DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Air, Energy & Mining Division

EXPLORATION LICENSE: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SECTION A – APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Type: ☒ New License ☐ Amendment to Existing License (#_____)

1. **Amendment Fee** (*Not Required for New License; Required to amend an existing Exploration License*)

Activities only ***on*** the surface of the land	Activities ***beneath*** the surface of the land (*includes drilling*)	***Both*** on surface and beneath the surface
$250	$500	$500
Cash/Check ☐ Online ☐	Cash/Check ☐ Online ☐	Cash/Check ☐ Online ☐

Payment Online: If you are paying online, you must include a copy of your receipt with this Exploration License Application Package. **Please review the online payment instructions.**

Payment via Check: Make check payable to: **DEQ Financial Services Office**

2. Licensee Name (Person or Company): WRH Nevada Properties, LLC

3. Date Submitted: April 20, 2026

4. Contact Name: William R Henderson

Address: PO Box 376 City: Rexburg State: Idaho Zip: 83440

Phone: (208) 356-0764 Email: bill@wrhcon.com

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

Authorized Agent: Charles M Ross

Phone: (435) 421-1238 Email: casey@wrhcon.com

NOTE: 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: Crossover Project
2. County in which the proposed site is located: Flathead
3. Project Coordinates: *(Decimal Degree Only)* Latitude: 47 . 903106 Longitude: -114. 627178
4. Landowner: ☒ Private ☐ BLM ☐ USFS ☐ DNRC/State ☐ Other

Contact Name: Project lands are private split estate. WRH owns mineral estate, surface estate owned by Flathead Ridge Ranch. FRR Manager is Mr. Ryan Langston.

Phone: 214.910.3002 Email: rlangston@flatheadridgeranch.com

SECTION C – PROJECT TIMELINE

1. Proposed Start Date of Exploration: 08/01/2026 Proposed End Date of Exploration: 09/15/2027
2. Proposed Start Date of Reclamation: 10/15/2026 Proposed End Date of Reclamation: 11/01/2027

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: Assuming 14,500 feet of HQ drilling, approximately 95 cubic feet of material

3. Description of Project:

Four drill sites are proposed; each site is to accommodate one (1) diamond drill core hole for a total of four (4) proposed drill holes. It is likely that 2 and possibly 3 of the 4 proposed drill holes will be drilled prior to onset of winter conditions. WRH Nevada Properties, LLC may opt to continue drilling into the winter months, but this will depend upon local conditions. The drill holes will be spudded with HQ-sized bits, possibly reducing to NQ-sized bits at depth should conditions warrant. Three (3) of the holes will be permitted to a down-rod length of 3,500 feet, and the 4th to a down rod length of 4,000 feet. One of the holes will be vertical, and 3 holes will be drilled at -70°. Three of the four sites (Sites 2-4) are on large areas of relatively level ground consisting of old log decks, turn around areas, and the like from past logging operations. Additionally, these three Sites (Sites 2-4) are adjacent to or crossed by existing, private, gated logging roads. These sites (Sites 2-4) will require minimal surface disturbance. They will be permitted and bonded for their total square footage, but will require some minor smoothing and ground disturbance over a small portion of each site. The remaining site (Site 1) will need very minor leveling, likely with a small excavator. The upper (north) bank of Site 1 will be approximately 1.5 feet in height when completed. It will be constructed adjacent to the right-of-way along the Kofford Ridge Road, a County-designated road claimed by Flathead County. All drill Sites will vary in size, and total 0.8790 acres of surface disturbance. The Laydown Area, and one (1) standard 8' X 8'6" X 20 foot core storage shipping container will be located on private land near a major intersection and log truck load out and turn around area remaining from the last period of logging in the area. The proposed Laydown Area is a former log deck and load out area, and will require minimal surface disturbance as it is essentially level. The Laydown Area is behind a locked gate that WRH Nevada Properties, LLC has access through from the surface owner. Total square acreage of the proposed Laydown Area is 0.2628 acres. Drill core will be kept in the locked ship container in the Laydown Area, and transported offsite to a separate logging, cutting, and sampling facility. There are no permanent buildings or storage facilities anticipated at this time. An SRU, a centrifuge system developed specifically for exploration drilling, will be deployed for all 4 holes. The Solids Removal Unit is extremely efficient at separating drill cuttings from drilling fluids, thereby recycling drill fluid water, and reducing wear and tear on equipment. A savings of up to 90% of water used for drilling can be expected. The SRU uses a double sump system where a shallow sump of approximately 12 cubic yards sits adjacent to a larger sump of approximately 30 cubic yards. The smaller sump catches the larger cuttings, while clarified drilling fluids are caught in the larger sump to be recycled. Drill holes will be plugged and abandoned according to DEQ specifications, and all used drill sites will be smoothed and/or recontoured as soon as possible to prevent erosion. In addition, an area of existing private road will need minor repairs along a small stretch totaling no more than 0.1449 acres. Weed management will be performed according to the Flathead County Weed Management Plan issued in 2025. Seeding will occur as long as conditions permit into the late fall, after a lessee's cattle are removed from the property to winter range, and prior to the first large precipitation event.

