



WINONA GOLD & COPPER
MINING COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1907

1100 Rumsey Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

June 14, 2016

Supervisor's Office
Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadow Lane Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414-9313

Anent

Summer Travel Plan
Shoshone National Forest
Sunlight Mining District

Dear Madame/Sir:

I am the manager and part owner of a patented mine in the upper reaches of Sulphur Creek, tributary of Sunlight Creek, Shoshone National Forest. This patent for many years has been referred to as the Winona Mine. It is designated as "NZ-23" on The Clarks Fork Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action Map NZ-N, Upper Sunlight. The owner of record of this property is JOPE, Brothers, LLC, of which I am a principal owner and General Manager.

Forest Service Road 108 has been a mine access road to the Winona Mine since it was constructed by the Winona Gold and Copper Mining and Milling Company from 1912 to 1914. From time to time during the past 35 years I have discussed various questions and issues regarding this road with Shoshone Forest personnel, including Randall Hall, Don Musso, Randy Herzberg, Brent Larson, Dave Myer, Terry Root and others. Many years ago personnel of Shoshone National Forest determined, based on established law, that owners of patented mining lands within the Sunlight Mining District have the right of ingress and egress along and upon the established mine access roads, of which Forest Service Road 108 is a part.

In reviewing The Clarks Fork Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action Map NZ-N, Upper Sunlight, it would appear that there is a proposal to limit the present status of summer use on the southern part of Forest Service Road 108. I assume this proposal pertains to the general public and not the owners of the private property commonly referred to as the Winona Mine and designated NZ-23 on Clarks Fork Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action Map NZ-N, Upper Sunlight. As there is no separate text which describes the details of the proposed change indicated on Clarks

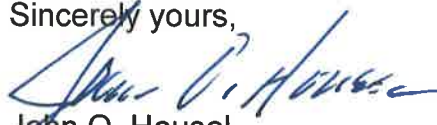
Fork Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action Map NZ-N, on behalf of JOPE Brothers, LLC, I restate that legal authority clearly supports, and personnel of Shoshone National Forest have long recognized, the right of access to the patented mining lands along established mine access roads in the area known as the Sunlight Mining District . Therefore, JOPE Brothers, LLC is opposed to action which restricts in any manner vehicular access by JOPE Brothers, LLC and its successors, assigns and licensees to the Winona Mine lands (NZ-23) on Forest Service Road 108, whether during summer, fall, winter or spring.

I also point out that during the preliminary public scoping process on the Shoshone Forest Summer Management Plan (Winter 2015-2016), personnel of Shoshone National Forest verbally recognized the right of access by the owners of NZ-23. During that scoping process the question arose about whether JOPE Brothers, LLC would grant a right-of-way or easement along the existing roadway along and upon the land of JOPE Brothers, LLC. The owners of JOPE, Brothers, LLC have determined it would not serve the interests of the Company to grant any easement or right-of-way along and upon the existing road. Principal among reasons for not granting an easement is that the existing road partially transects Adit Number 1 (Also referred to as Tunnel Number 1 on old maps) excavated by the Winona Gold and Copper Mining Company over 100 years ago. Assays by the then geologist for the company, Henry C. Beeler, indicate that Adit Number 1 contains favorable concentrations of gold. Any grant of easement would limit or interfere with the ability of JOPE Brothers, LLC to renew prosecution of mining works on Adit Number 1.

I also request that in the event the proposed public closure of Forest Service Road 108 near Winona Mine is adopted, then the closure be placed at a location where there is sufficient space to allow vehicles to safely reverse direction and also to park. Most of the upper part of Forest Service Road 108 traverses steep, talus slopes the width of which does not allow for safe vehicle turn-around or parking. I am also concerned that if closure is placed on a narrow portion of the roadway some vehicle users may park their vehicles on the roadway, thereby interfering with travel by others, including the owners of the NZ-23 inholding. I therefore request that if the proposed closure is adopted, then public travel on Forest Service Road 108 end in the vicinity of the old Winona Mine Camp where there is sufficient space for vehicles to safely park and reverse direction. In addition, possibly an interpretive sign could be placed at this location which would indicate a brief history of the old Winona Mine Camp and steam boiler. I am quite familiar with the history of the Winona Mine Camp, and would be happy to provide input for this purpose, and contribute financially.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,



John O. Housel
Manager