

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,  
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management  
Office of Communications**

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**Contact: Virginia Gibbons 541/416-6647**

**Mayflower Mine Complex Clean Up Prompts Temporary Road Closure**

PRINEVILLE-The Ochoco National Forest has contracted with Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) Company to perform a "Removal Action" of abandoned mine materials at the Mayflower Mine Complex. The removal action consists of clean up and proper treatment of waste rock, tailings, and soil and timber structures from the abandoned Ochoco Mine, Mayflower Mine Street Creek Adit and Brian O'Lynn Adit. An adit is a nearly horizontal mine shaft entrance.

The Ochoco – Mayflower Mines are located on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest near Forest Road (FR) 22, approximately 27 miles E of Prineville, Oregon and two miles NE of the Ochoco Ranger Station.

Beginning, Tuesday, May 27, 2008, FR 22-100 will be closed to public use for a period of approximately 30 calendar days (opening on Thursday, June 26, 2008). This road will be blocked, with closure signs posted, at both junctions with FR 22 for public safety reasons during heavy haul operations. During this same period, Road 22 will be signed for Heavy Truck Traffic in the Scissorsville Historic Mine Area.

The abandoned mining materials contain unsafe levels of arsenic, which could be potentially harmful to humans and wildlife. The materials will be moved to nearby repositories or storage areas, capped with soil, and re-vegetated with a native seed mix by NRC Environmental Services out of Spokane, WA. The soil capping process consists of a 6" machine-compacted layer of soil with a 6" layer of soil on top, capped with a native seed mix and fertilizer. Disturbed sites will be treated with a cover of weed-free wood straw mulch. Any dust emissions during the operation will be watered. All equipment used for the removal operation will be inspected for weed material prior to on-site arrival and work.

A 3-year monitoring plan provided by CES will include yearly reports on subsequent samples taken. This project is being implemented in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) commonly known as Superfund, State Water Quality Standards and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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CERCLA was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. Over five years, \$1.6 billion was collected and the tax went to a trust fund for cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. CERCLA:

- established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites;
- provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites; and
- established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

The law authorizes two kinds of response actions:

- Short-term removals, where actions may be taken to address releases or threatened releases requiring prompt response.
- Long-term remedial response actions, that permanently and significantly reduce the dangers associated with releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances that are serious, but not immediately life threatening. These actions can be conducted only at sites listed on EPA's [National Priorities List](#) (NPL).

For more information on the Mayflower Mine Complex clean up, contact Carrie Gordon, Ochoco National Forest Geologist, at (541) 416-6518.

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