



Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov>

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## Fwd: New mine activity

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Hawes, David <rhawes@blm.gov>

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 3:20 PM

To: Allison Dixon <allison@jakesrun.com>

Ms. Dixon: I apologize. Since December, I've had 7 vacancies in my humble office of 20.

Anyway, as the mining claims-holder, Kirkland Mining Company is allowed to conduct exploration activities in the vicinity of the stockpile area. The company may disturb up to 5 acres under the 1872 Mining Law and the "43 CFR 3809 Regulations." The company proposed doing exploration drilling and removing up to 1,000 tons bulk sample, as allowed in the regulations, to provide to potential vendors for their physical and marketability testing.

The BLM may monitor for compliance with the 3809 mining notice, which we have done once so far on March 2, 2016. (At that time, the operation was observed to be in compliance with the mining notice and the regulations, was in the process of the exploratory drilling, had disturbed less than 5 acres, and was beginning to remove a portion of the 1,000 ton bulk sample.) BLM's future monitoring will be unannounced. The BLM also ensures that regulatory requirements for information submission are met and an adequate and acceptable reclamation bond is in place.

Based on the exploration, the BLM will make a determination as to the "locatability" of the material using all available information and data including that provided by the company. If and when the company chooses to proceed after the exploration phase, the BLM's process will follow on the proposal from the company, which will either be a 3809 Plan of Operations for locatable minerals, or a "43 CFR 3600" Mineral Materials Sale Application for common variety (sand, gravel, etc.) minerals. Either way, at that point the BLM may (and will) conduct a public review process, environmental analysis, and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding any Skull Valley area mining operation.

Riparian Areas – a riparian area is the interface between land and a river or stream. Plant habitats and communities along the river margins and banks are called riparian vegetation, characterized by hydrophilic plants (in Arizona, rushes, sedges, willow, ash, sycamore, and cottonwood trees). The BLM identifies a functioning riparian area as having adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to:

- Dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflows, thereby reducing

erosion and improving water quality

- Filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development
- Improve flood-water retention and ground-water recharge
- Develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action
- Develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses
- Support greater biodiversity.

Finally, thank you for the photos.

— Rem Hawes

Hassayampa Field Manager

BLM Phoenix District

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