

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (DEIS) was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Field Office, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in response to the proposed *Mine and Reclamation Plan* submitted by P4 Production, LLC (P4) (a wholly owned subsidiary of Monsanto Company, Inc.). P4 submitted an initial *Mine and Reclamation Plan* to the BLM in November 2005. In October 2008, the BLM received the *Revised Blackfoot Bridge Mine and Reclamation Plan* (2008 Revised Plan) from P4 (P4 2008a). The 2008 Revised Plan (and subsequent modifications) includes details of operational and reclamation activities proposed for the Blackfoot Bridge property. The 2008 Revised Plan proposes a new open pit phosphate mining operation on federal mineral leases that would include external overburden piles, a haulroad, and a water management plan. Processing would be conducted off site. Mining would also employ best management practices (BMPs) for control and prevention of releases of sediment, dissolved constituents, and trace elements, such as selenium, to nearby surface water and groundwater.

The project area is located in Caribou County, approximately 10 miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho (**Figure 1.1-1**). The Proposed Action would occur on land with surface rights administered by the BLM and three private landowners. All phosphate mineral rights in the project area are administered by the BLM. Mining is proposed for two Federal Phosphate Leases (I-05613 and I-013709). The leases convey to P4 the exclusive right and privilege, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease, to explore and develop the federally owned mineral estate and to use the surface of federal lands for related mine activities. The mineral leases and surface land ownership within the project boundary are shown on **Figure 1.1-2**. None of the federal surface or mineral rights within the project area are administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or are otherwise located near or within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF), and none of the lands within the project area are classified as inventoried roadless areas.

P4's Federal Phosphate Lease I-05613 was granted by the United States and issued in 1955, and Federal Phosphate Lease I-013709 was granted by the United States and issued in 1965. By regulation, phosphate leases are issued for an indefinite period. They exist as long as rentals and royalties are paid and as long as the terms and conditions of the lease are met. The lease terms and conditions are subject to reasonable readjustment every 20 years. Lessees may relinquish their leases at any time if they can show to the BLM's satisfaction that all terms and conditions of the lease, including reclamation, have been met, and that the public interest would not be impaired. Federal phosphate leases are not cancellable by the United States except by due process in the case where the lessee does not meet the terms and conditions of the lease. Leases typically can only be reacquired from a lessee by the United States via trade, purchase, or other compensation due to protections afforded by private parties, similar to the interests associated with leases. P4 also proposes to modify and enlarge the lease area.

As required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this DEIS describes the components of, reasonable alternatives to, and environmental consequences of recovery and reclamation of phosphate ore at the Blackfoot Bridge property. **Chapter 1** describes the purpose and need for the project, the role of the BLM and other regulatory agencies, summarizes public participation in the EIS process, and identifies those issues that would be addressed in this EIS. **Chapter 2** provides a complete description of the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action, and describes proposed environmental control measures to reduce or minimize impacts. **Chapter 3** describes the existing environment at the Blackfoot Bridge property. **Chapter 4** describes the potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives, and potential mitigation measures identified by the agencies. **Chapter 5** describes the potential cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives. **Chapter 6** describes the public participation and input process, consultation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as Native American consultation, and includes a list of preparers of this EIS. **Chapter 7** contains a list of references cited in developing this EIS, as well as an index, glossary, list of acronyms, and units of measure.

The BLM would use this EIS to determine whether or not the 2008 Revised Plan would be approved and whether the lease(s) would be modified to include additional areas. The BLM is serving as lead agency in preparing this EIS for the proposed Blackfoot Bridge Mine. IDL, IDEQ, and the USACE are participating as cooperating agencies. This EIS follows regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), the BLM implementing regulations found at 43 CFR Part 46, the U.S. Department of the Interior Departmental Manual and the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1), as well as USACE regulations for implementing NEPA found at 33 CFR 325 Appendix B. The agencies would evaluate which appropriate alternative and mitigation measures would be applied to their respective decisions, and evaluate methods to reduce or eliminate release of potential constituents and trace elements from the proposed mining activities.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need for the BLM is to evaluate and respond to the 2008 Revised Plan (Proposed Action) from P4 that proposes the recovery of phosphate ore reserves contained within the Blackfoot Bridge Federal Phosphate Leases I-05613 and I-013709, as directed by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The BLM is required to evaluate the 2008 Revised Plan submitted by P4 and issue decisions related to development of the phosphate leases, including alternatives that would occur within the lease boundaries, and decisions to modify or enlarge the existing leases. The USACE is required to evaluate and respond to P4's application for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act that is needed to implement the 2008 Revised Plan. This EIS provides the analysis upon which the BLM and other involved agencies can base such decisions.

