



SMOKY CANYON MINE, PANELS F & G

Final Environmental Impact Statement



US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest



US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pocatello Field Office



Cooperating Agency:
Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SMOKY CANYON MINE, PANELS F & G

LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District
Pocatello Field Office

JOINT LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest

COOPERATING AGENCY: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT LOCATION: Caribou County, Idaho

DATE FINAL EIS FILED WITH EPA: October 2007

QUESTIONS ON THE FINAL EIS
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ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes impacts related to the development of Panels F and G at the J.R. Simplot Smoky Canyon Mine in Southeastern Idaho. The Proposed Action includes developing two mine pits, haul roads, and overburden disposal areas. Use of existing support and mill facilities would continue. Alternatives to the Proposed Action are also analyzed and site specific mitigation measures developed. The Preferred Alternative is a compilation of mining alternatives which reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action. Transportation routes in the Preferred Alternative would be the same as the Proposed Action alignments. In consideration of comments on the Draft EIS and additional information, changes from the Draft EIS have been made and include improved effectiveness of the cover design in the Preferred Alternative, and more detailed monitoring and mitigation. The 30-day availability period begins on the date the EPA Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register; the availability period ends:

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL FOR EIS: Idaho State Director
Bureau of Land Management

USDA

USDA Forest Service
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Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for J.R. **Simplot** Company's Smoky Canyon Mine, Panels F and G proposed mine expansion. The Final EIS was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with cooperation from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. It analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of a proposal to continue phosphate mining, for another 14 years, using the existing Smoky Canyon Mine infrastructure while expanding pits, haul **access/roads**, and overburden disposal facilities to the south. Six different mining alternatives, a no-mining alternative, and eight different ore transportation alternatives were analyzed.

Public comment on the Draft EIS was extensive and in consideration of those comments and additional information, modifications were made and responses to comments were incorporated into this Final EIS. The Final EIS has been prepared as a complete, two-volume, **full-text** document, and is being distributed either as hardcopy in a three-hole punched format, or compact disc, and is also posted on the Internet.

Concurrent with this distribution, the BLM filed the Final EIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA will then publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. On the publication date of the EPA's NOA in the Federal Register, a 30-day availability period will commence. In addition to the EPA's NOA, BLM will publish a separate NOA with additional information in the Federal Register and in local newspapers. Following the close of the availability period, BLM and USFS will each issue a separate Record of Decision (ROD) for activities under their respective jurisdiction. Copies of each ROD will be mailed to people and entities on the Panels F and G project mailing list. Notices of these decisions will be published in local newspapers. Each ROD will have an appeal period before the decision becomes effective. Each ROD will contain the appropriate instructions for appeal.

The FEIS is a completed document. If you have information for agency consideration in making our decisions, it can be sent to the following addresses and must be received by the end of the availability period:

Smoky Canyon Mine FEIS
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NOV 26 2007

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If you would like further information on this project, questions can be directed to Bill Stout, BLM Project Manager, (208) 478-6340 or to Jeff Jones, USFS, (208) 236-7500.

Thank you,

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Forest Supervisor
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Joe Krayenbrink
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Smoky Canyon Mine Panels F & G Final EIS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME I

1.0	INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE & NEED	1-1
1.0	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Purpose and Need	1-5
1.2	Authorizing Action	1-5
1.3	Relationship to Agency and Other Policies and Plans	1-8
1.4	Public Scoping	1-11
1.5	Tribal Treaty Rights and Native American Consultation.....	1-14
1.6	Issues and Indicators	1-16
1.7	Additional Information	1-24
2.0	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.2	Project History	2-1
2.3	Existing Operations.....	2-3
2.4	Proposed Action	2-18
2.5	Environmental Protection Measures Common to All Alternatives	2-33
2.6	Alternatives to the Proposed Action	2-40
2.7	Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.....	2-69
2.8	Features Common to the Proposed Action and Action Alternatives	2-77
2.9	Summary Comparison of Alternatives.....	2-77
2.10	Monitoring, Mitigation, and Agency Preferred Alternative	2-90
3.0	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	3-1
3.1	Geology, Minerals and Topography	3-1
3.2	Air Resources and Noise	3-28
3.3	Water Resources	3-36
3.4	Soils	3-76
3.5	Vegetation.....	3-101
3.6	Wetlands.....	3-112
3.7	Wildlife Resources	3-119
3.8	Fisheries and Aquatics.....	3-138
3.9	Grazing Management	3-161
3.10	Recreation and Land Use	3-165
3.11	Inventoried Roadless Areas/Recommended Wilderness and Research Natural Areas.....	3-179
3.12	Visual and Aesthetic Resources	3-186
3.13	Cultural Resources	3-200
3.14	Native American Concerns and Treaty Rights Resources	3-208

