



Bureau of Land Management  
 Idaho Falls District Office  
 1405 Hollipark Drive  
 Idaho Falls, ID 83401



**HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS**

You can submit comment in four ways. You can mail your written comments to the BLM, you can email your comments to the BLM, you can fax your comments to the BLM, or you can submit your written comments on forms that will be available at the two public meetings.



The Draft EIS can be viewed at:

[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/nepa/Three\\_Rivers.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/nepa/Three_Rivers.html)

**CONTACT WITH THE BLM**

Comments regarding the proposed expansion of the Three Rivers Stone Quarry should be sent to:

**Chuck Horsburgh**  
 Project Manager

Three Rivers Stone Quarry Expansion  
 Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls District Office  
 1405 Hollipark Drive  
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401  
 Phone: (208) 524-7500  
 Fax: (208) 524-7505  
 Email: [Three\\_Rivers\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:Three_Rivers_EIS@blm.gov)



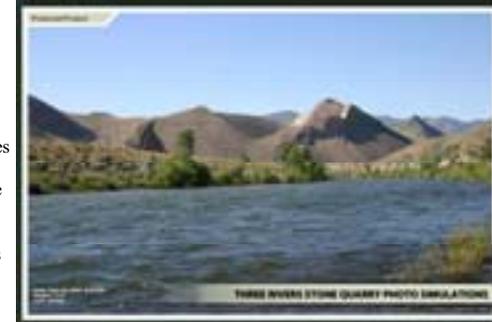
Bureau of Land Management Draft EIS Update  
 For the Three Rivers Stone Quarry  
 Challis Field Office – Bulletin 2

December 2007

**Three Rivers Stone Quarry DEIS Available for Public Review**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released for your review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Three Rivers Stone Quarry Expansion (DEIS). To ensure a complete analysis, we are asking you to help by reviewing this DEIS and providing comments. The comment period for this document will close on February 4, 2008, 45 days following the December 21, 2007, publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register.

In 2002, the Applicant, L&W Stone Company, submitted a proposed Amended Plan of Operations to the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls District, Challis Field Office, requesting to expand the quarry operations up to an additional 73 acres in order to increase mine production and to begin exploration to determine if additional marketable flagstone exists on their mining claims. The quarry is located roughly 5 miles east of the town of Clayton in Custer County, Idaho, just north of the confluence of the East Fork and Upper Salmon rivers.



**ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN THE DEIS**

**Alternative A:**

The No Action Alternative

**Alternative B:**

Continuation of the Interim Mining Plan

**Alternative C:**

Preferred Alternative from the 2004 EA

**Alternative D:**

Proposed Action

The Draft EIS considers four alternatives. These alternatives have been developed in accordance with CEQ regulations to provide decision-makers and the public with a clear basis for choice (40 CFR 1502.14). Based on the analysis of the action and no action alternatives, the BLM's preferred alternative at this time is Alternative D. A complete description of Alternative D and all other alternatives can be found in the DEIS.

BLM

Challis Field Office / Idaho



**ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN THE DEIS (continued)**

The BLM considered four alternatives that were not carried forward or analyzed in detail in the DEIS. These included the Applicant’s 1992 Plan of Operations, the Applicant’s Proposed Action from the 2004 EA, mining deeper in Pit 1, and the complete backfill of Pit 1.

The Applicant’s 1992 Plan of Operations, which proposed a maximum of 16.3 acres of surface disturbance for the quarry, was analyzed (EA #ID-040-3-4) and approved by the Challis Field Office on December 8, 1992. By August 2002 the operations had increased well beyond the approved 16.3 acres to over 50 acres in size. Implementation of the 1992 Plan of Operations is no longer feasible because the 16.3 acres proposed in the 1992 plan has been enveloped by the expanded operations.

The complete backfill of Pit 1 is not considered feasible or necessary. Partial pit backfill would occur under the BLM’s preferred alternative.

The Applicant’s Proposed Action in the 2004 EA was not selected as the Preferred Alternative in the 2004 EA because it did not include standard Best Management Practices and mitigating measures. For these reasons, it is not considered feasible for this DEIS.

Mining deeper in Pit 1 is not considered feasible due to water quality concerns, visual impacts, and proximity to the East Fork Salmon River Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE**

The BLM will review and analyze the comments received on this DEIS and will then publish a FINAL EIS and Record of Decision in the Summer of 2008.

ALTERNATIVE D OPERATIONAL FEATURES	
PERIOD OF OPERATIONS	40 YEARS
WORK FORCE	YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYEES: 66 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES: 46
ACRES OF SURFACE DISTURBANCE	
EXISTING	92 ACRES
PROPOSED NEW	73 ACRES
EXPLORATION	18 ACRES
TOTAL	183 ACRES
TOTAL MATERIAL REMOVED PER YEAR (WASTE ROCK AND FLAGSTONE)	300,000 TONS
NUMBER OF BLASTS PER MONTH	OVERBURDEN: 20 FLAGSTONE: 12
TRUCK LOADS OF FLAGSTONE LEAVING QUARRY PER YEAR	1,500 TO 2,000
WATER SOURCE	ON-SITE WELL
WATER USE	95,000 GALLONS, MAXIMUM DAILY USE

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE DEIS**

An opportunity for you to participate in the process and provide input on the DEIS will be provided through upcoming public meetings. Two public meetings are scheduled, one in Boise, and one in Challis, Idaho during the comment period to discuss the findings disclosed in this DEIS. These meetings will be an “Open House” format and will include displays providing project information and an overview of the planning and EIS process. Details of the time and location of the meetings are provided below. The meetings will also be announced through media releases. You are invited to attend one or both of the public meetings or send us your written comments before the scoping period ends on **February 4, 2008**.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS**

Those who do not comment on the DEIS, or otherwise participate in this EIS process, may have limited options to appeal or protest the final decision. Comments received on the DEIS, along with comments received during scoping or at other stages of this process, will be placed in the Administrative Record, where they will be available for public review.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



**ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING**

**BOISE, IDAHO**  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
4:00-7:30 p.m.  
Boise High School Cafeteria  
1010 West Washington Street

**CHALLIS, IDAHO**  
Thursday, January 17, 2008  
4:30-8:00 p.m.  
Challis Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria  
100 High Street

