



***NEWS  
RELEASE***



United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Salmon - Challis National  
Forest  
1206 South Challis  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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### 30-day Extension to the Comment Period for the Idaho Cobalt Draft EIS

The Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), at the request of the public, have extended the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Idaho Cobalt Project by 30 days from the original 60 days. The Notice of Availability, published in the Federal Register the week of February 16, called for a 60 day comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) are still anticipated to be completed in the third quarter of 2007. The appeal period and appeal resolution process are expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2007. The plan of operations can be approved once any appeals are resolved and the company has submitted a plan incorporating the requirements contained in the ROD, including providing financial assurance for the reclamation plan.

The DEIS for the Salmon Cobalt Project and a summary of the analysis is available for review at the Salmon Public Library and the Public Lands Center, 1206 S. Challis Street, Salmon, Idaho.

For additional information please contact Ray Henderson, Project Coordinator, at (208) 756-5231.