3.15	Transportation.....	3-215
3.16	Social & Economic Resources.....	3-217
3.17	Environmental Justice.....	3-249
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	4-1
4.1	Geology, Minerals, and Topography.....	4-2
4.2	Air Resources and Noise.....	4-14
4.3	Water Resources.....	4-30
4.4	Soils.....	4-110
4.5	Vegetation.....	4-122
4.6	Wetlands.....	4-131
4.7	Wildlife Resources.....	4-142
4.8	Fisheries and Aquatics.....	4-163
4.9	Grazing Management.....	4-176
4.10	Recreation and Land Use.....	4-189
4.11	Inventoried Roadless Areas/Recommended Wilderness and Research Natural Areas.....	4-198
4.12	Visual and Aesthetic Resources.....	4-209
4.13	Cultural Resources.....	4-216
4.14	Native American Concerns and Treaty Rights Resources.....	4-2223
4.15	Transportation.....	4-232
4.16	Social & Economic Resources.....	4-239
4.17	Environmental Justice.....	4-251
5.0	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.....	5-1
5.1	Geology, Minerals and Topography.....	5-1
5.2	Air and Noise.....	5-10
5.3	Groundwater Resources.....	5-14
5.4	Surface Water Resources.....	5-25
5.5	Soils.....	5-37
5.6	Vegetation.....	5-41
5.7	Wetlands.....	5-44
5.8	Wildlife.....	5-45
5.9	Fisheries and Aquatics.....	5-52
5.10	Grazing Management.....	5-58
5.11	Recreation and Land Use.....	5-62
5.12	Inventoried Roadless Areas.....	5-66
5.13	Visual and Aesthetic Resources.....	5-69
5.14	Cultural Resources.....	5-71
5.15	Native American Concerns and Treaty Rights Resources.....	5-73
5.16	Transportation.....	5-77
5.17	Social & Economic Conditions.....	5-78

6.0	CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	6-1
6.1	Public Participation Summary	6-1
6.2	Criteria and Methods by Which Public Input will be Evaluated	6-4
6.3	Government to Government Consultation.....	6-5
6.4	List of Preparers and Reviewers.....	6-22
6.5	Mailing Lists	6-25

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.2-1	Major Permits, Approvals, and Consultations Potentially Required for the Smoky Canyon Mine, Panels F & G	1-6
Table 1.5-1	Contact Between Tribes and Agencies	1-16
Table 2.3-1	Land and Mineral Ownership.....	2-4
Table 2.3-2	Hazardous Materials Management, Simplot Smoky Canyon Project	2-16
Table 2.4-1	Estimated Conceptual Timeline for Panels F & G Proposed Action	2-19
Table 2.4-2	Proposed Action Haul/Access Road Disturbance.....	2-20
Table 2.4-3	Proposed Action Disturbance Areas (in Acres)	2-28
Table 2.4-4	Proposed List of Appropriate Revegetation Species	2-32
Table 2.4-5	Comparison of Disturbance and Reclamation Areas for the Proposed Action.....	2-32
Table 2.6-1	Summary of Disturbance and Reclamation Areas for the Mining Alternatives (Acres)	2-41
Table 2.6-2	Alternative A Disturbance Areas for Panel F on Lease (in Acres).....	2-43
Table 2.6-3	Gradation For Cover Materials	2-50
Table 2.6-4	Moisture Retention Properties Of Cover Materials	2-51
Table 2.6-5	Summary Comparison of Transportation Alternative Dimensions.....	2-58
Table 2.9-1	Comparison Summary of the Mining Components of the Proposed Action and the Mining Alternatives	2-78
Table 2.9-2	Comparison Summary of the Transportation Components of the Proposed Action and the Transportation Alternatives	2-84
Table 2.10-1	Surface Water Monitoring Stations.....	2-93
Table 2.10-2	Agency Preferred Alternative Impacts	2-107
Table 2.10-3	Reclamation Cost Estimate (2006 \$).....	2-109
Table 3.1-1	Panels F and G Overburden Description.....	3-9
Table 3.1-2	Whole Rock Selenium Concentrations (mg/Kg)	3-11
Table 3.1-3	Metal Detections in Panels F and G Saturated Paste Extracts.....	3-12
Table 3.1-4	Saturated Paste Extractable Selenium Concentrations (mg/Kg)	3-13
Table 3.2-1	State of Idaho and National Ambient Air Quality Standards	3-29
Table 3.2-2	Federal Mandatory Class I Airsheds Nearest the Smoky Canyon Mine Project	3-31
Table 3.2-3	Permitted Industrial Emission Sources - (within 60 Miles).....	3-32

