



File Code: 1950

Date: January 15, 2025

Libby Exploration Project

Opportunity to Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Interested Party,

The Kootenai National Forest has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Libby Exploration Project. The draft EA analyzes the effects of the proposed activities in the Plan of Operation submitted by Montanore Minerals Corporation (MMC), a fully owned subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company, for the Libby Exploration Project. MMC proposes to conduct mineral exploration activities at the existing Libby Adit site located approximately 20 miles south of the town of Libby in Lincoln County, Montana near the Cabinet Mountains of northwestern Montana. Access to the Libby Adit site is via existing year-round open National Forest System roads. Project surface-disturbing activities would be conducted on private lands owned or controlled by MMC, while underground construction would occur beneath public lands administered by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The Libby Exploration Project area is approximately 11.6 acres in size and project activities would occur within all or portions of Sections 13-15, 22-24, 26, 27, 35, and 36, Township 28 North, Range 31 West; Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 29, Township 27 North, Range 31 West; and Sections 18 and 19, Township 28 North, Range 30 West; all Principal Meridian, in Lincoln and Sanders counties, Montana.

A notice of the draft environmental assessment and supporting documents are available on the project page on the Kootenai National Forest website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62833>.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The Kootenai National Forest will accept written and electronic comments concerning this action for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Missoulian, which is the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. The Legal Notice for opportunity to comment should appear in the Missoulian on or about January 21, 2025.

Please submit written comments to Chad Benson, Forest Supervisor by one of the following methods:

- Electronically at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62833> on the right-hand side, click "get Connected", then "Comment on Project." The subject line must contain "Libby Exploration Project".
- Hand deliver or mail hard-copy comments to the Kootenai National Forest, Attn: Chad Benson, 31374 US Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923-3022. The office business hours for



submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

- Fax comments to (406) 283-7709.

Please include your name, postal address, title of the project "Libby Exploration Project", email address, telephone number, any organization you may be representing, and signature. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. All comments will be placed in the project file and become public record.

This project is not authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and therefore, is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process under 36 CFR 218 Subparts (A) and (B). It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed Project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under 36 CFR 218.

If you have any questions concerning this proposal, please contact Julie Hopkinson, Project Leader, at (406) 283-7657 or julie.hopkinson@usda.gov. Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,



CHAD W. BENSON
Forest Supervisor