

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-17 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Boulder AML Safety Closures-Gold Run and Silver Walk

PLANNING UNIT: Northeast Resource Management Plan, September 1986

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Boulder County, Sixth Principal Meridian
Gold Run T1N, R72W, Section 12 and Section 13
Silverwalk T1N, R71W, SW Section 07

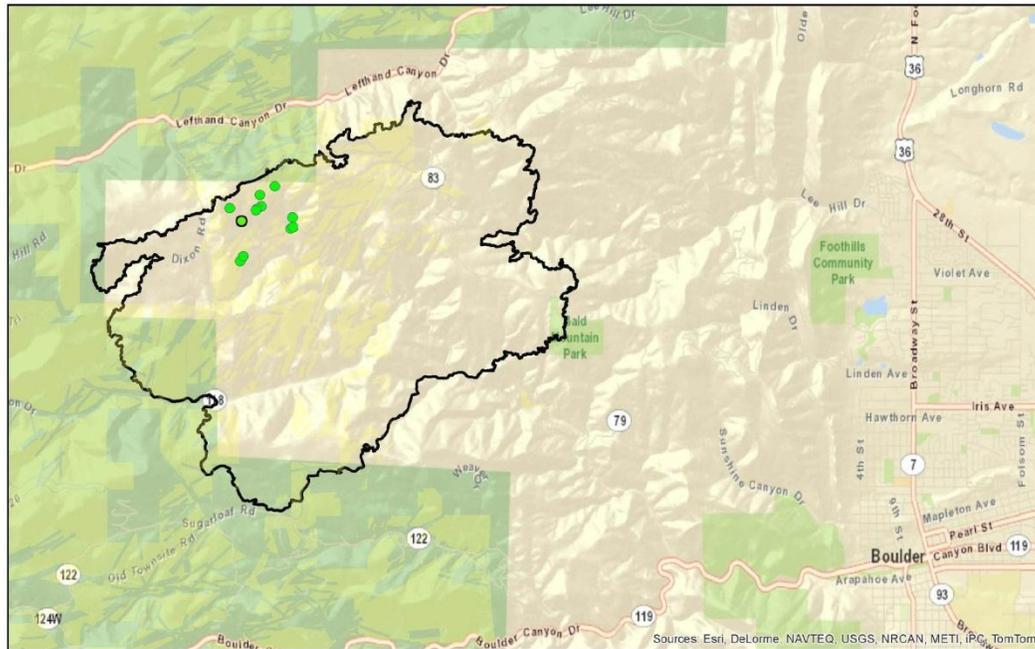
APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION The proposed action is to safeguard hazardous openings related to historic mining. These abandoned mine openings are all within the perimeter of the Fourmile Canyon Fire that burned parts of the Fourmile Canyon area west of Boulder, Colorado in the summer of 2010 (Fig. 1). The openings were previously safeguarded and the protection was subsequently damaged by the fire or they were uncovered by the fire. There are 2 smaller areas of focus within the fire perimeter that are the Gold Run project area and the Silverwalk project areas (Fig. 2). Openings include vertical and horizontal openings (shafts and adits respectively) that will be safeguarded using a variety of methods including backfilling, bulkheading, grate installation, and filling with polyurethane foam (PUF) outlined in Table 1. Designs for all proposed closures adhere to the General Bid Specifications for the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety, Department of Natural Resources, State of Colorado, March 2009. Access to all features will use existing roads and where there are no existing roads; features will be accessed via cross country travel with an ATV or other tracked vehicle. The Mini track loader is typically used to install safety closures. Road and/or trail improvements are not being considered and will not be authorized, except for light pruning of trees. If a track is not sufficient to get equipment into a feature then a hand crew will be required. If motorized vehicles are used, the number of trips will be minimized and all tracks created would be rehabilitated and seeded if necessary. In addition, any other soil disturbance associated with this reclamation work will be rehabilitated and reseeded as needed. Work will be done summer/fall 2014 and summer/fall 2015.

The project includes features that will be closed on private land as well as BLM lands. This is being done through a cooperative agreement with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS). DRMS has done all project development and will oversee project construction. The BLM is

responsible for notifying any unpatented mining claim owners of the proposed activity in accordance with WO IM 2010-0045.

Figure 1. Map showing location of project northwest of Boulder, Colorado.

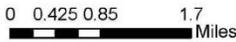


AML Boulder Physical Safety Closures
DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-17 CX