Table 3.2-4	Sound Levels Associated with Ordinary Noise Sources	3-33
Table 3.2-5	Sound Levels Associated with Existing Smoky Canyon Mine Activities	3-36
Table 3.2-6	Background Noise Measurements Collected South of Mining Operations.....	3-36
Table 3.3-1	Recent Selenium Sampling Results – Lower South Fork Sage Creek and Sage Creek – Reaches Currently Impacted by Mining.....	3-48
Table 3.3-2	Subsurface Fines Data for Area Streams (from Maxim 2004c)	3-56
Table 3.3-3	Sediment Benchmark Levels used by IDEQ (2002b)	3-57
Table 3.3-4	Groundwater Discharge from Wells Formation and Brazer Limestone in the Study Area	3-65
Table 3.3-5	Monitoring Well Completion Data - Panels F & G.....	3-67
Table 3.3-6	Recharge into the Wells Formation and Brazer Limestone in the Study Area.....	3-68
Table 3.3-7	Springs Exceeding the Selenium Surface Water Standard	3-73
Table 3.4-1	Soil Map Unit Descriptions	3-82
Table 3.4-2	Criteria Used To Determine Topsoil/Growth Medium Suitability.....	3-85
Table 3.4-3	Topsoil/Growth Medium Suitability Parameters for Soils in the Project Area.....	3-87
Table 3.4-4	Suitable and Marginally Suitable Reclamation Soils in the Panel F and G Project Area.....	3-89
Table 3.4-5	Erosion Potential and Hydrologic Characteristics of Soils in the Project Area.....	3-93
Table 3.4-6	Roads and Development Suitability.....	3-96
Table 3.4-7	Maximum Selenium and Trace Element Concentrations for Sampled Soils within the Project Area.....	3-99
Table 3.5-1	Vegetation Cover Types, Acres, Relative Occurrence, and Principal Plant Species in the Study Area	3-102
Table 3.5-2	Sensitive Species Known or Suspected to Occur on the CNF	3-108
Table 3.6-1	Wetland area and functional unit score	3-117
Table 3.7-1	Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Wildlife Species Known or Suspected to Occur on the Caribou National Forest.....	3-120
Table 3.7-2	USFS Sensitive Wildlife Species Known or Suspected to Occur on the Caribou National Forest.....	3-123
Table 3.7-3	Tree Size-Class Distribution for Forested Acres within the Goshawk Evaluation Area	3-129
Table 3.7-4	MIS and Associated Habitat for the Caribou National Forest	3-129
Table 3.8-1	Macroinvertebrate Data Summary of Stream Reaches Sampled in Study Area.....	3-139
Table 3.8-2	SMI, SDI, and SFI Scoring and Rating Categories.....	3-140
Table 3.8-3	Fish abundance in study area streams, from Issak (2001) and meyer et al. (2003)	3-141
Table 3.8-4	Species Composition, Relative Abundance, Biomass, and Trophic Composition for Streams in the Study Area.....	3-144

