

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**District:** Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District  
**Project Name:** Brundage Bulk Sampling  
**Responsible Official:** Lisa Klinger, McCall District Ranger  
**Project Contact:** Leigh Bailey, Hydrologist/Geologist, 208-634-0760 or 208-347-0335  
**Scoping Period:** Comments requested by May 12, 2017  
**Submit Comments:** Via webform on the project webpage  
**Project Webpage:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51285>

**Project Description:** This is a new bulk sampling project at the existing Brundage Placer claim, where related minerals work has been ongoing for several years. Two areas would be excavated for sampling, processed off site, and then the site would be reclaimed.

Sample pits would be excavated with the topsoil being removed and stockpiled and then any layers of overburden being removed individually and stockpiled separately from the topsoil. All layers would be documented and the excavations photographed for future reference. After samples are removed, overburden would be placed back in the excavation in the reverse order it was removed and the topsoil would be placed on top. After all dirt reclamation is complete, the disturbed areas would be seeded and fertilized. Sample areas would be done one at a time and would be backfilled so as not to have a large open pit. Areas to be worked have been previously worked. A maximum of 200 cubic yards of material would be removed. It is estimated that the project will take 10 to 30 days to complete and would occur late summer of 2017.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose of this action is to consider the permitting of a locatable minerals project on National Forest System Lands under US Mining Laws. The decision whether to allow mining activity is not within the agency's jurisdiction as long as the proposal is reasonable and the next logical step in mineral development. Through the General Mining Laws of 1872, mining claimants have a right to locate and develop mineral resources on any public lands open to mineral entry. The compelling need for the Forest Service to take action is to comply with the legal requirements to respond to the proponents reasonable Plan of Operations (36 CFR 228.4) for placer mining, and to ensure that "operations are conducted so as, where feasible, to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest surface resources" (36 CFR 228.8)

This project is being evaluated as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act as provided for in 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8) - *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

As a categorical exclusion there are no additional designated public comment periods for this project so this "scoping" phase is the best opportunity for public input.

**Project Area:** Proposed mining operations are located on the proponents mining claim located on the McCall District of the Payette National Forest near the beginning of the Brundage Mountain Road (FSR 50257). The legal description is as follows, T19N R2E, SE ¼ of Section 23, the SW ¼ of Section 24, the NW ¼ of Section 25, and the NE ¼ of Section 26, Boise Meridian, Adams County, Idaho (see maps below).

The project is not located within a Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, or Roadless area.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

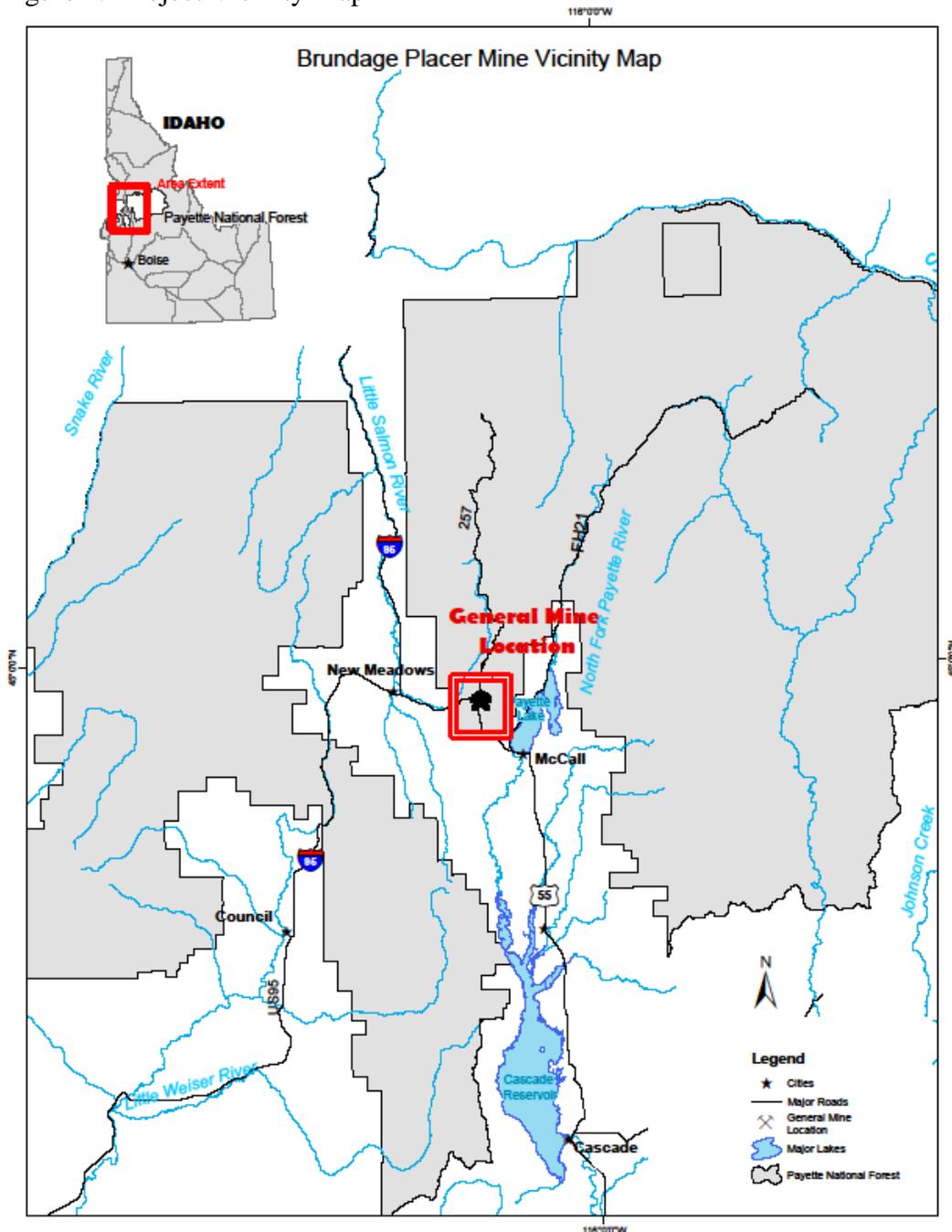


Figure 2. Brundage Placer Project Area

