

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
Golden Hand No. 1 and No. 2 Lode Mining Claims Draft EIS**

**Krassel Ranger District  
Payette National Forest  
Valley and Idaho County, Idaho  
June 2012**

**Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service**

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**ABSTRACT:** This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) documents the analysis for the Golden Hand No. 1 and No. 2 Lode Mining Claims Project. Two action alternatives evaluate activities designed to achieve the project's purpose and need. Although a number of concerns were noted during scoping and the analysis, three concerns were identified as significant issues that necessitated development of a second action alternative.

The preferred alternative is Alternative C because it best meets the purpose and need identified for the project. Alternative C was developed to identify any terms and conditions needed to ensure that mining activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts to National Forest surface resources. Additionally, Alternative C responds to issues identified during internal and external scoping. Alternative C would require one one-time, site specific non-significant amendment to the Forest Plan.

Comments on this DEIS should be postmarked or received no later than 45 days after a Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*. Substantive comments on this DEIS should be addressed to the Payette National Forest, ATTN: Keith Lannom, 800 W. Lakeside Ave., McCall, ID 83638 or sent electronically to [comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us). Electronic comments must be submitted in plain text or another format compatible with Microsoft Word. Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to comments at one time and to use the information to prepare the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), thus avoiding undue delays in the decision making process. Reviewers have the obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and will alert the agency to reviewers' positions and contentions, **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC**, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the FEIS, **City of Angoon v. Hodel** (9th circuit, 1986) and **Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris**, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement or merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

For further information contact Jeff Hunteman, Project Leader, Krassel Ranger District, 500 North Mission, McCall, Idaho 83638, (208) 634-0434.