



REGION 10

SEATTLE, WA 98101

May 4, 2026

Heidie Torrealday, Project Lead
ATTN: Black Pine Gold Project EIS
USFS Sawtooth National Forest- Minidoka Ranger District
2306 Hiland Ave
Burley, Idaho 83318

Dear Heidie Torrealday:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's April 2026 Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Black Pine Gold Project. The proposal is to build, operate, and reclaim an open-pit heap leach gold mine by expanding previous open-pit mining operations on USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands in Cassia and Oneida Counties, six miles north of the Utah border in southcentral Idaho. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact requirement.

The EPA's review identified that the proposed project may have reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts on air quality, including potential impacts from fugitive dust, mercury, and hydrogen cyanide emissions. The EPA recommends the Draft EIS evaluate project impacts from these emissions and the USFS coordinate with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the NOI for this project. If you have questions about this review, please contact Susan Sturges of my staff at 206-553-2117 or at sturges.susan@epa.gov, or me, at 206-553-2581 or at bitalac.emily@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Emily Bitalac, Acting Manager
NEPA Section