Table 3.8-5	Fish Population Parameters for Sampling Units of Deer Creek....	3-145
Table 3.8-6	Population and Biomass Estimates for Quantitative Sampling Units of Deer Creek (100-meter Depletion Sampling Unit)	3-146
Table 3.8-7	Young-of-Year Population and Biomass Estimates for Quantitative Sampling Units of Deer Creek (100-meter Depletion Sampling Unit)	3-146
Table 3.8-8	Fish Population Parameters for Sampling Units of Crow Creek ...	3-147
Table 3.8-9	Population and Biomass Estimates for Quantitative Sampling Units of Crow Creek (100-meter Depletion Sampling Unit)	3-147
Table 3.8-10	Young-of-Year Population and Biomass Estimates for Quantitative Sampling Units of Crow Creek (100-meter Depletion Sampling Unit)	3-148
Table 3.8-11	Sensitive Fish Species Known or Suspected to Occur on the CNF	3-149
Table 3.8-12	Comparison of YCT abundance in the study area between the 1980's and 1999-2000 (Meyer et al. 2003)	3-150
Table 3.8-13	Substrate Composition Summary	3-153
Table 3.8-14	Trace Element Analysis Summary for fish (maxim)	3-156
Table 3.8-15	Trace Element Analysis Summary For Fish (GYC)	3-160
Table 3.9-1	Range Allotment Information for the Study Area	3-164
Table 3.10-1	Trails within the Study Area	3-169
Table 3.10-2	Special Use Authorizations	3-175
Table 3.13-1	Previous Cultural Resource Inventories in the Project Area	3-205
Table 3.13-2	Cultural Resource Sites in the Project Area	3-206
Table 3.13-3	Eligible or Unevaluated Cultural Resource Sites in the Project Area by Alternative Component	3-207
Table 3.14-1	Summary of Communication	3-214
Table 3.16-1	Land Ownership	3-220
Table 3.16-2	Population in the 27-County Area Analyzed for Indirect and Induced Employment, 2002 Estimates	3-221
Table 3.16-3	Labor Force and Unemployment	3-222
Table 3.16-4	Employment by Industrial Sector Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Basis in the Four Counties, 1970-2000	3-223
Table 3.16-5	Employment by Industrial Sector, 2002 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Basis	3-224
Table 3.16-6	Labor Force and Employment in the 27-County Area Analyzed for Indirect and Induced Employment, 2002	3-225
Table 3.16-7	Personal Income by Source (SIC Basis) in the Four Counties, 1970-2000	3-227
Table 3.16-8	Personal Income by Source, 2002 (NAICS Basis)	3-229
Table 3.16-9	Personal Income in the 27-County Area Analyzed for Indirect and Induced Employment, 2002	3-230
Table 3.16-10	Total and Travel-related Employment in Lincoln County, Wyoming	3-230
Table 3.16-11	Employment and Average Wage for Mining and Travel-related Industrial Sectors, Lincoln County, Wyoming 2003	3-231

