

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

COMPANY NAME: High Desert Gold (General Minerals Corporation)

Project: Bluebird Copper

PERMIT OR LICENSE 00678

LOCATION: sections 16, 29, & 32: T4N R15W

County: Granite

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: Federal State Private

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: General Minerals proposes to drill exploration holes from 11 drill sites on the Bluebird Copper property. Several old logging and drill roads will be used to access the drill sites. The existing roads will be regraded and vegetation will be removed where necessary. New road construction will be limited to less than 1500 feet with no culverts installed and the work will be done with a Cat D-6 or 8.

Reclamation Plan: At closure, all holes will be plugged and all new drill pads and roads will be contoured and seeded with an approved seed mix. This document tiers to the U.S. Forest Service Plan of Operations received by the Department on May 1, 2007. Warren McCullough and Steve Kelley met Kennecott’s representative, Randall Moore for a site visit on October 5, 2008.

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are soils present which are fragile, erosive, susceptible to compaction, or unstable? Are there unusual or unstable geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] Erosion control will be in place on steeper segments of road and all disturbed areas will be reclaimed and seeded once drilling is completed.
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[N] No direct or indirect effects to surface waters are predicted. According to hydrology evaluations performed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Region 1, the proposed action will be consistent with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plan water resource standards and the Clean Water Act.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[Y] There will be temporary emissions from drilling equipment and support vehicles. The proposed project is consistent with the Clean Air Act according to findings by the U.S. Forest Service. There will be temporary emissions from drilling equipment and support vehicles.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] The proposed activity will have no impact on sensitive or threatened plant species according to evaluations performed by the U.S. Forest Service – Region 1. Disturbed areas will be contoured and seeded.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] Implementation of the drilling plan will not have any negative effect/impact on known aquatic, terrestrial, and avian populations in the area according to the U.S. Forest Service.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands?	[N] Implementation of the drilling plan is not anticipated to have any negative impacts on Bull Trout (threatened species) that are present in the Middle Fork of Rock Creek (as per the USFS Biological Evaluation). No wetlands are located near the project area.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[Y] There are small scale disturbances from historic mining and prospecting.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature?	[N]
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[Y] The project will create temporary employment for a drill crew and support personnel.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N]
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] Forest Plan in effect???????
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[Y] Existing roads provide access to USFS land for hunting and other recreation.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we	

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
regulating the use of private property under a regulatory statute adopted pursuant to the police power of the state? (Property management, grants of financial assistance, and the exercise of the power of eminent domain are not within this category.) If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
22. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the proposed regulatory action restrict the use of the regulated person's private property? If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
23. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the agency have legal discretion to impose or not impose the proposed restriction or discretion as to how the restriction will be imposed? If not, no further analysis is required. If so, the agency must determine if there are alternatives that would reduce, minimize or eliminate the restriction on the use of private property, and analyze such alternatives.	[N/A]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

25. Alternatives Considered:

No Action:

Approval:

Approval with modification: No unresolved issues were identified which would require modification of the proposal.

26. Public Involvement: Required

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: USFS – Region 1, Beaverhead – Deerlodge National Forest

28. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: No significant impacts associated with this proposal are anticipated according to the USFS.

29. Cumulative Effects: None

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Spencee Willett
Environmental Specialist

Signature _____

_____ May 23, 2007
Date