

October 27, 2021

Robert Burger  
Sierta, LLC

Elliott Russell  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Response to Deficiencies, MD-02, P-2014-003**

Elliott:

Item 1: Revised location positions for the drill pads.

Drill pad 6 is located along the border of Sections 18 and 19 of T6S R75W of the 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian. It falls within the NN quarter of the NW quarter of Section 19 and SW quarter of the SW quarter section of Section 18.

Drill pad 7 is located in the NW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 19 of T6S R75W.

Drill pad 8 is located in the NE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 19 of T6S R75W.

Item 2: Please see the attached revised map titled Sierta Mineral Claims Block with Pad Locations.

Item 3: Please see the attached email from Amy Titterington, US Forest Service, stating a decision memo (DM) has been drafted for the project.

Item 4: The error for drill pads 7 and 8 was that they were marked as at 31'N where they were actually 30'N. The attached map includes the corrections with coordinates formatted in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Item 5: Please see the updated map of Pad 7 with the entire access route to the pad. The access route to Pad 7 crosses Handcart Gulch where it flows across solid ferricrete. There is no significant loose sediment smaller than gravel size at this location that can be disturbed by the crossing and the stream is on the order of 3 to 5 feet wide. Also, Handcart Gulch flows across and/or upon Webster Pass Road—a road used regularly by 4WD and off-road vehicles—in three locations during the summer months. Based on these conditions, it is unlikely that access to Pad 7 by vehicles along the access route will affect surface water quality at, or downstream, from the stream crossing. If the Forest Service deems it necessary, Sierta will set a timber mat, or similar device over the stream at the crossing to prevent stream damage.

Item 6: See revised map titled Footprint of Drill Pad 8.

Item 7: The current estimated timeframe for commencement and completion of field activities is June 21 through September 30, 2022.

Item 8: There will be two mud pit sumps at each drill pad for a total of six maximum for the project. Each of the sumps will measure approximately 10 x 10 x 8 feet.

Item 9: Pits will be constructed with a backhoe. Excavated material will be staged adjacent to the pits and topsoil will be staged separately. The pits will be constructed with a gentle slope on one side to allow for easy exit for humans or wildlife who may accidentally enter the pit. They will be lined with Visqueen or similar plastic sheeting to prevent loss of drilling fluids to the subsurface. High-visibility (orange) fence will be placed around the outside of the pits to prevent accidental entry by humans or wildlife. The integrity of the liner and fencing will be monitored regularly.

Item 10: A total of 10 possible borings with different trajectories have been proposed to be drilled. However, Sierta plans to drill only up to 5 of these holes. Each drill hole will be advanced to a maximum depth of 1,000 feet for a total of 5,000 feet. Sierta will start drilling operations on Pad 6. Selection of the remaining proposed locations to be drilled will depend on field observations.

Item 11: Water for drilling operations will be pumped or gravity fed from natural pools in Handcart Gulch via a plastic or rubber pipe to the drill pads and stored in portable tanks (proposed two tanks of up to 2,500 gallons each) at the operating drill pad. No artificial dam or obstruction of natural flow will occur. A totalizing meter will be placed along the water line as required by the CO DWQ. Water usage readings will be collected daily and reported to the water commissioner on a weekly basis. This will result in less than one acre foot of water withdrawn from Handcart Gulch over the duration of the project. We will contract with Mountain Mutual Reservoir Company and North Fork Associates (MMRC/NFA) to lease 1.5 acre-feet of water from the start of the project through October 31, 2022. If a contract is not able to be obtained by the start of the project, Sierta will haul water from the nearest municipal water authority. Documentation will be provided to CO DRMS when obtained from the CO DWQ and MMRC.

Item 12: Depth to bedrock at Pad 6 is estimated to be 40 feet. It is estimated to be between 25 and 50 to bedrock at both Pads 7 and 8. The drill holes will be cased from the surface through to the base of overburden to isolate the boring from any perched groundwater that may be present. A steel, flush joint, 4-inch inside diameter casing will be used. The casing will be pulled from the hole during abandonment. We will abandon the holes using the tremie method, displacing casing with grout/neat cement as pulled.

Item 13: The access route to Pad 7 is approximately 550 feet long. From Webster Pass Road (FSR 121) it crossed ferricrete for a distance of about 400 feet at which point it crosses onto soil and rock debris at the base of an avalanche scar. Timber mats or similar plastic matting will be placed over soft, wet ground at the base of the avalanche scar for a distance of approximately 50 feet. The mats will be placed to prevent rutting of soil through this area. No timber mats are currently planned between FSR 121 and Handcart Gulch. The remaining 100 feet to the pad will be overland; topsoil will not need to be salvaged and replaced. The US Forest Service has tentatively approved overland travel to Pad 7, but stated that water bars are to be constructed, if necessary, to mitigate the potential for soil erosion. For overland travel roads and overland pads, tire tracks (e.g., trails created by overland travel and track rigs) will be lightly scarified,

if needed, and left in a rough state as necessary to relieve compaction, inhibit soil loss from runoff, and prepare the seed bed.

Item 14: Sierta, upon spreading the seed mixture during reclamation, will rake the seed mixture into the soil

Item 15: No other re-vegetation tasks are planned upon reseeding.

Item 16: Please see the attached email.

Item 17: Sierta will notify the Forest Service regarding any revisions to prospecting operations following the CO DRMS approval of the plan.

IF you have any questions, concerns or need anything else to complete the work at your end, I can be reached at [r.burger@verizon.net](mailto:r.burger@verizon.net) or 412-818-5659.

Thanks, and all the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Burger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Burger

Managing Member,  
Sierta, LLC

## Robert Burger

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**From:** Titterington, Amy -FS <amy.j.titterington@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** Robert Burger  
**Cc:** elliot.russell@state.co.us; John Deagan  
**Subject:** Red Cone updates

Hi Robert,

I wanted to update you on your Red Cone MPO.

The comment period closed on May 15 and no additional comments, beyond what I sent you, were received.

I have drafted your DM, however, district specialists have requested a site visit and the only available date this month is June 30. Assuming they don't have any additional concerns, we should be able to sign your Decision Memo (DM) and approve your plan shortly after that.

In the meantime, please work with Elliott to complete the DRMS process. You should also contact John Deagan with Park County to confirm no additional permits are needed.

Lastly, I'll need you to provide any updated correspondence from the Division of Water Resources regarding your administrative withdrawal.

Any questions, let me know. Thanks!



**Amy Titterington, PG, CMA I**  
**Geologist/ AML Coordinator**  
**Forest Service**  
**PSICC, South Park Ranger District**

**p: 719-836-3871**

**c: 719-838-0699**

**f: 719-836-3875**

**[amy.j.titterington@usda.gov](mailto:amy.j.titterington@usda.gov)**

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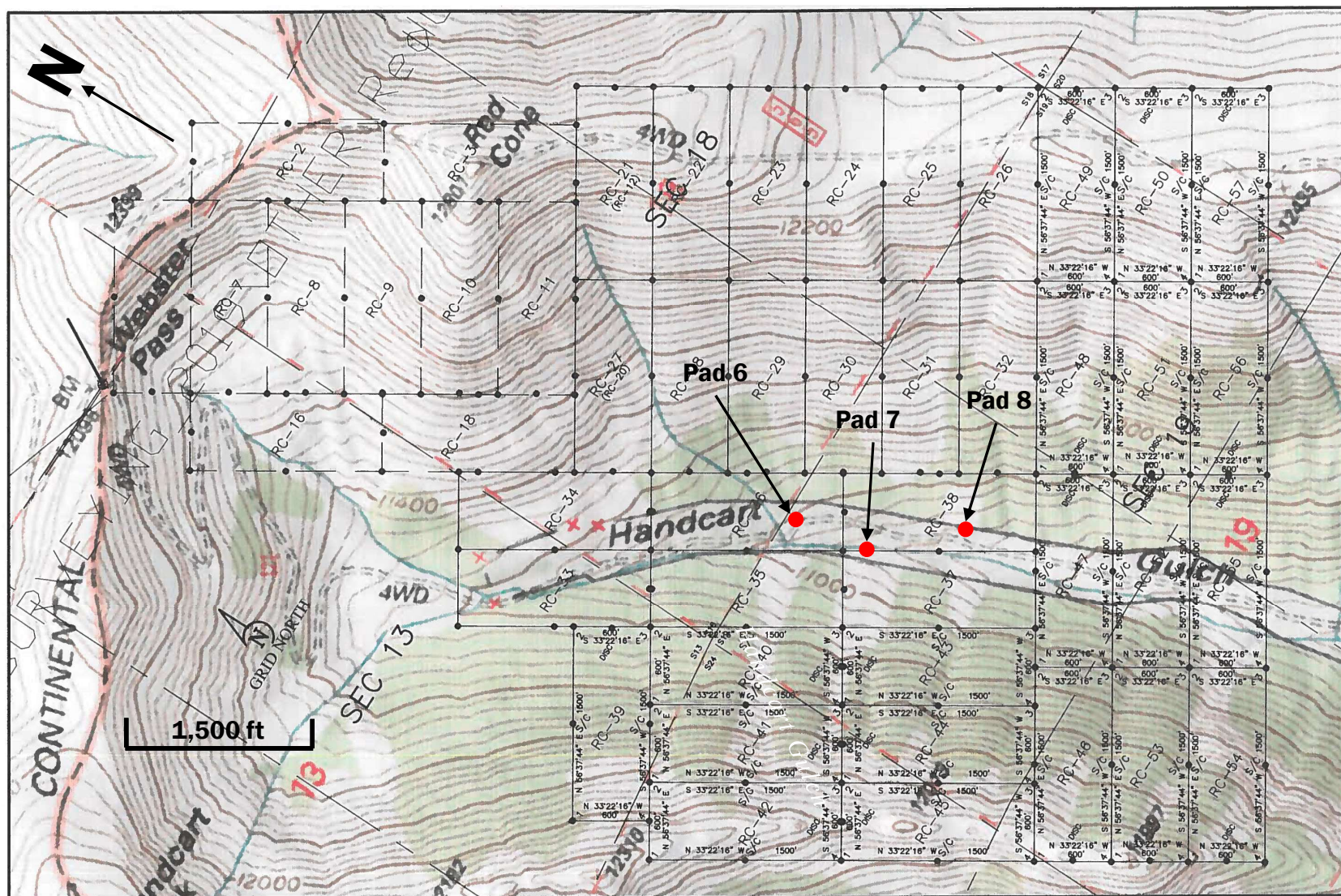


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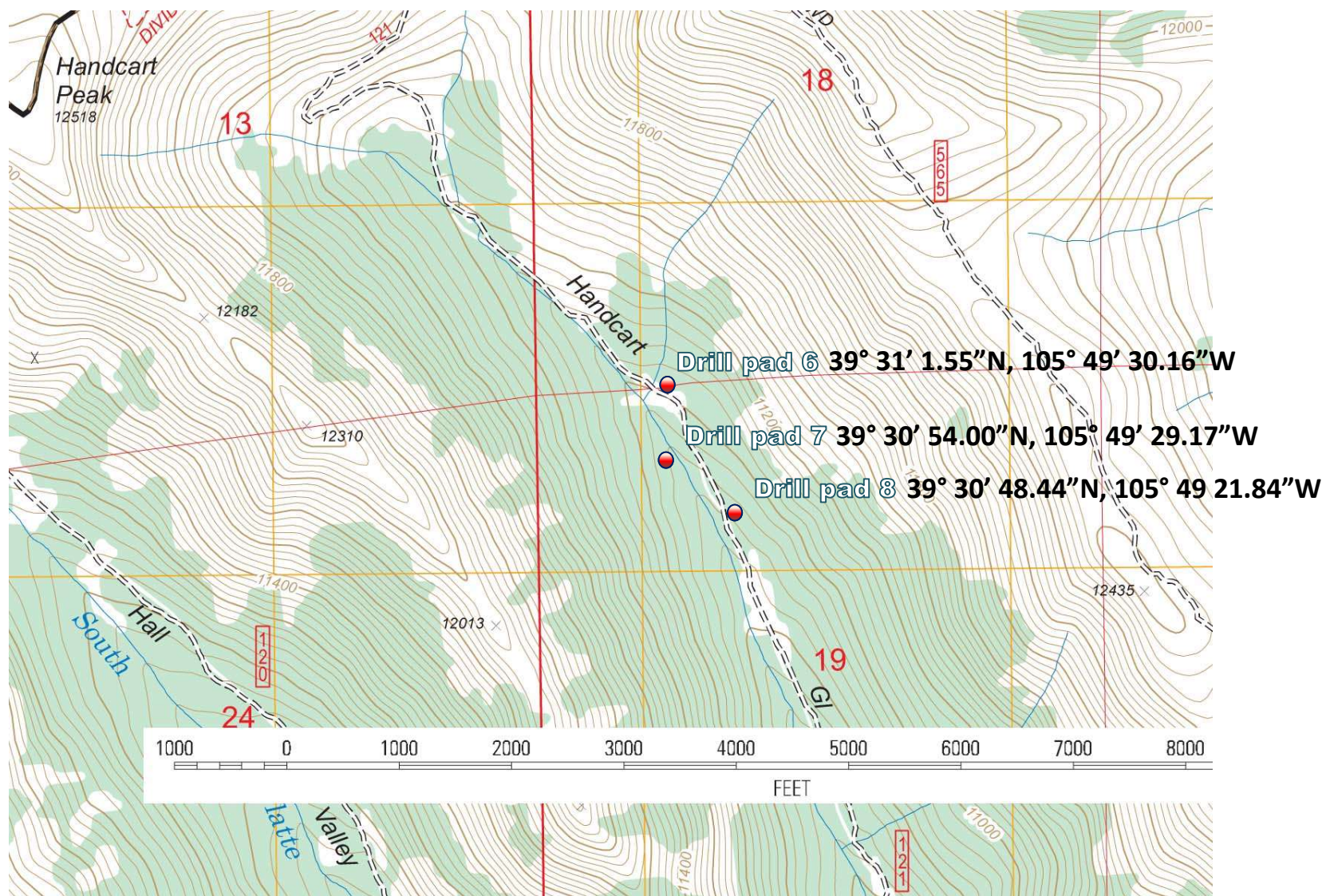


## Sierta Mineral Claims Block with Pad Locations





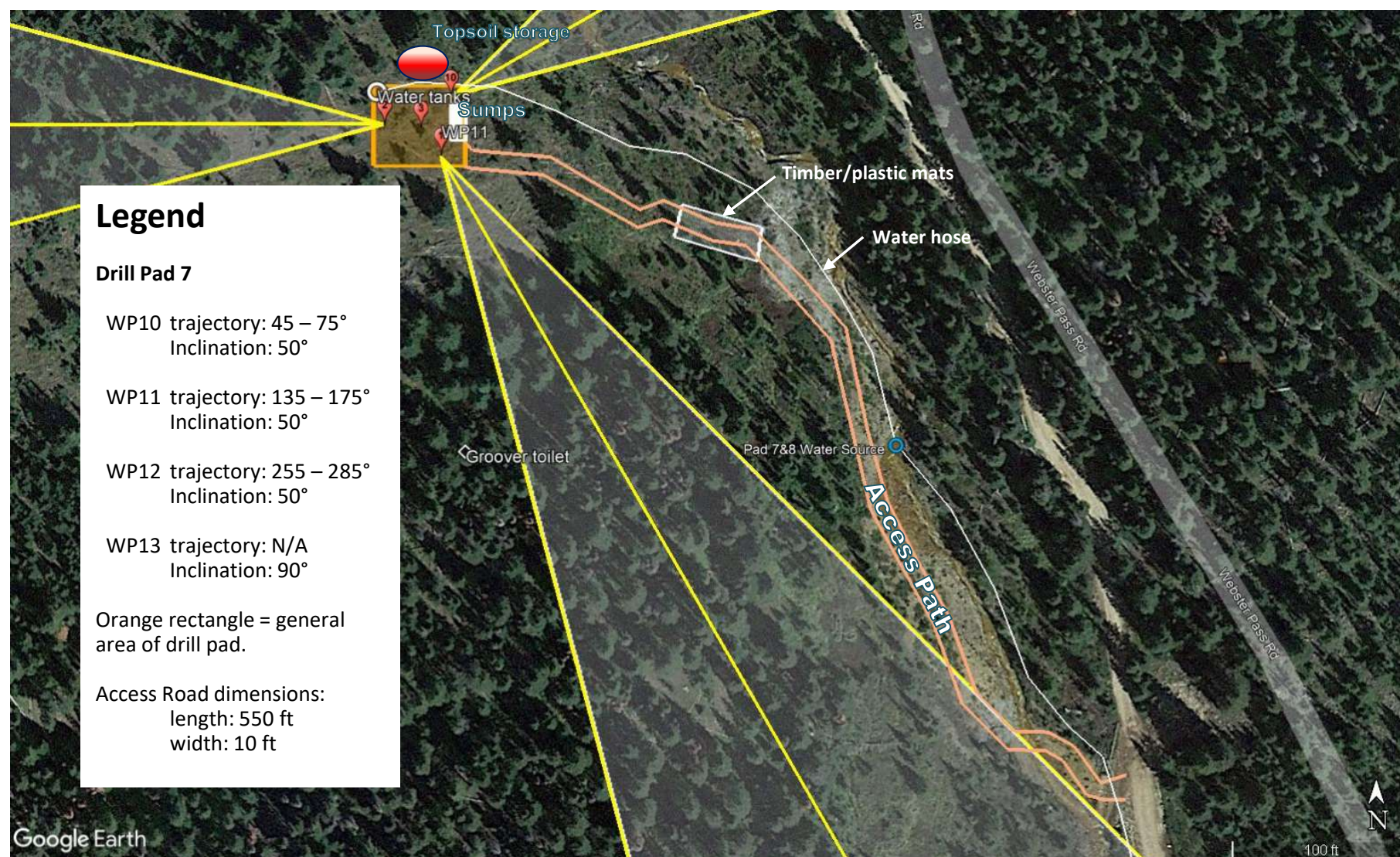
## Proposed drill pad locations, Redcone Prospect



Source: USFS Montezuma quadrangle, 2014

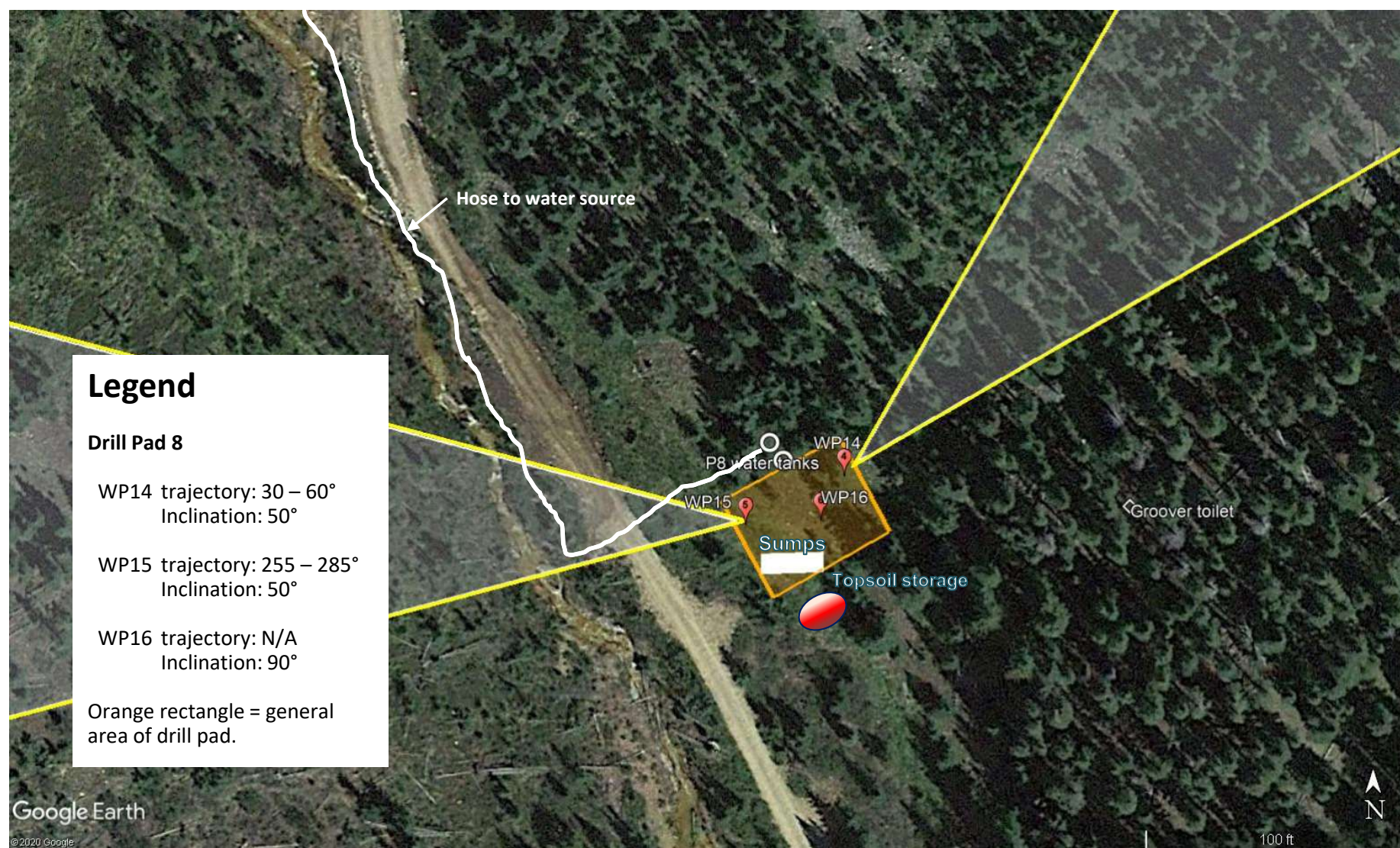


## Footprint of drill pad 7 and access road





## Footprint of drill pad 8





## Robert Burger

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**From:** Robert Burger <r.burger@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:12 PM  
**To:** 'RDouglas@parkco.us'; 'DElsner@parkco.us'; 'AMitchell@parkco.us'  
**Subject:** Notice of Filing for Mineral Prospecting

Dear Commissioners:

Sierta Redcone, LLC has filed for a permit with the US Forest Service to drill and prospect for minerals on our claims along Forest Road 121 (Handcart Gulch Road) in Pike National Forest.

We have also filed a notice-of-intent modification with the CO Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (NOI number P-2014-003).

As part of that modification, the CO DRMS requires this notice-of-filing with the Board of County Commissioners where prospecting will occur.

The activity is proposed to commence in July 2022 and last from one to two months.

All nonconfidential information regarding the proposed activities will be available for review at the CO DRMS website <https://mining.state.co.us>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks,  
Robert Burger

Robert M. Burger, P.G.  
Sierta Redcone, LLC  
[r.burger@verizon.net](mailto:r.burger@verizon.net)  
412-818-5659