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Comments:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules changing of 36CFR Part 228. I am in favor of your updating and improving parts of this regulation that governs locatable minerals. I believe that one of the biggest issues today is dealing with restricted access to public lands, followed by the interpretation of what constitutes a significant disturbance. It is my opinion that the United States Forest Service needs to make drastic changes to remove obstructions to access, casual use, and be more in line to the Bureau of Land Management regulations. Item #1 Classification of locatable mineral operations, this section does address the classes of operations, such as, not requiring a permit for operations (but not limited to) using existing roads, performing prospecting and sampling, which will not cause significant surface disturbance to the land (usually less than 5 acres). This does include many of my concerns. All the other items could use updates and I think you are address many of the common issues and I am in favor of your efforts.