



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grants Pass Resource Area
2164 N.E. Spalding
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 27 2010

1792(ORM070)

Dear Neighbor and Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has initiated planning and will begin analysis for the Reelfoot Placer Mining Plan of Operations proposal on public lands in the Sucker Creek watershed (T.40S, R.7W, section 1) (see attached map). The mining plan was submitted by Mr. Don Bean in accordance with the 43 CFR 3809—Surface Management Regulations.

Mr. Bean holds mining claims in the area of his proposed Plan of Operations. Under the mining regulations BLM is required to process the application and perform the required NEPA analysis for his plan as per 43 CFR 3809.401 through 3809.420; and as per the Medford District Resource Management Plan, which states, "Maintain exploration and development opportunities for leasable and locatable energy and mineral resources" (1995 RMP p. 76). If approved, this project will be consistent with the BLM's Medford District Resource Management Plan as well as other applicable regulations that BLM is required to follow.

We are sending you this letter because you live or own property near the project area; have been involved in previous BLM projects planned or implemented in the vicinity; have a special interest in this watershed; or have requested to be informed about projects of this type. The enclosed map shows the planning area for this project.

We received a proposed Plan of Operations from Mr. Bean to mine an area of approximately 1.8 acres, with a total of 2.5 acres of ground disturbance adjacent to Sucker Creek. Mr. Bean's proposal is to construct three settling ponds, 150 feet of road, and excavate a pit to bedrock to extract gold and potentially other minerals from BLM lands. The area to be mined measures approximately 500 feet long by 90 feet wide at the south end and up to 200 feet wide at the north end. Bedrock depth is known to be variable in the area, ranging from near surface to 35 feet or more. Material would be processed through a processing unit, and tailings would be returned to the pit as he moves through the Plan of Operations area. Excavation is proposed to be within 75 feet of Sucker Creek. An 8 to 10 foot high, 20 foot wide, and 50 foot in length rip-rap berm would be constructed at the high water mark at the south end of the pit to prevent flow of Sucker Creek through his operations. Mr. Bean is also required to follow state regulations to prevent turbidity and other impacts to Sucker Creek. Reclamation is part of the mining plan, and the area would be reclaimed concurrent with mining. Vegetation removed would be placed in an area designated by BLM and may be used for aquatic habitat enhancement in Sucker Creek. Mr. Bean estimates that the operation will take two years.

Environmental analysis will be prepared to evaluate the impacts of the proposed mining Plan of Operations, and potential mitigation measures that may be required as part of mining

operations. The purpose of the analysis is to determine if the Plan of Operations can be authorized as submitted or if additional mitigation measures are needed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, protect threatened and endangered species, or protect cultural resources (43 CFR 3908.420). These measures may be analyzed in a separate alternative.

In this early phase of project planning, our objective is to identify site-specific resource concerns that should be considered during project planning. If you have information you feel we should consider, please include it in your comments.

Early comments are especially helpful to us. We would greatly appreciate receiving your scoping comments by August 26, 2010. This is not, however, the only opportunity you will have to provide input on this project. Upon completion of the EA, you will have another opportunity for review and comment.

If you have any questions you may contact Tony Kerwin at 541-471-6564. If you have specific questions about the mining regulations, please contact Diane Parry at (541) 618-2353. Please send your written comments to me at the above address or you can email them to me at Medford_Mail@blm.gov.

If you would like to comment, but confidentiality is of concern to you, you may request that we withhold your name and address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Please state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