Table 3.16-12	Local Government Finances.....	3-232
Table 3.16-13	Housing Units in the Crow Creek Valley by Census Block	3-232
Table 3.16-14	Agricultural Production	3-233
Table 3.16-15	Agricultural Economics.....	3-234
Table 3.16-16	United States Supply of Phosphate Rock, Thousand Tons.....	3-235
Table 3.16-17	United States Supply of Ammonium Phosphate Fertilizers, Thousand Tons P ₂ O ₅	3-236
Table 3.16-18	Phosphate Fertilizer Production in the U.S., Tons P ₂ O ₅	3-236
Table 3.16-19	United States Trade in Diammonium Phosphate, Thousand Tons	3-237
Table 3.16-20	Idaho Phosphate Sales and Royalties for Operations on Federal Land	3-240
Table 3.16-21	Idaho Phosphate Industry Employment, Bannock, Caribou, and Power Counties	3-241
Table 3.16-22	JR Simplot Co. Don Fertilizer Plant & Smoky Canyon Mining Operations 2005 Wages and Salaries Paid to Employees by County	3-244
Table 3.16-23	JR Simplot Co. Purchases of Vendor Supplied Goods and Services by State	3-245
Table 3.16-24	JR Simplot Co. Purchases of Vendor Supplied Goods and Services in Idaho by County.....	3-247
Table 3.16-25	JR Simplot Co. Don Plant and Smoky Canyon Mine Employment by Employee County of Residence.....	3-248
Table 4.0-1	Agency Preferred Alternative Impacts	4-2
Table 4.1-1	Transportation Alternatives Approximate Cross Section Dimensions.....	4-11
Table 4.1-2	Transportation Alternatives Initial and Final Topographic Disturbance Areas	4-11
Table 4.2-1	Total Proposed Action Air Emissions (Tons)	4-16
Table 4.2-2	Alternative A Air Emissions (Tons)	4-18
Table 4.2-3	Alternative B Air Emissions (Tons)	4-18
Table 4.2-4	Alternative C Air Emissions (Tons)	4-19
Table 4.2-5	Alternative D Air Emissions (Tons).....	4-19
Table 4.2-6	Alternative F Air Emissions (Tons)	4-20
Table 4.2-7	Proposed Action Air Emissions-Roads (Tons).....	4-20
Table 4.2-8	Transportation Alternative Emissions (Tons).....	4-21
Table 4.2-9	Measured Sound Levels for Applicable Noise Sources	4-24
Table 4.2-10	Sound Levels for Access Road	4-29
Table 4.3-1	Results of Infiltration Modeling for Proposed Action (inch/year)	4-34
Table 4.3-2	Column Leachate Analytical Parameters.....	4-36
Table 4.3-3	Number of Sample Results Exceeding Regulatory Standards	4-37
Table 4.3-4	article Size Adjustments For Selenium Chemistry (mg/L).....	4-39
Table 4.3-5	Weighted Average Pore Water Chemistries for ROM Overburden (mg/L)	4-41
Table 4.3-6	Pore Water Chemistries for Chert Overburden (mg/L)	4-43
Table 4.3-7	Selenium Attenuation Summary	4-49

Table 4.3-8	Peak Concentrations at Groundwater Observation Points for Proposed Action	4-52
Table 4.3-9	Peak Concentrations at Groundwater Discharge Points for Proposed Action	4-52
Table 4.3-10	Groundwater Discharges Potentially Affected by the Proposed Action	4-60
Table 4.3-11	COPC Concentrations in Rex Chert Groundwater Under the Panel G South Overburden Fill.....	4-64
Table 4.3-12	Modeled Peak Selenium Concentrations for Mining Alternatives A to c (mg/L).....	4-65
Table 4.3-13	Modeled Peak Concentrations at Observation Points for alternative d in DEIS.....	4-72
Table 4.3-14	Modeled Peak Concentrations at Discharge Points for alternative d in DEIS.....	4-72
Table 4.3-15	Modeled Peak Concentrations at Observation Points for alternative d store and release cover (0.6 in/yr)	4-76
Table 4.3-16	Modeled Peak selenium Concentrations at Discharge Points for alternative d store and release cover (0.6 in/yr)	4-76
Table 4.3-17	Percent of Watershed Area in a Hydrologically Disturbed Condition	4-88
Table 4.3-18	Reduction in Contributing Watershed Area due to Pits and Overburden Storage Areas (%).....	4-88
Table 4.3-19	Estimated Selenium Concentrations in Area Streams, for proposed action and alternatives a, b, and c.....	4-90
Table 4.3-20	Percent of Watershed Area in a Hydrologically Disturbed Condition – Alternative A	4-94
Table 4.3-21	Percent of Watershed Area in a Hydrologically Disturbed Condition – Alternative D.....	4-96
Table 4.3-22	Estimated Selenium Concentrations in Area Streams for alternative d store and release cover (0.6 in/yr)	4-96
Table 4.3-23	Estimated Selenium Concentrations in Sage Creek and Crow Creek for Alternative D Store and Release Cover (0.6 in/yr), Assuming Successful Hoopes Springs Selenium Removal Action	4-97
Table 4.3-24	Additional Percent of Watershed in a Hydrologically Disturbed Condition-due to Transportation Alternatives	4-100
Table 4.3-25	Comparison of Road Characteristics.....	4-100
Table 4.3-26	Sediment Loading to Streams from Transportation Alternatives Road Erosion (Tons/Year Average)	4-101
Table 4.3-27	Area of Road Alternatives Crossing Meade Peak Shale Outcrop.	4-101
Table 4.4-1	Summary of Disturbance and Reclamation Areas for the Mining Alternatives (Acres)	4-115
Table 4.4-2	Road Suitability Ratings for Soils Present along Transportation Alternative Routes	4-119
Table 4.4-3	Summary Comparison of Transportation Disturbance Areas (Acres).....	4-121

