



***NEWS
RELEASE***

United States
Department of Agriculture

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



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Forest Service Issues Record of Decision for Idaho Cobalt Project

Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor Bill Wood has signed the Record of Decision approving a modified Plan of Operations for Formation Capital Corporation's Idaho Cobalt Project, a proposed cobalt mining project located in the Panther Creek drainage west of Salmon.

"The selected alternative, Alternative IV, will require Formation Capital Corporation to modify their proposed Plan of Operations," Wood said. "The modified Plan of Operations will clearly reflect additional requirements including posting of financial assurance for long term water quality management." Wood went on to explain that the Plan will also address terms and conditions from the Biological Opinions provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for management of endangered fishes and will also require the company to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit from the Environmental Protection Agency. These steps will be taken prior to approval of the modified Plan of Operations. Additionally, the Record of Decision requires the company to obtain administrative access and power line easements across adjacent private land prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities. Once Formation Capital Corporation complies with these additional requirements, the mining project may proceed.

The decision also provides a framework for the agencies involved in oversight of the adjacent Blackbird Mine Site remediation to be involved in oversight of the Idaho Cobalt operations to ensure remediation efforts of the Blackbird Mine are not compromised. The Environmental Protection Agency is the lead agency in ensuring remediation standards are met for the restoration of salmon and steelhead fisheries impacted by historic mining activities.

The Record of Decision and associated documents are being mailed to interested members of the public on the project's mailing list, and copies will be available at the

Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District Office and Forest Supervisors Office in Salmon. In addition, a copy will be available at the public libraries in Salmon and Challis.

The decision is subject to a 45 day administrative period during which time individuals or groups that have established “standing” may appeal the decision. This process is described in the Record of Decision.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality participated as cooperating agencies in the completion of the project’s Environmental Impact Statement.

For further information please contact Kimberly Nelson, Salmon-Cobalt District Ranger, at 208-756-5200.

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