



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

March 28, 2012

Mr. Ken Marcy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
12928 SW 276th Street
Vashon, WA 98070

RE: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Mikado Prospect, Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Marcy:

Attached is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Mikado Prospect near Florence, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) made several attempts to request access from the landowners of the Mikado Prospect Mine, but permission was never granted.

The Mikado Prospect was investigated by the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) on August 8, 2000. The IGS report contained no information indicating any environmental concerns were observed or documented. This would indicate no potential releases of heavy metals by airborne means or surface and ground water existed which would cause any human health risks or ecological health risks. Additionally, potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals, would have been investigated. No sediment, soil or water samples were taken indicating no areas of concern existed.

IGS observed a pit that was a shaft with water in the bottom of the pit. It could not be determined if the shaft was open or caved below the water in the bottom of the pit. If it is open, the shaft is a significant hazard; if it is caved, there is little or no hazard. If the shaft is open, DEQ recommends the property owners reclaim the shaft site.

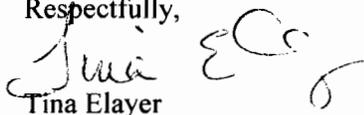
As a result of the above information, **DEQ recommends the property status of the Mikado Prospect be designated as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).**

A link to DEQ's Mikado Prospect APA can also be found on DEQ's Mining Preliminary Assessment Web page at:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/remediation-activities/mining-preliminary-assessments.aspx>

If you have any questions about this site, the report, or DEQ's recommendations, please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 373-0563.

Respectfully,


Tina Elayer
Mine Waste Specialist

attachment

cc: Mr. Scott Sanner, BLM
Mikado Prospect File

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Mikado Prospect near Florence, Idaho. This document provides the rationale for the determination of No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) and that no additional analysis or site investigation is necessary for the Mikado Prospect. The information to produce this document was taken from the 2003 Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) report. A map generated during desktop research is attached.

Preparer: Daniel D. Stewart **Date:** 3/20/12
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
300 W. Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-0808
daniel.stewart@deq.idaho.gov

Site Name: Mikado Prospect

Previous Names (aka): Markado Lode, Wie Prospect, Humbug Lode

Site Owners: Jerry and Kim Coppernoll
Address: 308 Bash Street
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Site Owners: Wally and Kelly Williams
Address: 1276 West Lake Road
Ferdinand, ID 83526

Site Location: From IGS 2003:

An access road to the property probably originates on FS Road 643 north of Florence and branches off the road to the Florence cemetery, although this route was not taken. The prospect is on a block of patented land that has been logged within the past few years. The patented land is surrounded by Forest Service land.

Township 25 North, Range 3 East, Section 13

Latitude: 45.51057°N **Longitude:** -116.03917°W

Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature:

DEQ was unable to access the property after various attempts to contact the property owners were unsuccessful.

The Mikado Prospect was investigated by IGS on August 8, 2000. The IGS report contained no information indicating any environmental concerns were observed or documented. This would indicate no potential releases of heavy metals by airborne, surface water or ground water pathways existed which would cause any human health risks or ecological health risks. Additionally, potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals would have been investigated. No sediment, soil or water samples were taken; signifying no areas of concern existed.

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If all answers are “no” go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.

	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an “alias” of another site?		x
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		x
3. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		x
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		x
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that there is no potential for a release that constitutes risk to human or ecological receptors? <i>(e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?</i>	x	

Please explain all “yes” answer(s):

A site inspection by IGS involving direct observations confirmed that contaminants of concern including hazardous materials and petroleum products were not reported in concentrations that present a threat to human health or the environment. No contaminants or hazardous substances remain on the site. No surface water, ground water or airborne pathways were detected. There is an old log cabin on the ridge top at the eastern edge of the property. The cabin has a metal roof and appeared to be maintained.

Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a “yes” or “no” response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

If the answer is “no” to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.	YES	NO
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?		x
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA eligible substances?		x
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?		x

If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.	YES	NO
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?		
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?		
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (e.g., targets within one mile)?		
7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site?		

