



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

White River  
National  
Forest

Aspen-Sopris Ranger District  
PO Box 309/620 Main St.  
Carbondale, CO 81623  
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File Code: 1950

Date: September 18, 2008

Dear Interested Party,

The White River National Forest is requesting public comments on a mineral material plan of operations submitted by Gallegos Corporation to manually remove rock from a talus slope near Marble, Colorado. The proposed collection area is 23.33 acres and located in T11S, R88W, Sections 21 (SE quarter) and 22 (SW quarter) on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. Access to the site is from a private road off of Gunnison County Road 3. No new access roads are proposed, and rock would be gathered using temporary roads that are seeded and re-graded as the process is completed. Annual estimated tonnage removed ranges from 0 to 1,244 tons. Operations are planned for 1-2 week sessions throughout the summer months and would be ongoing for up to 30 years. The rock gathered from this site would be sold for use in construction projects.

The surface disturbance is limited to the rock gathering; there are no structures, diversions, settling ponds, waste dumps or staging pads associated with the process. The operation does not require any milling, exploration activities, or tailings disposal. No gravels are present on site. Equipment used would be a fork lift and flat bed truck. All fueling and services of equipment is done off site, and therefore there is little risk for spills and no use of toxic substances.

As a condition of authorizing this activity on Federal land, the Forest Service must consider and disclose the environmental effects of this proposal in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This letter initiates the scoping process under NEPA. Scoping is an integral part of the environmental analysis process for determining the issues to be addressed and for identifying potential alternatives to a proposed action. An important part of scoping is identifying your concerns and involving you in the analysis process. A detailed environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed action should be available by the end of 2008.

Comments regarding the scope of this proposal should be addressed to: Skye Sieber, 0094 County Road 244 Rifle, Colorado 81650; FAX: (970) 625-2532; Email: [wrnf\\_scoping\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:wrnf_scoping_comments@fs.fed.us). Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; 2) title of this project (Conger Rock Harvest); and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.



Your comments concerning this action will be most helpful if received by October 17, 2008. Persons who respond to this request for scoping comments will receive further information regarding this project, including the EA and decision document. These documents will also be posted on the White River National Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver)). If you have no comments at this time but would still like to receive a paper copy of the EA and subsequent decision, please respond accordingly.

For additional information regarding this proposal, please contact Skye Sieber at (970) 625-6864.

Sincerely,

*/s/ <Wayne Ives>*  
IRENE L. DAVIDSON  
District Ranger

cc: billbalaz  
Skye Sieber