SECTION F – PROJECT QUANTITIES AND DIMENSIONS

1. **Exploration Drilling:**

   a. **Drill Pads**

      i. Quantity: 4 (See Attached Table 2) Length (ft): Longest = 219.6 feet (Site 4)
      Width (ft): Widest = 149.3 feet Site 4) Depth (ft): Deepest = 1.5 feet (Site 1)

   b. **Internal Drill Sumps – Dual Compartment Sumps**

      i. Quantity: 4 (See Attached Table 3) Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _
      Depth (ft): _____

c. **External Drill Sumps**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

d. **Drill Holes**

i. # Holes per Pad: One (1) Total # Drill Holes : Four (4) Maximum Depth (ft): 3 X 3,500' and 1 X 4,000'

ii. Total depth of all drill holes (ft): 14,500 feet

iii. Please complete and include a EXPLORATION LICENSE: DRILLING PROGRAM APPENDIX

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

2. **Other Surface Disturbances:**

a. **Trenches/Test Pits**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

b. **Waste Rock Stockpiles**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Volume (yd^3): _____

c. **Laydown Area**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

d. **New Roads**

i. Length (ft): N/A Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

e. **Overland Travel**

i. Length (ft): N/A Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

f. **Culverts**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Diameter (in): _____

g. **Slash Piles**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Height (ft): _____

h. **Heli-Pads**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

i. **Camping Area**

i. Length (ft): N/A Width (ft): _____

ii. Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

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

_____

j. **Ponds**

i. Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

k. **Portals**

i. Height (ft): N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

ii. Height (ft): _____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

iii. Height (ft): _____ Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

l. **Other (please describe)**

Quantity: N/A Length (ft): _____ Width (ft): _____ Depth (ft): _____

SECTION G – PROJECT OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS

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

a.	Drill Rig(s)	Quantity: 1	Make: Boart	Model: LF-230
b.	Water Trucks	Quantity: 2	Make: International	Model: 4800
c.	Fuel Trucks	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
d.	Excavators	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
e.	Bulldozers	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
f.	Backhoes	Quantity: 1	Make: Cat	Model: 420
g.	Haul/Dump Trucks	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
h.	Telehandler	Quantity: 1	Make: Genie or Sany	Model: 10,000lb Class (Rental Unit)
i.	ATV/UTVs	Quantity: 1	Make: Polaris	Model: Sportsman 850
j.	Generators	Quantity: 2	Make: Shindaiwa	Model: 14 KVA
k.	Wash Plants	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
l.	Conveyors	Quantity: N/A	Make:	Model:
m.	Personal Vehicles	Quantity: 3	Make: 1 Ford	Model: F150
			Make: 1 Dodge	Model: 2500
			Make: 2 Chevrolet	Model: 2500/3500
n.	Other SRU	Quantity: 1	Make: Multipower	Model: Paramount (attached specs)

