

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**DOI-BLM-NM-L000-2011-0028-EA**

**Entrée Gold Inc. Lordsburg Exploration Project Mine Plan of Operations**  
**(NMNM125758)**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the referenced environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that approving the Lordsburg Exploration Project Mine Plan of Operations with mitigations will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

*Bill Childs*

District Manager

7/26/2011

Date

**DECISION RECORD**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**DOI-BLM-NM-L000-2011-0028-EA**

**Entrée Gold Inc. Lordsburg Exploration Project Mine Plan of Operations**  
**(NMNM125758)**

**Decision to be made:** Whether to approve the modified Lordsburg Exploration Project Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) and, if the MPO is approved, to determine what mitigation measures should be applied to the mining operations.

**Authorities:** The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3809.411

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations/ Design Features** The following mitigation measures will be applied to the approved MPO, as authorized in 43 CFR 3809.420(a)(4):

1. Standard noxious weed mitigations will be applied. All equipment must be pressure washed to remove mud, dirt, and plant material immediately prior to entering Federal lands.
2. Surface disturbance and drilling at drill sites 16, 20, 25, 30 and 31 will be delayed for a minimum of three (3) months from project approval so Entree Gold Inc. may assess nearby holes and decide if drilling these sites is absolutely necessary.
3. Concurrent reclamation will begin when there are 10 disturbed pads in place and weather conditions are conducive to reclamation (see item 9).
4. Brush and slash cleared during drill pad preparation will be stockpiled for reclamation. The operator will hand-scatter stockpiled brush and slash over reclaimed sites to minimize visual contrast.
5. Entree Gold Inc. will water the reclaimed pads/roads once after mulch and seed have been applied.
6. The operator will retain a BLM-licensed archeological contractor to monitor ground disturbing activities during drilling operations within proximity to site LA 164721. The monitor will prepare a final monitoring report for BLM's record. As part of this report, the monitor will record and illustrate a representative sample of the features described in the fifth paragraph on page nine of the report (the CCC dams) as a site.
7. If water is retained in inactive reserve pits, netting or floating barrier devices ("bird balls") will be applied to reserve pits until reclaimed. All inactive drill sites will be monitored for avian and wildlife use or mortality.
8. The operator will take measures to assure that the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) will remain open and safe for public use during operations. The operator will avoid damaging existing CDNST marker signs and will be responsible for replacing any such signs damaged or destroyed by exploration activities. The operator will be required, if instructed by the Las Cruces BLM, to temporarily reposition CDNST trail markers to help trail users avoid drilling operations, and subsequently reposition CDNST trail markers in the original position immediately after completing drilling operations near the trail. If necessary, the operator will engage trail users encountered during operations and assist them in avoiding operational areas area and safely returning to the trail alignment.

9. Operator will target reclamation seeding for the rainy season (late June-July) and will avoid seeding, mulch and slash application, and disking during the windy season (Feb., March and April).

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Activities at the Lordsburg Exploration Project will be inspected by BLM staff on a regular (at least quarterly) basis from the date of authorization until final reclamation has been approved by the Las Cruces BLM. Monitoring will assure compliance with the activities outlined in the MPO, compliance with required mitigation measures, and identify if any undue and unnecessary degradation of public lands result from the operation.

**Plan Conformance and Consistency:** This proposed action conforms to the Mimbres Resource Area Management Plan (RMP), December, 1993 because the Plan states that public land is open to mineral entry unless otherwise withdrawn (Mimbres R.M.P., p. 2-6). The Lordsburg Exploration Project Area is open to mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law, and Entrée Gold holds active mineral claims for the project area.

**Alternatives Considered:** The no action alternative was considered to provide a baseline for identifying and comparing resource affects. It would not have met the purpose and need of the proposed action because it would not have allowed the operator to develop the claim consistent with the requirements of 43 CFR 3809 and the 1872 Mining Law.

**Rationale for Decision:** The MPO will be approved with modifications in order to meet the requirements of the 1872 mining law and facilitate development of the mining claims. Approval of this MPO, however, does not constitute confirmation of claim validity or the presence of mineral discovery.

The action conforms to the Mimbres Resource Area Management Plan (p. 2-6).

This project was first listed on the New Mexico BLM public, online NEPA log ([http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/planning/nepa\\_logs.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/planning/nepa_logs.html)) on December 9, 2010.

On March 9, 2011, scoping letters were mailed to sixteen (16) different parties, including range permittees, elected community leaders, and non-profit groups. One (1) letter was received in response, which contained the following comments:

**Comment:** *BLM should utilize nothing less than an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure the appropriate information is being assessed, a consistent process is being utilized to make a determination, and that proper mitigation is established for any direct, ancillary or cumulative impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed project.*

**Response:** Utilization of an Environmental Analysis (EA) for this project will meet the requirements outlined in the comment. The EA process identifies and assesses appropriate information, provides a

template for consistent evaluation, and identifies proper mitigation for direct ancillary and cumulative impacts.

**Comment:** *It is recommended that the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) be identified on the proposed project maps.*

**Response:** The CDNST alignment relative to the proposed action is illustrated in Map 3 on page 19 of the final EA.

**Comment:** *Mitigation may be needed to ensure the CDNST will remain open, relatively unaffected, and be safe for public use throughout the proposed project timeline.*

**Response:** Mitigation measures to assure public access and safety are outlined in section 4.1.8 of this EA. These mitigations will be incorporated to the approved Mine Plan of Operations (MPO) as enforceable project mitigation measures (43 CFR 3809.420(a)(4)).

**Protest/Appeal Language:** Any person who is adversely affected by this decision and feels that the decision is incorrect may file an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals as provided in CFR 43 4.410. Any person who wishes to make an appeal must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice of the intent to file an appeal. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit a *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service of the decision. If a decision is published in the Federal Register, a person not served with the decision must transmit a *Notice of Appeal* in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (CFR 43 4.411 and 4.413).

Where to File: Notice of Appeal to: Bureau of Land Management  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Copy to Solicitor: Field Solicitor  
US Department of the Interior  
PO Box 1042  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

  
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Authorized Officer

7/26/2011  
Date