The Proposed Action is needed to ensure economically viable development of the phosphate resources, as required by federal law and the federal leases, and to allow the lessee to exercise its right to develop the leases mentioned above.

Figure 1.1-1 Project Location

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Figure 1.1-2 Mineral Lease Holdings and Modifications and Surface Land Ownership

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1.3 AUTHORIZING ACTIONS

1.3.1 Decisions to be Made

The BLM Idaho State Director (Director), or other authorized officer, is the official responsible for this EIS and all on-lease lands and lease modifications, and would make the decision whether or not to issue the lease modifications and approve the 2008 Revised Plan or an alternative to the 2008 Revised Plan. The BLM would consider the following: comments and responses generated during the scoping and other opportunities for public comment; the proponent's rights to recover leased mineral resources; anticipated environmental and socioeconomic consequences discussed in this EIS; and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The BLM would prepare and sign the Record of Decision (ROD) that would consider whether to approve the requested phosphate lease modifications and proposed 2008 Revised Plan or alternatives.

A Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1344) permit would also be required by the USACE. A Joint Application for Permit was submitted to the USACE on December 22, 2008. The USACE would provide independent and separate decisions in response to the application. The USACE will issue a permit, issue a permit with required modifications, or deny the application for permit. Any decision to issue a permit will include measures to mitigate the impacts to affected waters of the U.S. including wetlands.

Enforcement of federal laws that protect listed wildlife and plant species and migratory birds is the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

1.3.2 Permits and Approvals

The proposed mining operations must comply with all laws and regulations for mining on public lands. In addition to the BLM, IDEQ, IDL, and USACE, other federal, state, and local agencies have independent and unique authorities over elements of the mining operations as well as over certain aspects of the Proposed Action and alternatives. **Table 1.3-1** lists the agencies and identifies their authorizing responsibilities.

P4 will be required to obtain the appropriate permit(s) for discharges of stormwater from the project. Discharge of stormwater requires the operator to obtain a permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In Idaho, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the permitting authority for NPDES permits. The Blackfoot Bridge site is currently authorized to discharge stormwater related to exploration and construction activities under the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities. This Construction General Permit was issued in 2003, and continues to cover P4 for stormwater discharges related to exploration and construction activities at the project site. Stormwater discharges associated with mining level activity would require P4 to obtain an individual NPDES permit and/or a new general NPDES permit, identified as the NPDES Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities (MSGP). The MSGP became effective in Idaho on February 26, 2009.

Table 1.3-1 Major Permits, Approvals, and Authorizing Actions Potentially Required for the Blackfoot Bridge Mine

Issuing Agency Permit/Approval Name	Nature of Permit/Approval	Authority	Applicable Project Component	Timing of Submittal of Permit/Approval	Status of Permit/Approval
USACE					
Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (Individual)	Authorizes placement of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. Part 1344)	Disturbances to waters of the United States including wetlands.	Permit must be obtained and approved prior to commencement of construction.	Pending. Application submitted to USACE on December 22, 2008.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service					
Endangered Species Act Compliance (Section 7)	Protects threatened and endangered species	Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. et seq.)	Any activity, such as displacement or habitat disturbance, that may affect listed or proposed threatened and endangered species.	Federal agencies must ensure that actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat prior to commencement of construction.	No listed species or designated critical habitat is present in the project area. Analysis is presented in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, Wildlife.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act	Protects migratory birds	Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711)	All surface-disturbing activities.	Impacts to migratory birds must be analyzed and, if applicable, mitigation measures developed prior to commencement of construction.	Analysis and mitigation measures presented in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, Wildlife.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	Protects bald and golden eagles	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668)	All surface-disturbing activities.	Impacts to eagles must be analyzed and mitigation measures developed prior to commencement of construction.	Analysis and mitigation measures presented in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, Wildlife; Bald Eagle Management Plan has been submitted.
BLM					
Record of Decision	Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act	National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)	Activities affecting federal lands and resources.	A ROD is required prior to commencement of construction.	Pending. Preparation of NEPA documentation is underway.
Mine and Reclamation Plan	Compliance with 43 CFR 3590.2a, 3592 1a; and the Pocatello BLM Resource Management Plan	43 CFR 3590.2a, 3592 1a	Activities affecting federal leased mineral resources.	Required prior to beginning operations.	Pending after ROD on the Final EIS.

