



File Code: 2830  
Date: July 19, 2021

Tyler Miller  
Sales Executive  
Gold Rush Expeditions, Inc  
331 Rio Grande St  
Suite #201  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 20 2021**

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY**

CERTIFIED MAIL RECIEPT REQUESTED: 7016 2070 0000 4176 4148

Dear Mr. Miller,

This letter documents my approval of your Plan of Operations, as supplemented in your letter dated May 18, 2021 and implemented with the resource mitigations required by environmental review. The approved Plan of Operations includes the following activities:

- Exploration, expected to last three months
- Removal of dirt from the adit
- On-site dirt storage
- Condition verification and mapping of the mine workings
- Securing portal from public access during exploration activities
- Reclaiming site post-exploration
- Immediate halt of activities and notification to Lucas West at CO DRMS should evidence of water seepage or hazard present while excavating.

The environmental review identified the following mitigations:

- Project equipment must be washed and free of mud, debris, and invasive species. Any material used or brought to project area must be invasive species free.
- Report any sightings of bats in the mine to the Forest Service. There may be a need for reclamation activities to include installing a bat gate instead of replacing the dirt in front of the portal.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).



- If subsurface cultural values are uncovered during operations, all work in the vicinity of the resource will cease and the Authorized Officer with the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) notified immediately. The operator shall take any additional measures requested by the RGNF to protect discoveries until they can be adequately evaluated by the permitted archaeologist. Within 48 hours of the discovery, the SHPO and consulting parties will be notified of the discovery and consultation will begin to determine an appropriate mitigation measure. RGNF in cooperation with the operator will ensure that the discovery is protected from further disturbance until mitigation is completed. Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the authorized officer (36 CFR 800.110 & 112, 43 CFR 10.4).
- *Inadvertent Discoveries:* Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery that could adversely affect the discovery. The holder shall make a reasonable effort to protect the human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony for a period of thirty days after written notice is provided to the authorized officer, or until the authorized officer has issued a written notice to proceed, whichever occurs first.

In accordance with 36 CFR 22.8(e), should unforeseen significant disturbance of surface resources occur or a change in scope of activities be warranted, I may ask you to furnish a proposed modification of the plan.

As a reminder, pursuant to 36 CFR 228.4(a)(4), the activities proposed by this plan of operations at the Midwest Mining claim cannot commence until the appropriate bonding is secured and final Authorization to Proceed is issued by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety. Please contact my office once you have received the Authorization to Proceed with your planned start date.

Patrick Moran is no longer working on the Rio Grande National Forest and I will be your point of contact. If you have any questions, please contact me at 719.657.6007 or [martha.williamson@usda.gov](mailto:martha.williamson@usda.gov).

Sincerely,



MARTHA A. WILLIAMSON  
District Ranger

cc: Lucas West