



File Code: 2810
Date: March 20, 2017

Mailed non-cert 3/20/17 ADAU

Dear Interested Party,

I am writing to advise you that the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest is considering a request by Jeff Otten for approval of a Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) to implement mining activities on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the 6th Principal Meridian, Township 12 South, Range 71 West, Sections 1 and 2. The proposed project is on the Student Loan No. 1, Student Loan No. 2, Ruff-Lode No. 1, and Mick-Man Lode No. 1 unpatented mining claims are located in Teller County, approximately 4 miles northeast of Lake George, Colorado (Exhibit A).

NEPA REVIEW

As part of our National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the project, I am providing you with a summary description of the proposed activities. Information on how and when to comment is provided below.

My preliminary assessment of this project is that it meets the criteria of a Forest Service (FS) categorical exclusion (CE) that applies to a group of similar actions that, in general, do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. The potential CE category is listed in 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(3) as "*approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.*" If the NEPA review finds that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would result in adverse effects on Forest resources, this proposal may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. If the proponent proposes to expand operations or deviate from the proposed MPO, the impacts of such actions would be evaluated in a future NEPA review.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forrest MPO is under consideration for approval because the Forest Service is obligated to process, administer, and manage mining operations conducted on NFS lands under the authorities of laws and regulations that confer on the public statutory right to go upon and use open public domain land. Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 228 Subpart A – Locatable Minerals set forth rules and procedures for management of mining-related activity on NFS land to minimize adverse environmental impacts on surface resources.

The Forest proposes to approve the following mining activities described in the MPO. Depending on the findings of the NEPA review, the Forest may require the proponent to agree to additional terms and conditions for resource protection that would supplement the MPO.



Access to Project Area

The proponent would access the project area using Trail Creek Rd to FSR 201 to FSR 273, which intersects the claims.

Activities

The purpose of this proposal is to conduct mining activities and associated reclamation work on unpatented mining claims the proponent owns near Lake George. The proposal entails the use of mechanized equipment to continue excavate a maximum of 6 pits with approximate dimensions of 25 feet x 35 feet, with a total disturbance of 3.25 acres total of National Forest System lands over a period of five years.

A temporary toilet system would be provided within the project area. Mining activities will be compliant with all other State and Federal regulations.

Site Reclamation

Final reclamation will be to backfill the pit with stockpiled materials. Topsoil will be maintained and stored on-site for reclamation use. The completed reclamation will conform to the original natural grade. At the end of operations, the disturbed areas will be graded and reseeded with a specific mixture of plant species approved by District resources specialists, as necessary.

These plans and requirements, in addition to a reclamation bond, will be incorporated into the final approved MPO.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The Forest Service values public input as part of its NEPA process. You are encouraged to submit comments regarding the proposed action and the scope of the analysis. To receive full consideration and to best assist the Forest Service in this effort, your comments should be submitted by *April 20, 2017*. However, we will consider all comments related to resource impacts up until the time that a decision is rendered. Comments unrelated to resources issues will not be considered relevant to the NEPA review.

How to Comment

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic (email) comments will be accepted. Comments may be contained in the text of an email message, or in an attachment in plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments. Please include the project name (Fretterd Plan of Operations) in the subject line of your response and/or email.

Comments may be submitted as follows:

Email: amyjtitterington@fs.fed.us


Facsimile: 719-836-3875, ATTN: Amy Titterington

U.S. Mail: US Forest Service
South Park Ranger District
ATTN: Amy Titterington, P.G.
P.O. BOX 219
Fairplay, CO 80440

