimal Degree Lat/Long)**	**MAXIMUM DRILL DEPTH (FEET)**
See attached	Table A-1.			

NOTE: All Drill Holes must be plugged in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Rules of Montana

(ARM) 17.24.106, detailed as follows;

17.24.106 EXPLORATION DRILL HOLE PLUGGING

(1) Except as provided in (3) of this rule, all exploration drill holes must be plugged at the surface five to ten feet with cement.

(2) Except as provided in (3) of this rule, exploration drill holes must be plugged with bentonite or a similar compound from the bottom of the hole to within five to ten feet of the surface, and with cement from the top of the bentonite to the surface if one or more of the following conditions apply:

(a) two aquifers are intercepted;

(b) one aquifer is intercepted and an existing or potential beneficial use (domestic, agricultural or fish/ wildlife water supply) exists;

(c) one or more artesian aquifers are intercepted causing either surface flow or significant water rise in the hole; or

(d) the potential exists for downward water loss from an aquifer (cascade effect) as determined by the department.

(3) Exceptions to (1) and (2) of this rule may be granted by the department if:

(a) shallow placer holes are drilled using a churn or percussion drill or similar equipment in alluvium in which the holes will be obliterated as the drill stem is withdrawn, leaving no evidence of the hole;

(b) the drill hole contained no water, is not geologically likely to contain water or the hole is to be destroyed during mining or mining related disturbances;

(c) the drill hole is developed into a water well, monitoring well, or piezometer with the written agreement of the landowner and to the specifications of the appropriate state agency; or

(d) other site-specific hydrogeological and topographic situations necessitate exceptions.

(4) All drill holes must be plugged prior to removing the drill rig from a hole unless removing the drill rig is necessary to the hole plugging operation or unless otherwise approved by the department.

(5) If the flow of an artesian drill hole is not completely stopped, after exhaustion of all methods, the operator must:

(a) obtain a discharge permit from the Department of Environmental Quality; or

(b) develop a water well in compliance with the requirements of other applicable local, state and federal statutes, including water rights. In addition, the landowner must concur, the amount and use of flow must be compatible with the approved postmining land use, and the water quality must meet standards set under the Title 75, chapter 5, MCA.

(6) In areas and geological formations of known artesian well potential, bonding for drill sites must be adequate to ensure artesian hole plugging.

Authorizing statute(s): 82-4-321, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 82-4-302, 82-4-332, 82-4-355, MCA

History: NEW, 1994 MAR p. 2952, Eff. 11/11/94; TRANS, from DSL, 1996 MAR p. 2852; AMD, 2002 MAR p. 3590, Eff. 12/27/02; AMD, 2022 MAR p. 1830, Eff. 9/24/22

SECTION I – OTHER PERMITS

The Applicant May Need Additional Authorizations From The Following State or Federal Agencies & Programs

State of Montana Authorizations

310 Permit –For work proposed in streams, wetlands, floodplains, and other water bodies. One joint application form is available to apply for several different Local/State/Federal permits.
See: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/the-310-law

Montana Water Rights: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights

Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) Permit – for projects that have a surface water discharge.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) Permit – for projects that have a groundwater discharge.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Stormwater Permit – for projects that have the potential to contribute sediment or pollution to surface waters from surface disturbances as a result of a storm event.
See: https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance

Suction Dredge Permit – for projects that utilize a suction dredge. See:
http://deq.mt.gov/Water/WPB/mpdes/suctiondredge

Sage Grouse – In response to Senate Bill 261 and Executive Orders 10-2014 and 12-2015, many DEQ permits and approvals in sage grouse core, general, or connectivity habitat, received on or after January 1, 2016, must include a letter of comment from the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program.
See: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/

Federal Authorizations

USFS – Contact local USFS office. See: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r1/

BLM – Contact local BLM office. See: https://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas

811 – Before You Dig: https://call811.com/

US Army Corp of Engineers 404 Permit – may be required for any work in streams or wetlands See:
http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/

Appendix A – Drill Pad Inventory

Table A - 1. Drill Pad Inventory

Drill Site ID	Land Status	Pad Size[1]	Latitude (WGS 84)	Longitude (WGS 84)
FS-1	Private	1	46.670792	-112.476439
FS-2	Private	1	46.671490	-112.476040
FS-3	Private	1	46.672085	-112.476605
FS-4	Private	2	46.672319	-112.475225
FS-5	Private	2	46.673183	-112.474556
Q-1	Private	3	46.672774	-112.474113
Q-2	Private	3	46.673524	-112.473872
Q-3	Private	3	46.674065	-112.473796
Q-5	Private	3	46.675251	-112.470494
Q-6	Private	3	46.675794	-112.469554
Q-7	Private	3	46.676000	-112.468097
Q-11	Private	3	46.676434	-112.462230
Q-14	Private	3	46.677958	-112.463717
Q-18	Private	3	46.678664	-112.468926
Q-20	Private	4	46.679974	-112.468517
OC-1	Private	4	46.684274	-112.538516
OC-2	Private	4	46.685093	-112.537114
OC-3	Private	4	46.685542	-112.535911
OG-9	Private	4	46.668886	-112.527686
OG-10	Private	4	46.669677	-112.531787
OG-11	Private	4	46.670722	-112.531046
OG-12	Private	4	46.670519	-112.533406
OG-13	Private	4	46.671481	-112.532793
OG-14	Private	4	46.672304	-112.535836
OG-15	Private	4	46.672792	-112.538191
OG-16	Private	4	46.674504	-112.537049
OG-21	Private	4	46.673126	-112.534560
OG-20	Private	4	46.673578	-112.536180
Q-8	Private	4	46.675565	-112.467229
Q-9	Private	4	46.675493	-112.466398
Q-10	Private	4	46.676373	-112.465078
Q-13	Private	4	46.677119	-112.464176
Q-4	Private	4	46.674774	-112.472252
Q-12	Private	4	46.678012	-112.462727
Q-16	Private	4	46.677400	-112.467574
Q-15	Private	4	46.677788	-112.466653
Q-17	Private	4	46.677561	-112.469217

Note:
[1] Pad Size: 1 = Small-narrow: 40 feet wide x 50 feet long
2 = Small: 50 feet wide x 50 feet long
3 = Large-narrow: 50 feet wide x 100 feet long
4 = Large: 100 feet wide x 100 feet long
See Figure 5 for typical schematics of drill site layouts.