



LCDO\_Comments, BLM\_NM &lt;blm\_nm\_lcdo\_comments@blm.gov&gt;

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## Comments in support of Copper Flat Project

1 message

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**Annie McCoy** <amccoy@shomaker.com>  
To: BLM\_NM\_LCDO\_Comments@blm.gov

Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 2:47 PM

Greetings,

From my perspective, there are going to be impacts any time and any place natural resources are extracted. Copper is a valuable and useful natural resource that has contributed greatly to the advancement of human civilization, and we will be in need of this resource for the foreseeable future. The goal should be to mine this useful resource in a responsible manner by mitigating impacts and ideally by mining it in a location where site characteristics allow potential impacts to be minimized. I believe Copper Flat Project represents this type of responsible project. The Copper Flat Project proposes responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, operations, and reclamation to mitigate impacts. The Copper Flat Project is situated in a relatively remote location, generally out-of-sight to most of the residents and visitors to the region; this is advantageous in terms of minimizing any negative socioeconomic impacts. It is in an arid environment with very high rates of evaporation and no perennial surface-water resources within close proximity; this is very advantageous in terms of minimizing potential surface water-quality impacts. The open pit is within bedrock of extremely low permeability, and is a hydrologic sink; this is very advantageous in terms of minimizing potential groundwater-quality impacts. The Project is in a location that has already been impacted by mining for many decades, and offers the opportunity to actually leave the site in better condition than it is currently; for example, in terms of groundwater quality.

As a consulting hydrogeologist, I have worked closely with the exceptional New Mexico Copper Corporation staff on many aspects of the Copper Flat Project, including geology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, and reviewing site-related data. It has been one of the really great opportunities and experiences of my professional career. I would certainly look forward to continuing to work on the Copper Flat Project in the future.

Thank you,

Annie McCoy

Senior Hydrogeologist

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