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1005 Selway Drive

Bureau of Land Management

Dillon Field Office  
Dillon, Montana 59725

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ELK GULCH VERMICULITE MINE**

DILLON (March 22, 2006) – The Dillon Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comment on a Plan of Operation submitted by Montana Mining LLC. Montana Mining is proposing to reprocess approximately 10,000 tons of mill tailings left by a previous operator at the Elk Gulch Vermiculite Mine 13 miles southeast of Dillon.

Under this plan, there would be no new disturbance outside of the less than four acres currently disturbed by previous operators. In 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took 57 samples from the site. There were no detections of asbestos in any of the 57 environmental samples collected at the site in an amount greater than trace concentration. (A material that contains less than one percent asbestos is considered to be a non-asbestos containing material). The Plan of Operation and the EPA report is available for public review at the public library in Dillon and at the BLM office in Dillon.

The plan proposes that shipments of vermiculite concentrate from Elk Gulch will use the established haul routes for talc using Sweetwater and Carter Creek Roads, Nissen Lane and State Highway 41 to Interstate 15. All vermiculite concentrate will be shipped in covered trucks or sealed in jumbo bags to prevent exposure to rain and eliminate dust during transport.

Interested individuals and groups need to submit comments and issues by April 28 to be analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA). For more information or to submit comments, contact Robert Gunderson, Dillon Field Office geologist, at 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, MT 59725, phone 683-2337.