

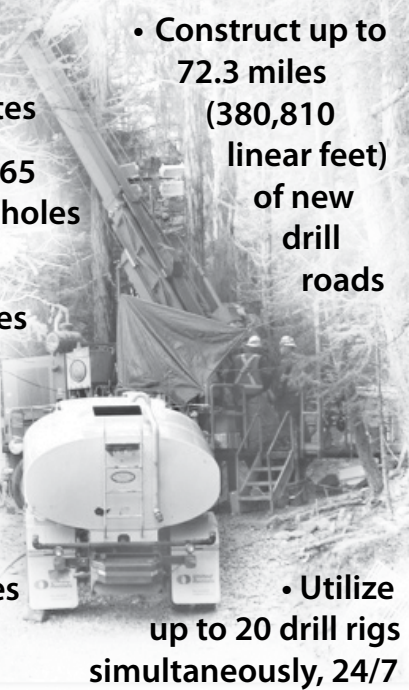
Extensive Exploration Proposed Around Buckhorn Mountain

Kinross, under the name of Echo Bay, has submitted plans that, if approved, would open up 10,000 acres to extensive exploration on an expedited timeframe on federal and state lands. In July 2010, the DNR authorized six drill holes and 528 feet of new drill road on an acre of state land, just under the amount that would require environmental review. In 2008 the BLM approved a similar amount of exploration without public review. The agencies approvals are based on a small amount of activities that would be exempt if not part of a larger program. The exploration plans are being edited to remove references to Crown Resources, presumably to present the exploration as though proposed by a completely separate company. In the near future, scoping will officially begin. In the meantime, you could let the agencies know that you object to an expedited process and get on the list to be notified of exploration and mining news.

Summary of Exploration Impact

The company is requesting authorization to:

- Construct up to 675 new drill sites
- Construct up to 72.3 miles (380,810 linear feet) of new drill roads
- Drill up to 965 exploration holes
- Construct up to 33 acres of water conveyance and storage facilities
- Develop up to eight acres of ancillary disturbance
- Utilize up to 20 drill rigs simultaneously, 24/7



Things to Consider:

- This exploration proposal is part of Kinross ongoing mining operations on Buckhorn Mountain. It is disingenuous to separate it out as if it is a completely separate proposal.
- The Department of Ecology is required to be the lead agency for mining projects in Washington State, but the agencies are creating a spurious distinction between exploration and mining.
- Site specific work plans and baseline studies should be completed prior to approval of the exploration, not afterward, as outlined by the company in the proposal. Otherwise, the company gets maximum flexibility and you have no input regarding site specific issues and concerns.
- The environmental review should include complete baseline of the proposed exploration area.
- The noise generated by up to 20 drill rigs would be significant.
- There is no water right currently available for the exploration use proposed; the company estimates they will need 120,000 gallons/day.
- Creating access for drill pads may indirectly impact habitat by creating access for cattle.
- The cumulative impacts of grazing, logging and drilling on Buckhorn are significant, and should be assessed collectively.

For more specific details about the exploration process, please visit www.okanoganhighlands.org/issues/exploration

ACTION ALERT

Suggested Comments:

- The lead agency should be the Department of Ecology
- Scoping should include a public meeting in Chesaw
- Exploration should be limited to 12 hours a day, week days
- The noise generated by up to 20 drill rigs would be excessive and should not be permitted
- Cumulative impacts must be analyzed and mitigated
- Areas within public domain should remain open to the public
- The environmental review should clearly state the location of all drill holes
- The environmental review should include a complete track record of Kinross ongoing mining operations as well as their fully owned subsidiaries Crown and Echo Bay
- The scheduled closure of the Kettle River Mill in 2015 is not an adequate reason to rush the environmental review
- The public should have access to all exploration information

Express Your Concerns Now

PLEASE WRITE TO: Phil Christy, USFS
Tonasket Ranger District
1 West Winesap, Tonasket, WA, 98855

Email: comments-pacificnorthwest-okanogan-tonasket@fs.fed.us

- No additional exploration permits should be issued until current operation can function without violations for at least one year
- No exploration should be approved without complete review and analysis, including:
 - o Information about water sources for the proposed activity
 - o Specific water use permit authorization
 - o Specific details of work plans, where drilling would occur
 - o The potential impacts of new preferential pathways by the drilling of additional holes in the fractured bedrock
 - o Impacts of clearing and drilling on aquatic life and wildlife
 - o Survey of threatened and endangered plants and animals
 - o Impacts of sedimentation in headwater streams and facilitation of cattle trespass into those streams/wetlands
 - o Noxious weed protection on all 10,000 acres

Also: Please ask to be placed on the Forest Service mailing list for Buckhorn exploration and mining news.