Table 4.5-1	Acres of Vegetation Cover Disturbed under the Proposed Action	4-123
Table 4.5-2	Change in Acres of Vegetation Disturbed by the Mining Alternatives Relative to the Proposed Action.....	4-127
Table 4.5-3	Change in Acres of Vegetation Disturbed under the Transportation Alternatives Relative to the Proposed Action	4-129
Table 4.6-1	Proposed Action Disturbance to Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	4-133
Table 4.6-2	Mining Alternatives Disturbance to Wetlands and Waters of the U.S	4-136
Table 4.6-3	Transportation Alternatives Disturbance to Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	4-138
Table 4.7-1	Tree Size-Class Distribution for Forested Acres within the Goshawk Evaluation Area Following Implementation of Mining Alternative D.....	4-149
Table 4.8-1	Feet Of Stream Channel (Intermittent And Perennial) and Acres of Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZs) Disturbed by the Proposed Action	4-164
Table 4.8-2	Feet of Stream Channel (Intermittent and Perennial) and Acres of AIZs Disturbed by the Mining Alternatives Relative to the Proposed Action	4-169
Table 4.8-3	Feet of Stream Channel (Intermittent and Perennial) Directly Disturbed, Acres of AIZs Disturbed, and Predicted Changes in Sedimentation under the Transportation Alternatives Relative to the Proposed Action	4-171
Table 4.9-1	Reduction in Suitable Acres due to Mining Components and Alternatives.....	4-178
Table 4.9-2	Direct Losses of AUMs due to mining Components and alternatives	4-179
Table 4.9-3	Indirect Aum Loss Due To The Proposed Action Mining	4-180
Table 4.9-4	Disturbed Area within Grazing Allotments by the Mining Alternatives and Proposed Action (Acres).....	4-182
Table 4.9-5	Disturbed Area within Grazing Allotments by the Transportation Alternatives and the Proposed Action Haul/Access Roads (Acres).....	4-184
Table 4.11-1	Acres of Disturbance by the Proposed Action within the SCRA and the MPRA	4-199
Table 4.11-2	Acres of Disturbance by the Transportation Alternatives within the SCRA and the MPRA	4-206
Table 4.13-1	Cultural Resource Site Impacts by Alternative	4-218
Table 5.1-1	Past Disturbance: Phosphate Mines of Southeast Idaho	5-4
Table 5.1-2	Present Disturbance: Current Mining Operations at End of 2004 (Acres).....	5-6
Table 5.1-3	Foreseeable Mine Disturbance Areas (Acres).....	5-6
Table 5.4-1	Past and Present Land Uses Through 2004 and Vegetative Cover Types Within the Surface Water CEA	5-28

Table 5.4-2	Area Wide Investigation Surface Water Results for the Surface Water CEA	5-29
Table 5.4-3	2003 – 2004 Site Investigation Sampling of Stream Water in the CEA.....	5-32
Table 5.8-1	Past and Present Disturbances in the Wildlife CEA	5-47
Table 5.8-2	Reasonably foreseeable Actions in the Wildlife CEA	5-49
Table 5.10-1	Past and Present Disturbance in the Grazing CEA	5-58
Table 5.11-1	Land Ownership in the Land Use and Recreation CEA.....	5-63
Table 5.11-2	CNF Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the Recreation Land Use CEA.....	5-63
Table 5.12-1	Past and Present Disturbances in the Sage Creek and Meade Peak IRAs	5-68
Table 5.13-1	CNF Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) in the CEA	5-70