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

o.	Core Sheds	Quantity: N/A	Size:	Description:
p.	Connex/Containers	Quantity: 1	Size: 20' X 8' X 8'6"	Description: Std 20' shipping container
q.	Campers/Trailers	Quantity: N/A	Size:	Description:
r.	Tents	Quantity: N/A	Size:	Description:
s.	Saw Shacks	Quantity: N/A	Size:	Description:
t.	Warehouses	Quantity: N/A	Size:	Description:
u.	Portable Toilets	Quantity: 2	Size: Single	Description:
v.	Water Pumps	Quantity: 1	Make: FMC	Model: 35

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: N/A	Capacity (gal):
x.	Small Fuel Containers	Quantity: N/A	Capacity (gal):
y.	Water Tanks	Quantity: 2	Capacity (gal): 5,000
z.	Water Lines	Length (ft): 2,500	Diameter (in): 1"

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

a.	Position: WRH contract geologist	Quantity: 1
b.	Position: WRH Chief Geologist	Quantity: 1 (Occasionally)
c.	Position: Ruen Driller	Quantity: 1
d.	Position: Ruen Driller's Helper	Quantity: 1-2

e. Position: Other WRH and Ruen Management Quantity: 1-2 (Occasionally)

f. Position: _____ Quantity: _____

g. Position: _____ Quantity: _____

h. Position: _____ Quantity: _____

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

a. Natural Spring

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

c. Stream/Pond/Lake Take-Point

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

d. Domestic Water Well

i. Ground Water Information Center ID#: 76182 (City of Hot Springs) See attached Map

ii. Completion Date: June 15, 1983

iii. Total Depth (ft): 287'

iv. Static Water Level (ft): -97.02

v. Yield (gpm): 100 gpm

e. Daily Water Usage (gallons/day): 4,000 – 16,000

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

a. Type of lighting to be used (describe): LED

i. Hours of Operation: Dusk to Dawn

b. Light pollution controls to be used:

- [x] Downward Facing Lights
- [ ] 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):

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

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

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs):

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

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

a. Trash Cans/Dumpsters: Quantity: 3 Capacity (yd^3): 45 gallons

b. Disposal Facility: Name: Republic Services City: Polson

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. Project lands are private, and have been heavily logged and grazed for over 100 years. WRH Nevada Properties, LLC has performed extensive surface sampling and mapping, and has encountered no historic or archeological resources of any kind.

Surface rocks are Oligocene-aged volcanics, and therefore fossils are not expected. The 4 Sites and other disturbances within this permit are immediately adjacent to well-traveled logging and County-designated roads, log decks and loading areas, all that have been significantly bulldozed and disturbed during prior third-party operations. However, in the event that any artifacts are found, the surface owner Flathead Ridge Ranch will be notified, and in the event that human remains and/or burial objects are found, Montana SHPO and the Flathead County Sherrif will be contacted immediately. MCA 22-3-4 will be strictly followed. A review of National Register of Historic Places GIS files was performed and the closest listed sites to the Project Area are in Dayton, Big Arm, Somers, and Hot Springs, all over 12 miles away.

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: 200 gallons Capacity (gal): 100 gal in 2 PU bed tanks

ii. Gasoline: Quantity: 10 gallons Capacity (gal): 4 2.5 gallon gas containers

iii. Lubricants: Quantity: 25 gallons Capacity (gal): 1 gallon containers

iv. Other: Quantity: N/A 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: 12 spray cans Capacity (gal): 16 oz each

