



# NEWS RELEASE

## Lolo National Forest

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United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, Montana 59804

**For Immediate Release**

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## Public Meeting Planned to Discuss Proposed Mine Cleanup Work

Missoula, MT. – The Ninemile Ranger District will host a public meeting at 6 p.m. on April 15 at the Ninemile Ranger Station to discuss the proposed cleanup of the Frances Copper Mine site, located approximately 42 miles northwest of Missoula in the St. Louis Creek drainage, which is a tributary of Ninemile Creek.

The abandoned Frances Copper Mine area was first staked in 1948 and sporadic exploration/mining activity occurred in the 1950s and 1970s. During the 1970s, records state that 150,000 tons of material was stripped and 3,000 short tons of ore was shipped to the Nancy Lee Mine, north of Superior.

The intent of the April 15 meeting is to provide information to citizens on cleanup alternatives presented in a draft engineering report (Draft Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis) for the Frances Copper Mine. The report describes the proposed cleanup alternatives and associated costs. It is anticipated that the cleanup will be accomplished in two phases: First, removal and consolidation of mine waste into an on-site repository; followed by reclamation of the reaches of St Louis Creek and the East Fork of St. Louis Creek which have been impacted by mine waste.

The Forest Service will be conducting the cleanup under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Consequently, public comment on the draft engineering report will be considered in selection of the preferred cleanup alternative.

For more information please contact Scott Spaulding at the Ninemile Ranger District, (406) 626-5401.

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