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.0-1	Location Map.....	1-3
Figure 1.0-2	Existing and Proposed Operations	1-4
Figure 1.0-3	Phosphate Mine Leases, Known Phosphate Lease Areas, Inventoried Roadless Areas (1996)	1-13
Figure 2.3-1	2004 Historic and Existing Operations	2-5
Figure 2.3-2	Open Pit Mining at Smoky Canyon.....	2-6
Figure 2.4-1	Proposed Action Ultimate Pit Map.....	2-21
Figure 2.4-2	Typical Haul/Access Road.....	2-22
Figure 2.4-3	Pit E-0 Area to be Backfilled from Panel F	2-27
Figure 2.4-4	Proposed Action Final Configuration Map	2-30
Figure 2.5-1	Overburden Cover Design.....	2-39
Figure 2.6-1	Alternative A-Panel F Ultimate Pit Map without Lease Modifications	2-44
Figure 2.6-2	Alternative A-Panel F Final Configuration Map without Lease Modifications	2-45
Figure 2.6-3	Alternative B-Final Configuration without Seleniferous External Overburden	2-46
Figure 2.6-4	Alternative C-Final Configuration without Any External Overburden	2-47
Figure 2.6-5	Alternative D-Store and Release Cover.....	2-54
Figure 2.6-6	Alternative D-Dinwoody Shale Borrow Pits and Stockpiles	2-55
Figure 2.6-7	Alternative E-Power Line Along Haul/Access Road	2-60
Figure 2.6-8a	Transportation Alternatives.....	2-61
Figure 2.6-8b	Unreclaimed Areas for Transportation Alternatives	2-62
Figure 2.6-9	Transportation Alternatives with IRAs	2-63
Figure 2.6-10	Conveyor Characteristics	2-66
Figure 2.6-11a	Crow Creek/Wells Canyon Access Road-South Half	2-67
Figure 2.6-11b	Crow Creek/Wells Canyon Access Road-North Half	2-68
Figure 3.1-1	Surface Geology and Faults	3-3
Figure 3.1-2	Panel F Area Cross Section	3-4
Figure 3.1-3	Panel G Area Cross Section.....	3-5

Figure 3.1-4	Stratigraphic Section	3-6
Figure 3.1-5	Ecological Conceptual Site Model	3-21
Figure 3.2-1	Noise	3-34
Figure 3.3-1	Location Map – Water Resources	3-39
Figure 3.3-2	Aquatic Influence Zones	3-40
Figure 3.3-3	Surface Water Monitoring Stations in Study Area	3-41
Figure 3.3-4	Panel F East-West Cross Section	3-60
Figure 3.3-5	Panel F North-South Cross Section	3-61
Figure 3.3-6	Panel G East-West Cross Section.....	3-62
Figure 3.3-7	Panel G North-South Cross Section.....	3-63
Figure 3.3-8	Monitoring Well Locations	3-64
Figure 3.3-9	Modeled Potentiometric Surface and Groundwater Flow Direction	3-69
Figure 3.4-1	Soil Mapping Units of Panel F	3-78
Figure 3.4-2	Soil Mapping Units of Panel G.....	3-79
Figure 3.4-3	Order 3 General Soils of Transportation Area	3-80
Figure 3.5-1	Vegetation Cover Types in Project Area	3-103
Figure 3.5-2	Noxious Weeds	3-110
Figure 3.6-1	Wetlands	3-113
Figure 3.7-1	Big Game Winter Range.....	3-132
Figure 3.7-2	Western Toad Habitat at Sage Meadows.....	3-137
Figure 3.8-1	Fisheries and Aquatics Survey Locations.....	3-142
Figure 3.9-1	Grazing Allotments in the CEA	3-163
Figure 3.10-1	USFS Road Designations and Recreational Points.....	3-168
Figure 3.10-2	Private Owners.....	3-173
Figure 3.10-3	Management Prescriptions – Suitable Timber.....	3-174
Figure 3.10-4	Land Status and Special Use Permits	3-177
Figure 3.11-1	Inventoried Roadless Areas of Sage Creek, Meade Peak and Gannett Spring	3-180
Figure 3.12-1	Visual Quality Objectives.....	3-189
Figure 3.12-2	Viewshed.....	3-193
Figure 3.12-3	Viewshed.....	3-194
Figure 3.12-4	Viewshed.....	3-195
Figure 3.12-5	Viewshed.....	3-196
Figure 3.12-6	Viewshed.....	3-197
Figure 3.12-7	Viewshed.....	3-198
Figure 3.12-8	Viewshed.....	3-199
Figure 3.16-1	Four-County Area Directly Affected by the Don Plant and Smoky Canyon Mine	3-217
Figure 3.16-2	Area Analyzed to Determine the Indirect and Induced Employment due to the Don Plant and the Smoky Canyon Mine .	3-218
Figure 3.16-3	Industrial Production Index for the Agricultural Chemical Industry.....	3-238
Figure 3.16-4	Unemployment Rate for Bannock, Caribou, and Power Counties, Idaho	3-242
Figure 4.3-1	Weighted Average Panel G Backfill Selenium Concentration.....	4-41