Table 1.3-1 Major Permits, Approvals, and Authorizing Actions Potentially Required for the Blackfoot Bridge Mine

Issuing Agency Permit/Approval Name	Nature of Permit/Approval	Authority	Applicable Project Component	Timing of Submittal of Permit/Approval	Status of Permit/Approval
Lease Modification	Authorize expanding existing lease boundaries	Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq)	Expansion of existing Federal Phosphate Leases I-05613 and I-013709.	Approval must be obtained before commencement of mining activities on land covered by lease modification request.	Pending after ROD on the Final EIS.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency					
NPDES Permit	Authorize the discharge of stormwater	Section 402 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. Part1342)	Exploration, construction, active mining, and reclamation activities.	Permit must be obtained and approved prior to discharge of stormwater.	Pending: P4 currently has coverage for discharges from exploration and construction activities at the project site under NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities – 2003. P4 intends to submit a Notice of Intent for MSGP 2008 Permit for Industrial Activity and/or apply for an individual NPDES permit, if required by EPA.
Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC Plan)	Provides management direction for potential spills	SPCC Rule (40 CFR 112)	Bulk petroleum products storage.	Must be prepared and implemented prior to beginning operations.	Pending. SPCC Plan would be developed and implemented prior to commencement of operations.
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms					
High Explosives Permit	Possession of Explosives	18 U.S.C. 40; 27 CFR 555	Blasting in open pits.	Must be obtained prior to acquiring explosives.	Pending. Required high explosives permit would be obtained prior to commencement of construction.
Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)					
MSHA Registration Notice of Legal Identity Notice of Mine Opening or Closing MSHA Approval Mine Health & Safety	Filings required	30 CFR Part 41; 30 CFR Part 46	Mine installation.	No formal permitting requirements, but: -notification required for legal identity and mine opening and closing.	Pending: MSHA notification for legal identity to be submitted to MSHA prior to commencement of

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Issuing Agency Permit/Approval Name	Nature of Permit/Approval	Authority	Applicable Project Component	Timing of Submittal of Permit/Approval	Status of Permit/Approval
Training Plan				<p>-notice must be filed within 30 days after mine opening.</p> <p>Development and approval of Mine Health and Safety Training Plan prior to operation.</p> <p>Mandatory federal regulations for work safety must also be met (assumes Mine Plan approved).</p> <p>Routine mine inspections.</p>	<p>construction.</p> <p>Mine opening notification would be made to MSHA prior to commencement of operations.</p> <p>Mine Health and Safety Training Plan to be developed and implemented prior to commencement of operations.</p> <p>Mandatory federal regulations for worker safety would be complied with during construction and operations .</p>
IDEQ					
Air Quality Permit(s)	Controls release of air pollutants	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) 58 – Department of Environmental Quality 58.01.01 - Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho	Elements that contribute to air quality issues such as blasting, hauling, or crushing.	<p>Permit to construct must be obtained prior to commencement of construction, unless requirements of IDAPA 58.01.01 Section 213 are met.</p> <p>Tier I or Tier II Operating Permit may be required prior to beginning operations depending on emissions levels.</p>	Pending. Required permits would be obtained prior to commencement of construction.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program (adopted federal standards) Generator Status:	Management of hazardous waste	Idaho Hazardous Waste Management Act, Idaho Code Title 39 Chapter 44 (39-4401) and IDAPA 58.01.05, Rules and	<p>Temporary storage and off-site disposal of hazardous wastes.</p> <p>No treatment, disposal,</p>	Waste generator status must be determined prior to generation of hazardous wastes on site.	Pending. Waste generator status would be determined prior to generation of hazardous wastes.

