

Information on CERCLA and projects conducted under CERCLA

Most projects on Forest Service and BLM land are covered by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the agencies and the public are used to operating in this framework. However, actions relating to cleanup of hazardous waste, such as tanker truck spills and abandoned mines, are covered under a different set of laws: the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA requires public involvement and analysis of alternatives, and in that way is very similar to NEPA. The community involvement steps in the types of CERCLA actions we generally undertake (which are called “non-time-critical removal actions”) include:

1. Scoping and community interviews.
2. **Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation (PA/SI)**.
3. Administrative Record file available to community.
4. 30-day public review of **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Assessment**. (**EE/CA** shows different alternatives, similar to an Environmental Assessment under NEPA regulations). Selected Alternative is documented in a **Removal Action Memo (RAM)**.

Projects to which CERCLA applies are **not** also analyzed under the NEPA process. For questions about the CERCLA process, call Stephanie Odell (385-1353) or Kay Zillich (385-1239).

In an effort to use existing public-notification channels, we will include CERCLA projects in this newsletter.

Current CERCLA projects are as follows:

| CERCLA Project Name | Proposed CERCLA Project and Contact Person | Expected Date of Document Availability | Project Decision Date | Legal Location | Type of Document | Project Status as of 10/01/2008 |
|---------------------|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bonner Mine (USFS) | Stabilize mine waste dump. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | On hold | On hold | T41N, R8W, sec 3 | EE/CA | On hold |
| Eveline Mine | Acid mine drainage in Cement Creek. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | 2006 | 2008 | T42N, R7W, sec 20 | N/A | Scoping; pilot project construction |
| Eureka Channel | Channel restoration and tailings removal; Animas River drainage. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | 2010 | 2011 | T42N, R6W, sec 30, 31 | PA/SI | Scoping |
| North Calif. Mtn. | Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | 2010 | 2011 | T42N, R7W, sec 2 | PRP/PA/SI | Scoping |
| Grand Mogul Mine | Mine waste removal. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | On hold | On hold | T42N, R7W, sec 9 | EE/CA | On hold |
| Bandora Mine | Mine Drainage. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | 2009 | Unknown | T42N, R8W, Sec 25 | EE/CA | Scoping |
| Joe & John Mine | Adit drainage. STEPHANIE ODELL (385-1353) | 2008 | 2009 | T42N, R7W, sec 21 | Design | Scoping |