

The Chugach National Forest, Seward Ranger District has two proposed projects for which it is preparing environmental evaluations.

The first project includes a proposed mining plan of operations on Quartz Creek near Mile 39 of the Seward Highway. The project proposes exploration on the bench above the creek. Activities would include clearing vegetation from an existing trail, walking a small excavator to the creek bench, and digging several small test holes. Access would be by pickup truck for less than one mile on a road closed to the general public. Use of a camp consisting of a truck camper is also proposed. The legal land description for first project is: Township 5 North, Range 2 West, Section 3, Seward Meridian. Mining operations would occur seasonally over a five year period.

The second project includes a proposed mining plan of operations for small scale exploration and access on Lark Mountain above Grant Lake near Moose Pass, Alaska. Access would be by ATV on an existing trail and State of Alaska lands for approximately 2 miles and clearing vegetation from an old mining trail on an additional ½ mile of National Forest System lands. Exploration would include geologic sampling and access to existing underground mine workings using a small suction dredge/high-banker and a small ATV towable backhoe. The legal land description for the second proposed project is: Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Section 20, Seward Meridian. Mining operations would occur seasonally over a five year period.

The Responsible Official for these projects is: Francisco B. Sanchez, Seward District Ranger.

Additional information regarding these actions can be obtained from:

Mike Johnson
Minerals Administrator
P.O. Box 390 Seward, AK 99664
907-288-7729 or mwjohnson@fs.fed.us

Specific written comments on the proposed projects will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the Alaska Dispatch News, the newspaper of record for the Seward Ranger District. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, or in person to:
Seward Ranger District
Attn: Seward District Ranger
PO Box 390, Seward, Alaska 99664
or by email to: mwjohnson@fs.fed.us

Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

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