

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

COMPANY NAME: Golden Mountain Properties **Project:** Locust-Essey Exploration Project**PERMIT OR LICENSE:** Pending**LOCATION:** T2S R8W Sec 4 & 5**County:** Silver Bow**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:** Federal State Private

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Golden Mountain Properties has proposed to reopen an old adit to sample material, and remove old dumps from the site. A new road will be constructed Topsoil will be salvaged and overburden will be used at final reclamation. A native see mix will be applied to all disturbed ground.

Reclamation Plan: All disturbed areas will be re-contoured once work is completed. The areas will then be covered with salvaged topsoil and seeded with an approved native seed mix. A weed control program will be ongoing for the next three growing seasons.

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?	This site is in Paleozoic shales a couple miles southwest of the Pandora deposit. The main ore body is recorded as a nearly vertical spiral, chimney-shaped mass with a reported diameter of .5 to 10 feet. The ore contained copper, silver, and gold but the different grades became lean toward the margin with an increase in the amount of iron oxide. (Winchell 1914)
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?	The National Resource Information Center cited 428 plant Species of Concern and 66 Potential Species of Concern. The majority of those plants fell into the Dicot flowering plant species.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	Nine Species of Concern were found in a search of the National Resource Information Center, these species include: Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Wolverine, Hoary Bat, Fringed Myotis, Great Blue Heron, Greater Sage-Grouse, Clark's Nutcracker, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow. The An Agapetus Caddishfly was listed as a Potential Species of Concern.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE	N

OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	This project is located on the old Gold King mine site. The mine peaked in 1911, shipping 252 tons of ore that averaged .69% copper, 1.43 oz of silver, and 2.63 ounces of gold per ton. Once the Hecla Consolidated Mining Company closed the smelters in 1900, the decline of the district was quick to follow. (Winchell 1914)
8. AESTHETICS: 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
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.	N
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
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF	N

RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	
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 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
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	N

25. Alternatives Considered: **None**

No Action: **If no action were taken, Golden Mountain Properties would have to abandon their plans to explore this site.**

Approval: **None**

26. Public Involvement: **None**

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: **BLM**
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:

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Signature:

Date: **8/30/2012**