



August 29, 2024

Jacqueline Buchanan, Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer
Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service
Attn: 1570 Objections
1220 SW 3rd Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
Submitted via: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45945>

Re: Powder River Mining Operations DROD and FEIS

Dear Ms. Buchanan:

Baker County appreciates the Forest Service moving forward with the Powder River Mining Operations DROD and FEIS. It will help to get a few of the miners started in their mineral quests.

In Baker County's DEIS comments, it was encouraged that the Forest Service address Plans of Operations in a timelier manner. However, the new addition of the Rosemont Decision and its impact on the Forest Supervisor's decision to include only placer exploration and testing does not address the County's comments for timeliness and, in fact, extends the approval period significantly for those whose Plans are outside of placer and exploration.

Not all the mines/miners in the DEIS are included in the DROD, the County supports and requests the Forest Service to follow the objections and recommendations submitted by J. Alexander, C. Williams, B. Dean, and J. Hayes as they are valid. These miners also have the rights to mine.

Finally, the County objects to not being involved in the FEIS as a Coordinating partner. The County was never contacted by the Forest Service to discuss this project and how it would affect the miners.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our objections. Please, feel free to contact the County at any time to discuss this, or any other Baker County project.

Sincerely,

Christina Witham
Baker County Commissioner

Sincerely,

Doni Bruland
Natural Resources/Parks Coord.