

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/26/2024 4:00:00 AM
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Organization: Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
Title: Administrative
Comments: Region One

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Kalispell, MT 59901

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REF # LA18-24

June 26, 2024

Kootenai National Forest

Three River Ranger District

Attn: Why Not Stardust Mineral Exploration Project

12858 US Hwy 2

Troy, MT 59935

RE: Why Not Stardust Minerals Exploration

Dear Sam Martin,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Why Not Stardust Minerals Exploration.

The proposed activities are to occur at or very near sites that have current or recent suction dredging operations and would not expand the influence of such activities. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks agrees with the instream work window (July 15 - October 1) to limit impacts to spring spawning fish species. Bull trout are not present at the proposed sites and the conditions in the suite of permits and authorizations required from local, state and federal authorities should reasonably minimize impacts to aquatic communities.

We appreciate the chance to review this proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact area Fisheries Biologist Brian Stephens at (406) 293-4161 ext. 204, BStephens@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Lee Anderson

Region 1 Supervisor

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks