

Permit M-1980-244
Cresson Project Amendment 14

Exhibit J
Vegetation Information

1 INTRODUCTION

Under this Amendment 14, no new vegetation disturbance outside of the already approved affected lands boundary will occur. As described in the Mining Plan, provided in Exhibit D, limited disturbance will occur at the Mill Area, Crusher Area, and Joe Dandy Hill to construct the Valley Leach Facility Expansion.

2 VEGETATIVE MAPPING

The vegetation information for the project site is based primarily on vegetation mapping conducted by Greystone Environmental Consultants in the late summer and early fall of 1999. It also is based on previous vegetation mapping and data compilation by JBR Environmental Consultants and Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V) in support of Amendment 7. Furthermore, Arcadis biologists visited the project site in 2007, 2011, and 2015 to verify mapped vegetation types within the affected areas as discussed in the Baseline Technical Report for Soils and Biological Resources (Arcadis 2011 and 2015) included in Appendix 5. Vegetation units identified include aspen-dominated woodlands; brush/montane scrub; open, conifer-dominated woodlands; dense, conifer-dominated woodlands; natural grasslands; disturbed grasslands; riparian woodlands; wet meadows; disturbed areas; and reclaimed areas.

Much of the area within the Valley Leach Facility Expansion is disturbed by historic and current mine-related activities (e.g., underground mine rock dumps, prospect pits, surface mines, overburden storage areas, roads). The site lacks dense vegetative cover in the Mill Area and Crusher Area. Joe Dandy Hill has existing vegetative cover which will be disturbed. Based on Figure 3-1 of Amendment 9, the vegetative cover on Joe Dandy Hill which will be disturbed consists primarily of:

- open conifer dominated woodland; and
- dense conifer dominated woodland

3 NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious weeds are not a significant problem within the proposed Amendment 14 project area, although certain noxious weed species are present in previously disturbed areas and along roadways. To control noxious weeds CC&V follows a Noxious Weed Management Plan, which was updated and submitted as Technical Revision (TR) 75 (TR-75) to M-1980-244. CC&V uses a third-party contractor to spray for noxious weeds annually.

4 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

The pale moonwort, reflected moonwort, and Rocky Mountain columbine are all listed as State rare plants. None of these special status plant species were observed in the survey area, and past survey data does not suggest the presence of these species in the survey area (Arcadis 2011 and 2015).

5 REFERENCES

“Baseline Technical Report for Soils and Biological Resources”, Arcadis, Highlands Ranch, CO, Tech. Rep. Cresson Project M-1980-244, Mine Life Extension 2 Project Area, November 2011.

“Baseline Technical Report for Soils and Biological Resources”, Arcadis, Highlands Ranch, CO, Tech. Rep. Cresson Project M-1980-244, Amendment No. 11. October 2015.