

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**COMPANY NAME:** Nevoro Exploration

**Project:** Mountain View

**PERMIT OR LICENSE:** 00694

**LOCATION:** 5S/15E/ Section 20

**County:** Stillwater

**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:**  Federal  State  Private

**TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** Nevoro Exploration (Curt Hogge, Field Representative) plans to conduct surface drilling in the G-M units in the lower stratigraphy of the Stillwater Complex in search of PGE's. Their work in this proposal is limited to 7 drillholes on Forest Service ground, 2 of which will be accessed by road; the other 5 will be helicopter-supported, thereby minimizing their disturbance to the amount necessary to safely conduct their exploration activities.

**Reclamation Plan:** Disturbed areas will be re-contoured to original condition with a skid-steer type backhoe (where feasible), and weeds will be sprayed over the entire project area. Any excavated topsoil and organic matter would be stockpiled separately from the mineral soil and utilized for site reclamation. Some sites may be reclaimed on an interim basis and re-entered based on the drilling results from the previous hole. Drillholes will be plugged and any casing cut below ground level. All sites permitted in this proposal will be reclaimed by August of 2009.

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] Exploration is in the layered intrusive of the Stillwater Complex's lower stratigraphic units (G through M) for Platinum Group Elements.
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]
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N]
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] Other specific reclamation measures would depend on site conditions, but could include loosening compacted areas, re-contouring, installing waterbars, distribution of woody debris and organic matter, revegetation, monitoring, and noxious weed treatment.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N]
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Access is around Lake Camp, a historic mining community.

<b>IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
8. <b>AESTHETICS:</b> Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] There would be no line of sight clearing at any drill site.
9. <b>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. <b>IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N] Beartooth Platinum will be working on the Gallatin National Forest/Chrome Mountain area to the north of this proposed project.

<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
11. <b>HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. <b>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</b> Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
13. <b>QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</b> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] A few temporary jobs may be created for the duration of the project.
14. <b>LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</b> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. <b>DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</b> Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N]
16. <b>LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</b> Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
17. <b>ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</b> Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N]
18. <b>DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</b> Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
19. <b>SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</b> Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. <b>CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND</b>	[N]

<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	
21. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we 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: Some of the holes were re-located in order to minimize the number of trees that need to be cleared.

No Action:

Approval:

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

26. Public Involvement: USFS public scoping has begun

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: USFS (Custer NF)

28. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: There would be no significant impacts associated with this proposal.

29. Cumulative Effects: None

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:**

EIS     More Detailed EA     No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist Prepared By:** Robert Cronholm  
Program Supervisor

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Signature

7/28/08  
Date