Legend

- AML Physical Safety Closures
- Fourmile Canyon Fire Perimeter

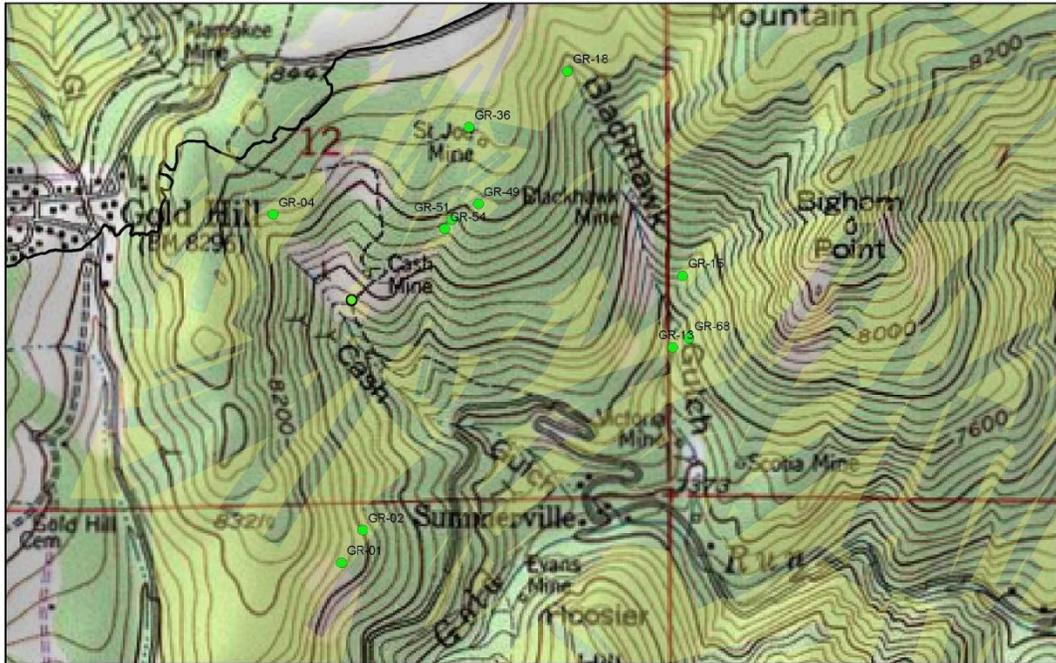


0 0.425 0.85 1.7
Miles



NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

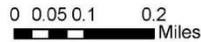
Figure 2. Map showing detailed location of physical safety closures on BLM lands in Boulder County, CO.



AML Physical Safety Closures Boulder County

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6th PM, T1N R71 W and R72 W



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Table 1. Table showing features to be closed and proposed closure method.

MINE FEATURE NAME	FEATURE TYPE	PROPOSED CLOSURE METHOD
Gold Run Project		
GR-01	Partially collapsed prospect shaft	Backfill
GR-02	Partially collapsed prospect shaft	Backfill
GR-04	Adit	Bat Gate
GR-36	Partially collapsed shaft	Panels
GR-49	Shaft	Panels
GR-51	Stope	Backfill
GR-54	Partially collapsed shaft	Backfill
Silverwalk Project		
GR-13	Partially collapsed adit	Bat Gate
GR-15	Partially collapsed adit	Bat Gate
GR-18	Prospect adit	Backfill
GR-68	Partially collapsed adit	Bat Gate

Name of Plan: Northeast Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 1986

Decision Number: Zone 6, Unit 3, 17B –Geologic Features and Hazards

Decision Language: Occurrence of significant geologic features or hazards is unknown on the 30,460 acres. Field investigations during the environmental analysis process and/or new information about features or hazards could change the classification to concern area. New information was found in 2010 after the Fourmile Canyon Fire and field investigations have been made to mitigate hazards.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9.J (8). Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g. grates across mines). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		x
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other		x

ecologically significant or critical areas.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW

NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 7/7/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	JL, 02/03/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG 1/10/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 2/28/2014
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 1/13/14

Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW 1/14/14
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 3/3/14
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 1/22/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 1/13/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 7/1/14
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV 02/25/2014
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	MJS for SC 7/02/2014
Dennis Page	Acting Fire Management Officer	Fire	DP 3/20/14

REMARKS:

Cadastral: The area is comprised with antiquated from the early 1870's to modern surveys. There is currently no GCDB on the mineral claims in the area creating unreliable land status. The mineral claim corners near the sites should be located for the purpose of locating land ownership in the area as well as protecting the corners.

Cultural Resources: Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-14-59 P: 5BL11967, 5BL11970, 5BL12045, 5BL12046, 5BL12876, 5BL11963-5BL11966, 5BL11968, 5BL11969, 5BL12879], no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed action follows the recommendation of the CNHP 2013 AML Gate Evaluations report, retaining features that may provide suitable habitat for bats in Colorado. Threatened and/or endangered species will not be impacted as a result of this project.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a "take" of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

Realty: All public lands in T 1N, R 71W, section 7 and 8 (all) and T 1N, R72W, sections 12 and 13 (all) and certain lots in section 24 including Lots 59-102, and 104-108 are segregated for exchange (COC-74223FD) and therefore are not open to the mining law. This segregation expires in July, 2016.

Minerals: Prior to closing any mines, the BLM must notify any active mining claimants. As part of the process a notice is also posted at the site of the planned closures even when there are no mining claimants on record in order to inform the individual that may be in the process of staking a claim. The notice is intended to inform claimants of the closure and to inform the claimant that any mining activity that includes use of an abandoned mine feature is greater than casual use and therefore requires a plan or notice under the 1872 Mining Law.

This area is segregated for a land exchange with Boulder County and therefore not open to the mining law, however there are 30 mining claims in the vicinity of the proposed closures that are held by 3 mining claimants that pre-date the segregation. The mining claimants on record for these mining claims will be notified via certified mail prior to any closures being constructed.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Melissa Smeins

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 7/24/14

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/25/14