Table 1.3-1 Major Permits, Approvals, and Authorizing Actions Potentially Required for the Blackfoot Bridge Mine

Issuing Agency Permit/Approval Name	Nature of Permit/Approval	Authority	Applicable Project Component	Timing of Submittal of Permit/Approval	Status of Permit/Approval
Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator		Standards for Hazardous Waste	and storage facilities would be required.		
Certification of Water Quality (Clean Water Act, Section 401)	Protects quality of navigable waters from discharges	Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1972; 33 U.S.C. Part 1341; Idaho Code Parts 39-101 et seq.; Idaho Code Parts 39-3601 et seq.	Required for any permit issued by a federal agency for any activity that may result in a discharge to navigable waters to ensure state water quality standards would be met.	Certification must be received prior to approval of a federal permit that may result in discharge to navigable waters. Federal permit and certification required prior to commencement of construction.	Pending. The Certification application would be issued prior to commencement of activities at the project site.
Groundwater Quality Rules	Protects quality of groundwater from contaminants	IDAPA 58.01.011 Groundwater Quality Rule	Potential infiltration of leachate products into groundwater.	No formal permitting requirements, but BMPs must be used throughout the life of the mine to avoid contamination of groundwater.	Pending. Develop and implement BMPs for groundwater protection prior to commencement of construction. Obtain compliance point determination from IDEQ.
Idaho Department of Water Resources					
Stream Channel Alteration Permit	Protection of perennial stream channels	Idaho Code Part 42-3803; IDAPA 37.03.07, Stream Channel Alteration Rules	Haul road crossings.	Permit application must be filed at least 60 days prior to commencement of construction and permit must be obtained prior to construction.	Pending. Required permits would be obtained prior to construction activities affecting perennial stream channels (e.g., haul roads).
Water Use Permit	Rights to surface water	Idaho Code Parts 42-201 et seq.; IDAPA 37.03.08, Water Appropriation Rules	Mine dewatering.	Permit must be obtained prior to commencement of dewatering activities.	Pending. Required permit to be obtained prior to commencement of dewatering activities.
Dam Construction Permit	Construction permit for dams	Idaho Administrative Code IDAPA 37.03.06, Department of Water Resources Safety of	Water Management Ponds (WMP-1, WMP-2) and Fish Pond.	Written approval required prior to construction.	To be submitted.

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Issuing Agency Permit/Approval Name	Nature of Permit/Approval	Authority	Applicable Project Component	Timing of Submittal of Permit/Approval	Status of Permit/Approval
		Dams Rules			
IDL					
Mine and Reclamation Plan Permit	Permit and bonding for reclamation	Idaho Code Parts 47-1501 et seq.	Mining and Reclamation Plan.	Reclamation Plan must be submitted and approved prior to beginning operations.	Pending. Approval would be obtained prior to commencement of mining activities.
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office					
National Historic Preservation Act Compliance Section 106	Protects cultural and historical resources	National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106; Idaho Code Parts 67-4113 et seq.; 36 CFR 800 Protection of Historic Properties	All ground-disturbing activities.	Consultation with State Historic preservation Office (SHPO) required prior to decision on Mine Plan.	Required consultation would occur prior to commencement of construction.
Caribou County					
Conditional Use Permit	Approval of facilities within an approved land use	Caribou County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 13	Required if landfill or petroleum remediation pad is constructed.	Permit must be obtained prior to commencement of construction.	Any required conditional use permit would be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

If P4's mine and reclamation plan is approved, a reclamation performance bond would be required for the Blackfoot Bridge Mine prior to any land disturbance activities. The bond calculation would be based on the selected alternative as identified in the Final EIS and ROD. This estimate would be refined as a condition of the ROD when all conditions of approval are known. P4 would post an actual-cost bond to ensure compliance with reclamation requirements. The calculation would be based on acres of disturbance and adjusted annually, as needed, when mine disturbance areas increase. The status of planned and actual mining and reclamation would be formally reviewed by P4 and BLM on an annual basis. These reviews provide the information to BLM to revise the required reclamation bond amounts, if necessary. As reclaimed areas are approved for release by the BLM, a lower bond amount for these areas may be requested by P4. Thus, it is not necessary for the federal government to require a bond for the entire life-of-mine reclamation scope of work; rather, there should always be enough bond in place to cover the maximum reclamation liability at any point in time during the mine life.

The amount of money required to reclaim the Blackfoot Bridge Mine would vary during the life of the operations because the disturbance would be created in incremental phases and would also be reclaimed concurrently with mining. The cost estimate would be based on the current mine plan and mining schedule, which are subject to change based on conditions such as economic environment and ore quality. The largest costs relate to earthwork including recontouring and construction of the final cover. Labor rates for the reclamation crews would be based on current Davis-Bacon rates. Equipment efficiencies and rates would be based on current cost reference guides. Agency administrative costs would be based on standard BLM guidance for reclamation bond estimating. Reclamation bonding calculations would also take into consideration the operation and maintenance of the necessary components of the water management system and plan for the project.

