



File Code: 2810; 1560
Date: August 2, 2022

Dear Planning Participant:

The Colville National Forest is conducting environmental planning for a proposed minerals exploration project on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Colville National Forest. Detailed descriptions of the proposed project is included in this letter:

Adamera Minerals: Keystone Plan of Operations for Exploratory Drilling

Adamera Minerals (Adamera) has submitted a Plan of Operations (titled Keystone) to conduct exploratory drilling at six locations on National Forest System lands administered by the Tonasket Ranger District of the Colville National Forest (Forest). The six proposed drill sites are located near Buckhorn Mountain in Okanogan County. The proposed drill sites are located in Section 26, T. 40N., R. 30E., W. M. (see enclosed maps)

Drilling would be done utilizing a LF-70 or LF-90 size core drill. There would be only one drill at each site. That one drill would complete up to two holes at each site. The core drill would be no wider than 12 feet and no longer than 70 feet. The drill would be at each site for 1-4 weeks. No site leveling would be necessary because all sites would be within the road prism and on the shoulder of existing roads that are closed to public access.

Drill holes would average 700 feet in depth, with a maximum of 1200 feet in depth and 3.5 inches in diameter. At most, a maximum total footage of 8000 linear feet would be completed. All holes would be abandoned according to Washington state regulations as part of reclamation. Each hole would be properly abandoned before the drill moves to the next site. No posts or rods would be permitted to protrude above ground level to provide safe passage of humans and animals.

Drill cuttings would be contained within sumps and be buried at the end of the project within those sumps. Each site would require a cuttings sump that would be no larger than 15 ft X 10 ft X 4 ft deep. The sumps would be fenced with bright orange plastic fencing



4-5 feet in height supported by iron fence stakes. Silt fences would be installed on the downhill side of the sumps to preclude erosion or fugitive dust escape. The sumps would be completed using a backhoe or small excavator. Topsoil would be segregated from subsoil during sump excavation, and both would be returned to their respective original positions upon reclamation.

Access to each proposed drill site would be over existing, system roads. No new roads would be constructed. Prior to entering National Forest System lands, equipment would be cleaned to remove any plant debris and soil that may contain noxious weed seeds. All areas of ground disturbance would be reclaimed and revegetated using a Forest Service approved seed mix. There are no stream crossings or open bodies of water in the vicinity of the drill sites. Roads would be brushed for vehicle passage. Hazard trees posing a safety risk near drill sites would be identified and cut. Staging of equipment and supplies during the drilling operations would occur directly adjacent to FS Road 141, and at the junction of FS Road 140 and 141. The exploratory drilling would take approximately 4 months to complete with all reclamation completed within one year of the start of the drilling operations.

The proposed drilling will be analyzed under a Categorical Exclusion for exploratory mining activities of less than one year [36. CFR 220.6(e)(8)]. We would appreciate receiving your comments and/or concerns regarding this project by September 5, 2022. Please direct questions, comments, or concerns to Minerals Administrator, Anna Lowell, at anna.lowell@usda.gov or 509-684-7266.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Marsh", is written over a horizontal line.

MATT MARSH
Tonasket District Ranger