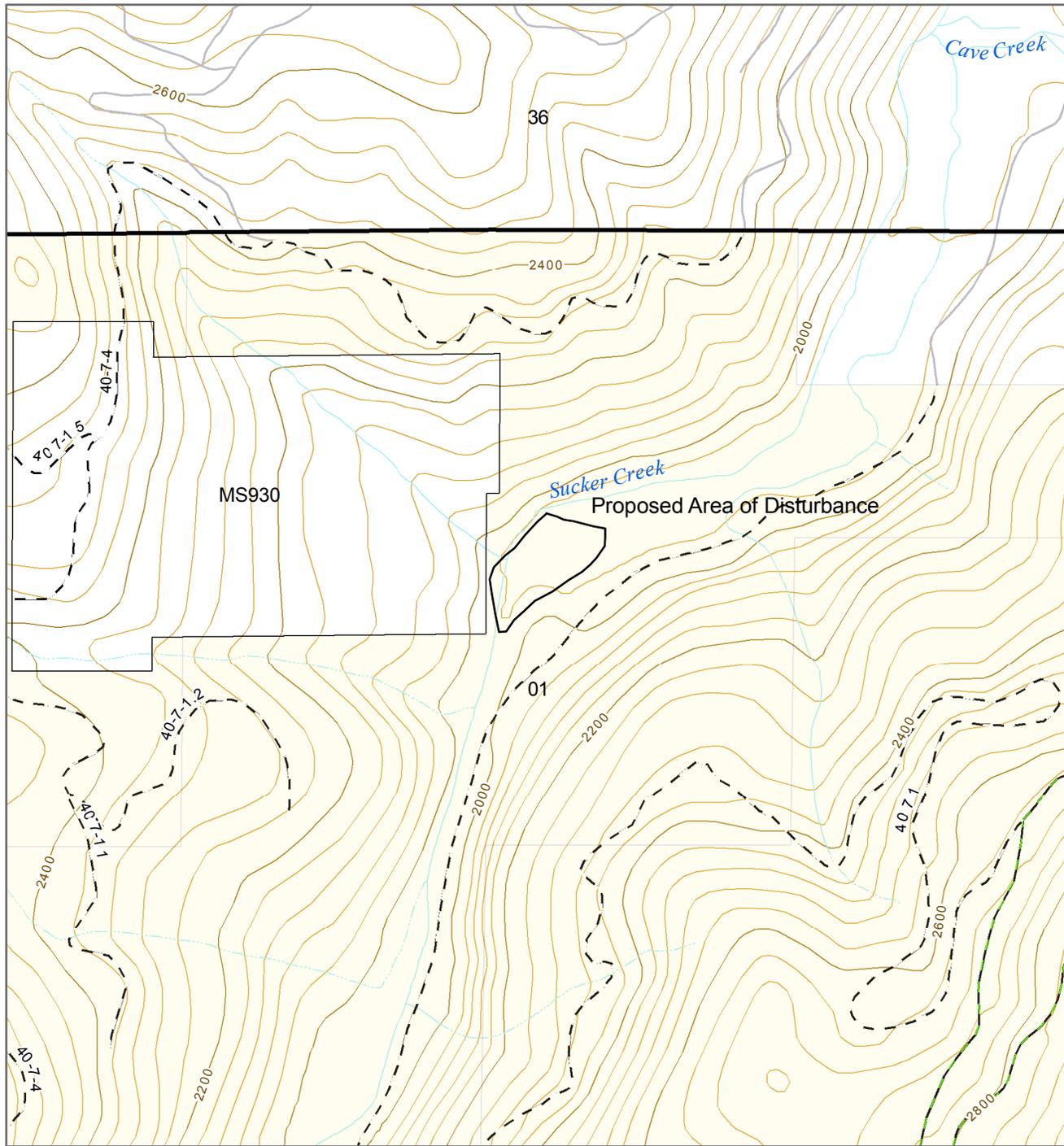
Sincerely,



Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

Enclosure

Sucker Creek_Reelfoot Plan of Operations



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

1:8,000



Legend

BLM

Road

- Bureau of Land Management
- County route
- Forest Service
- Other state route
- Municipal route (urban, residential, etc.)
- Private road (no symbol)
- Not Known

Stream

- Intermittent/seasonal
- Perennial

Resource Area: Grants Pass
 Map Created On: Jul 21, 2010

This Map Was created using the Map Series Extension.
 The maps series grid was designed by Sean Mohren, District Wildlife/Botany Data Steward, Medford BLM.
 541-618-2530

NAD 83 - Zone 10