1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO BLM AND NON-BLM POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for compliance with agency policies, plans, and programs. One federal land management plan guides land use developments and activities in the project area: the BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1987), approved in 1988. The proposal conforms with decisions on minerals in the ROD issued for the RMP in 1988. The RMP is currently under revision, and until this revision is approved, the currently approved RMP will determine compliance.

1.5 PUBLIC SCOPING

A preliminary Mine and Reclamation Plan was submitted to the BLM in November 2005 (P4 2005). To allow an early and open process for establishing the scope of substantive issues related to the Proposed Action (40 CFR 1501.7), a public scoping period was provided by the BLM. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this EIS was published in the Federal Register on February 3, 2006. The NOI announced BLM's intent to conduct an environmental analysis of phosphate ore mining at the Blackfoot Bridge property. It also announced the dates of February 28 and March 1, 2006 for two public meetings to solicit and receive comments on the proposed project. Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register initiated a 56-day public scoping period

for the Proposed Action that provided for acceptance of written comments. A public mailing list was compiled, and scoping letters were sent to federal, state, Tribal, and local government agencies and members of the interested public. Details of scoping are presented in **Chapter 6** of this EIS. Public comments were solicited and then compiled in the Scoping Summary (April 2006) to help determine the issues and alternatives for evaluation in the environment analysis.

Identified concerns included potential effects of the project on water resources; socioeconomic conditions; livestock grazing; reclamation and restoration; wildlife and vegetation; soils; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; air quality; aesthetics; land use; scenic resources; hazardous and solid wastes; and cumulative effects as identified in more detail in **Section 1.7**.

1.6 TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS AND NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Federal agencies acknowledge the federal trust responsibility arising from Indian treaties, statutes, executive orders, and the historical relations between the United States and Indian Tribes. The federal government has a unique trust relationship with federally recognized American Indian Tribes, including the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 between the United States and the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes reserves the Tribes' right to hunt, fish, gather, and exercise other traditional uses and practices on unoccupied federal lands. In addition to these rights, the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes have the right to graze Tribal livestock and cut timber for Tribal use on those lands of the original Fort Hall Reservation that were ceded to the federal government under the Agreement of February 5, 1898, ratified by the Act of June 6, 1900.

The BLM and USACE have a responsibility and obligation to consider and consult on potential effects to natural resources related to the Tribes' treaty rights or cultural use. Government-to-government consultation with the Shoshone and Bannock Tribal Council is required on land management activities and land uses that could affect these rights. A formal government-to-government consultation process will be conducted between the agencies and the Tribes. To ensure a thorough assessment of issues and potential impacts to Native American Indians and their treaty rights, coordination with the Tribes would continue throughout the EIS process.

1.7 SCOPING ISSUES

The issues evaluated in this EIS are derived from the final Blackfoot Bridge Mine and Reclamation Plan Scoping Summary issued in April 2006. In that document, the comments received during scoping were summarized into categories, which became the basis for defining issues considered important to the public.

Public comments and agency direction concerning the scope of this EIS are grouped according to issues and summarized in **Table 1.7-1**. Some of these issues are mandatory topics that the agency must address based on regulatory requirements, and some were raised in comment letters from the public. This table also provides references to the sections of this EIS that respond to each issue raised in the comments.

Table 1.7-1 Issues Identified in Scoping

Issue	EIS Document Section(s)
Water Resources	
The potential effects of trace elements, including selenium, in the overburden to contaminate soil and surface water resources.	Chapters 4 and 5 Soil and Water Resources
The potential effects on groundwater and surface water quantity and quality.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
The potential effects of backfill or overburden material leaching contaminants into the groundwater.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
The potential effects of water and land contamination from trace elements in the overburden.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
The potential effects on streams and surface water bodies and the compliance with water quality standards and regulations.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
The potential effects of excavating below the water table and the proposal for dewatering the pits.	Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
The potential effects on the Blackfoot River by runoff from the mine.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
Proposed Action	
The energy options and conservation potential included as part of the Proposed Action.	Chapter 2 – Proposed Action
The Proposed Action should include development and implementation of BMPs.	Chapter 2 – Proposed Action
Soils and Geology	
The depletion of geologic (phosphate) resources.	Chapter 2 and Chapters 4 and 5 Geologic Resources
The potential effects on soil erosion and sedimentation of area streams.	Chapters 4 and 5 Soils
The potential effects on topography and paleontologic resources.	Chapters 4 and 5 Soils
Air Quality	
The potential for emission of air pollutants including those associated with particulate matter.	Chapters 4 and 5 Air Quality
Social-Economics	
The potential effects on the short- and long-term regional economy.	Chapters 4 and 5 Social and Economic Resources
The potential effects on local economy including recreation, values associated with the ecosystem, and biodiversity.	Chapters 4 and 5 Social and Economic Resources Chapters 4 and 5 Biological Resources
The potential effects of the project on the rural/urban status of the local communities.	Chapters 4 and 5 Social and Economic Resources
Visual Resources	
The potential degradation of scenic quality for area receptors.	Chapters 4 and 5 Visual Resources
Environmental Justice	
The potential effects on people of race, color, religion, or income.	Chapters 4 and 5 Environmental Justice