Figure 4.3-2	Location of Points for Modeled COPC Concentrations.....	4-53
Figure 4.3-3	0.05 mg/L Selenium Plume at 47 yrs., Proposed Action	4-54
Figure 4.3-4	0.005 mg/L Selenium Plume at 100 yrs., Proposed Action	4-57
Figure 4.3-5	0.05 mg/L Selenium Plume at 48 yrs., Alternative A	4-68
Figure 4.3-6	0.005 mg/L Selenium Plume at 100 yrs., Alternative A	4-69
Figure 4.3-7	0.05 mg/L Selenium Plume at 50 yrs., Alternative B	4-70
Figure 4.3-8	0.005 mg/L Selenium Plume at 100 yrs., Alternative B	4-73
Figure 4.3-9	0.05 mg/L Selenium Plume at 50 yrs., Alternative C	4-74
Figure 4.3-10	0.005 mg/L Selenium Plume at 100 yrs., Alternative C	4-75
Figure 4.3-11	0.005 mg/L Selenium Plume at 100 yrs., Alternative D	4-78
Figure 4.7-1	View of Mature Forest and Recently Reclaimed Area	4-143
Figure 4.12-1	Visual Simulation-Looking East Toward Panel G	4-213
Figure 5.1-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Geology, Minerals, and Topography	5-3
Figure 5.2-1	Cumulative Effects for Air and Noise Resources.....	5-12
Figure 5.3-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Groundwater Resources	5-15
Figure 5.3-2	Site Investigation Wells	5-18
Figure 5.4-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Surface Water, Soils, Vegetation, Wetlands, Fisheries and Aquatics, Visual/Aesthetics, Cultural, and Noise Resources	5-27
Figure 5.8-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Wildlife	5-46
Figure 5.10-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Grazing Management	5-59
Figure 5.11-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Recreation and Land Use	5-64
Figure 5.12-1	Cumulative Effects Area for Inventoried Roadless Areas	5-67

Smoky Canyon Mine Panels F & G Final EIS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME II

7.0	COMMENTS AND RESONSE	7-1
7.0	Public Comments.....	7-1
7.1	Original Response Demographic Summary.....	7-3
7.2	Organized Response Summary.....	7-6
7.3	Comments and Responses.....	7-10
8.0	REFERENCES, INDEX, ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY	8-1
8.1	List of References.....	8-1
8.2	Index.....	8-41
8.3	Acronyms.....	8-49
8.4	Units of Measure.....	8-54
8.5	Glossary.....	8-55
8.6	Explanations of Impacts.....	8-61

LIST OF TABLES

Table 7.1-1	Geographic Representation of Response by State.....	7-4
Table 7.1-2	Number of Responses/Signatures by Organizational Affiliation.....	7-5
Table 7.1-3	Number of Responses/Signatures by Response Type.....	7-6
Table 7.1-4	Number of Responses/Signatures by Delivery Type.....	7-6
Table 7.2-1	Forms.....	7-7
Table 7.3-1	Comment Letters Alphabetically by Author.....	7-395
Table 7.3-2	Comment Letters Numerically.....	7-408

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 2A	Smoky Canyon Mine CERCLA Investigations and Response
Appendix 2B	Stream Crossing Analysis
Appendix 2C	Environmental Commitments and BMPs for Haul/Access Roads
Appendix 2D	BMPs for Erosion, Sedimentation, and Selenium Control
Appendix 2E	Monitoring Plan
Appendix 3A	Water Resources
Appendix 3B	Spawning Gravel Requirements for Cutthroat Trout
Appendix 3C	Selenium Bioaccumulation
Appendix 4A	Watershed Erosion Prediction Project Modeling
Appendix 4B	Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Biological Evaluation
Appendix 7A	Federal, State, and Local Agencies and Elected Officials Comment Letters on the DEIS