ii. Carb Cleaner: Quantity: N/A Capacity (gal): _____

iii. Degreaser: Quantity: N/A Capacity (gal): _____

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: N/A

d. Millings: N/A

e. Process and laboratory reagents: N/A

f. Explosives: N/A

g. Other: N/A

SECTION H – RECLAMATION

1. Weed Control Plan

a. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled during exploration operations: WRH Nevada Properties, LLC owns only mineral estate lands within the Crossover Project Area, and as such the surface owner, Flathead Ridge Ranch, likely has a MOU/Weed Management Plan on file with Flathead County. WRH Nevada Properties, LLC and its subcontractors (drillers) will follow Flathead County's and Flathead Ridge Ranch's Weed Management Plans as a matter of course throughout the Project life. WRH Nevada Properties, LLC personnel have read the 2025 Flathead County Weed Management Plan thoroughly and will consult with the Flathead County Weed/Parks, and Recreation Education and Compliance Officer to obtain all literature/identification materials, and advice regarding our project location, timing of the project, and associated reclamation and seeding efforts to strictly follow the County's guidelines concerning control of noxious weeds. Possibly the Compliance Office can do a site visit both prior to and after the reclamation/reseeding. The disturbed areas are currently covered mostly in meadow and montane bunch grasses, so we assume that

within this initial permit and our proposal to disturb only a maximum of 1.2866 acres of surface, using State Certified weed-free seed mixtures during fall reclamation and seeding, combined with spot application of a recommended broadleaf post-emergent herbicide such as Roundup or others from the County's list, and applied several times in the early spring of 2027 will be the primary course of action. It should be noted again that the Project Area has been heavily logged and grazed for quite a long time, and weeds are present throughout project lands.

b. Describe how noxious weeds would be controlled after reclamation: In an area of this size (1.2866 acres proposed), it is anticipated that spot pulling (depending on species), and/or early spring use of a broadleaf post-emergent herbicide would be employed. However, and as mentioned above, WRH will adhere to Flathead County Weed Management protocols and advice throughout its reclamation tenure and responsibilities.

2. Reclamation Plan

a. Describe ongoing reclamation that may occur during exploration operations: Because only drilling and minor related surface disturbance (sumps and minor smoothing) are anticipated at 3 of 4 sites, which are essentially flat and immediately adjacent to existing logging roads that will be used for access, and Site 1 only will require very minor recontouring, WRH Nevada Properties, LLC will strictly adhere to all drilling-related reclamation procedures as outlined in MCA 82-4-303, 336, and ARM 17.24.107. Sumps, which will essentially seal themselves with drilling fluids, will be allowed to evaporate and evaporated drilling fluids in the larger portion of each sump will be mixed with excavated material and together with drill cuttings from the SRU in the smaller portion of the sump, will both be covered/buried and used sumps and pads smoothed and/or recontoured as soon as possible to prevent erosion. The ground is grazed heavily, and we would prefer to wait to begin seeding until after the grazer's cattle are removed in the fall, and then immediately prior to precipitation events, so in-progress reclaimed areas are not trampled and the seed will receive moisture quickly. In the interim between recontouring to prevent erosion, and seeding in the fall after the grazers cattle are removed, weed control will be undertaken at each site in accordance with Flathead County's Weed Management Plan.

b. If proposed work spans multiple operating seasons, describe "end-of-season" reclamation: The goal at the end of every exploration program involving surface disturbance is to have every disturbance created that season recontoured, disced, and seeded prior to the onset of late Autumn moisture. As mentioned above, this area is heavily grazed, so we are squeezed a bit in that we must wait until the grazer removes his cattle so the recontoured and seeded areas are not trampled.

c. Describe final reclamation of the site: As mentioned above, WRH Nevada Properties, LLC intends to abandon drill holes and recontour sites as the holes are finished, to prevent erosion. Seeding will occur later in each fall once cattle are removed, and all Sites will be monitored for erosion and weed control based on consultations with State and County personnel.

d. Describe any surface disturbance or structures that would remain unreclaimed at the request of the landowner: None anticipated. No permanent structures will be constructed. Reclamation of all surface disturbance is currently planned. It is possible that the surface owner will want to retain some or all of the minor work anticipated on their private logging road. If this is requested by the surface owner, WRH Nevada Properties, LLC will amend our permit to accommodate the surface owner. Otherwise as mentioned above, all surface disturbances will be reclaimed.

SECTION I – OTHER PERMITS

THIS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY LICENSE OR PERMIT YOU NEED

State of Montana Permits

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: https://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits/stream-permitting/

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 Pollution Prevention – 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. Call: (406) 444-5326

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

MSHA – Contact the MSHA field office in Helena. See: https://www.msha.gov/montana

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

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

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