Table 1.7-1 Issues Identified in Scoping

Issue	EIS Document Section(s)
Wildlife, Vegetation, and Fisheries	
The potential effects of habitat loss on wildlife populations, both resident and migratory, including threatened or endangered species, bald eagle, elk, deer, and grouse.	Chapters 4 and 5 Terrestrial Wildlife and Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species
The potential effects on prime and unique agricultural lands.	Chapters 4 and 5 Vegetation
The potential effect on the spread or introduction of exotic plant species and noxious weeds.	Chapters 4 and 5 Vegetation
The potential for fragmentation of habitat and loss of biodiversity.	Chapters 4 and 5 Wildlife
The potential effect on fish populations and their habitat, and the potential habitat degradation of the Blackfoot River.	Chapters 4 and 5 Fisheries
Revegetation using species important to wildlife such as aspen and dark timber.	Chapters 2 Proposed Action and included BMPs
Wetlands And Floodplains	
The potential effects on wetlands and riparian habitat.	Chapters 4 and 5 Vegetation, Riparian Areas, and Wetlands
The potential effects on wetlands in State Lands Creek resulting from potential loss of subsurface water.	Chapters 4 and 5 Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands
Cultural Resources	
The potential effects on important scientific, archeological, and other cultural resources including historic properties listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.	Chapters 4 and 5 Cultural Resources
Tribal Treaty Rights and Interests	
The potential effects on access relevant to Tribes exercising Treaty Rights and Interests.	Chapters 4 and 5 Tribal Treaty Rights and Interests
The potential effects on sacred sites and Indian Trust resources.	Chapters 4 and 5 Tribal Treaty Rights and Interests
Land Use	
The potential effects to and from livestock grazing, including the potential degradation of riparian vegetation and water quality, and the possibility of eliminating grazing during the project life.	Chapters 4 and 5 Land Use and Access
The potential effects of mining on current land use plans.	Chapters 4 and 5 Land Use and Access
The potential effects on the use of private lands.	Chapters 4 and 5 Land Use and Access
The proposed schedule for the lease modification and its possible ramifications.	Chapters 4 and 5 Land Use and Access
Hazardous and Solid Wastes	
The potential for hazardous materials entering the environment.	Chapters 4 and 5 Hazardous and Solid Wastes
The fate and transport of materials resulting from the mining process.	Chapters 4 and 5 Hazardous and Solid Wastes
The potential effects of mining activities contributing to hazardous materials entering the environment.	Chapters 2, 4, and 5 Description of Proposed Action and Hazardous Materials

Table 1.7-1 Issues Identified in Scoping

Issue	EIS Document Section(s)
Reclamation/Restoration	
The potential effects of mine disturbance on reclamation, closure, and restoration success.	Chapter 2 Description of Proposed Action
The potential effects of a complete or total backfill alternative on the area environment.	Chapter 2 Project Alternatives
The potential effects of a partial-backfill alternative on the area environment.	Chapter 2 Project Alternatives
The potential procedures and calculations for a reclamation bond.	Chapter 1 Authorizing Actions
Cumulative Effects	
The potential cumulative effects of phosphate mining and other land use activities on the area environment including logging, grazing, recreation, and road use.	Chapter 5 Cumulative Effects
The potential cumulative effects of active livestock grazing and the proposed project on riparian health.	Chapter 5 Cumulative Effects
Public Health and Safety	
The potential effects of selenium contamination in the human food supply.	Chapters 4 and 5 Water Resources
Wilderness and Ecologically Critical Areas	
The potential effects on wilderness values, ecologically critical areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or other unique natural resources.	Chapters 4 and 5 Land Use and Access

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