Hand-delivery: 320 Highway 285, Fairplay, CO 80440

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays

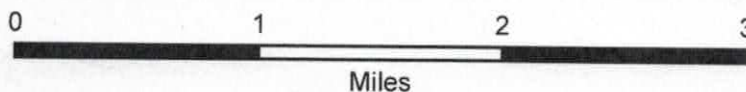
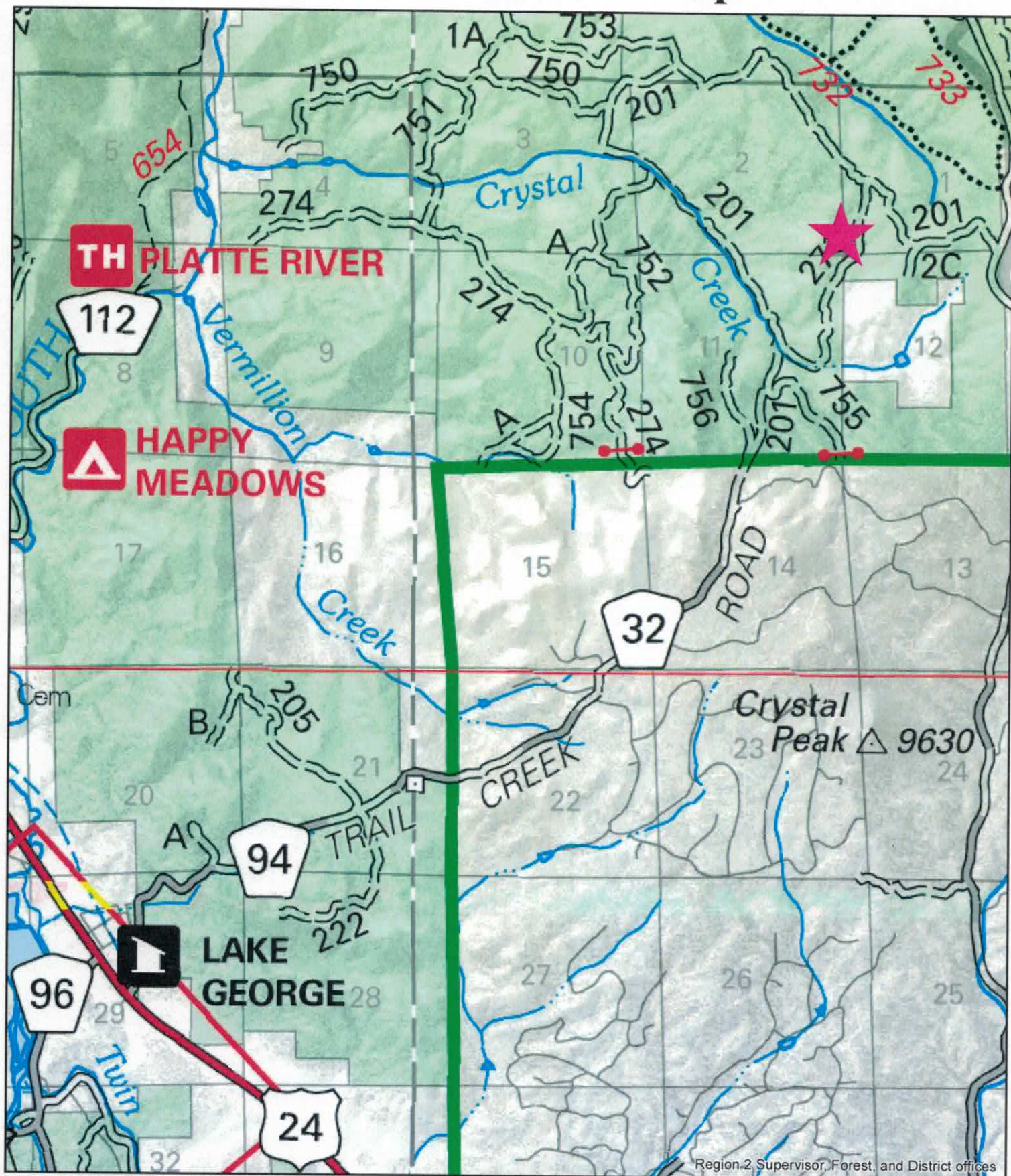
Sincerely,



JOSHUA S. VOORHIS
District Ranger

cc: elliott.russell@state.co.us; jennifer@informcolorado.org

Forrest Location Map



Legend



Forrest Claims



Coordinate System: WGS 1984
Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere
Datum: WGS 1984

T. 12 S., R. 71 W., Sections 1 & 2