Notes:

IGS did not document any hazardous or deleterious materials on the site. IGS did not document any petroleum products on the site. The IGS report mentioned a cabin uphill of the mining activity. IGS did not document any releases or the potential for a release.

During the site assessment, DEQ used references from several different documents including U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps, county tax rolls, and historical reports that have spelled numerous claim names, town sites, and/or geographic features differently from one and another. DEQ’s use of the different spellings is to remain in context with the reference used for each given section of text or written in this report.

Exhibit 1 – Site Assessment Decision Guidelines for a Site

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. The assessor should use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions		APA	Full PA	PA/SI	SI
1. Releases or potential to release are not documented at the site. YES		Yes			
2. Uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances have not been documented as being present on the site. (i.e., they do exist at site) YES		Yes			
3. On-site, adjacent, or nearby receptors are not present. YES		Yes			
4. There is no documentation or observations made leading to the conclusion that a sensitive receptor is present or may have been exposed (e.g., drinking water system user inside four mile TDL). YES	Option 1: APA	Yes			
5. There is documentation that a sensitive receptor has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site. NO	Option 2: Full PA or PA/SI	No			
6. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site. NO	Option 1: APA SI	No			
	Option 2: PA/SI	No			
7. There is an apparent release and no documented on-site targets and no documented targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets. Nearby targets are those targets that are located within one mile of the site and have a relatively high likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substance migration from the site. NO		Yes			
8. There are: no indications of a hazardous substance release; uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances; but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site. NO		Yes			

Part 3 - DEQ Site Assessment Decision

When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was “no,” then an APA may be performed and the “NRAP” box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is “yes,” then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 -- conduct an APA and check the “Lower Priority SI” or “Higher Priority SI” box below; or Option 2 -- proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP)	Defer to NRC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher Priority SI	Refer to Removal Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower Priority SI	Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C	Other:

DEQ Reviewer:

Daniel D. Stewart
 Daniel D. Stewart

3/28/12
 Date

Please Explain the Rationale for Your Decision:

The 2003 IGS report indicated no areas of concern were found. A cabin was present on the site uphill of the mining activities, thus no pathways exist relative to human health risks or environmental risks. IGS did not indicate any hazardous or deleterious materials on site. IGS did not take soil, sediment or water samples indicating no sampling areas of concern.

As a result of the information contained in this APA, DEQ recommends the property status of the Mikado Prospect be designated as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).

Notes:

The italicized text below was taken directly from the 2003 IGS report.

Site Description: Two pits, one of which was a shaft, and a probable caved adit are on the west-facing slope below an old cabin near the eastern edge of the patented block of land. A logging road switches back down the hill from the cabin and passes just above the workings. The pit for the shaft is 12-15 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep. There is a hole in the bottom of the pit that is filled with water, although the shaft may be caved just below water level. The waste dump is about 15 feet long, 12 feet wide and about 10-15 feet thick. Just west of the shaft and above a trough is a second pit, about 10 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep. This may be a collapsed stope above a caved adit. A somewhat irregular dump, about 75 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 15 feet thick, extends into the dry drainage from the lower end of the trough. Some of this material may have

been reworked by later placer operations. The disturbed area from lode mining covers less than 0.5 acre.

Geologic Features: *The workings at the Mikado developed quartz veins in granite.*

History: *McKay (1998, p. 217) reported:*

The Mikado lode claim was located at the head of Baboon Gulch. J.B. Crooks and Kerlee located it in 1896. First mentioned in the summer of 1897, the owners began a 200-foot tunnel that would tap the vein at a depth of about 100 feet. During the winter of 1898-99, ore worth \$1 per pound was being taken from the claim, and the lower drift was in 40 feet. By March a crew under the management of A.H. Bishop was working on the 60-foot level running a 46-foot-long east drift. The vein was crosscut about 16 feet on that level. The ore body was reportedly expensive to work because it was solid. That summer the Mikado purchased the hoist that had been on the Bay Horse claim and set it up to work the lower levels on the Mikado. The mine was mentioned in 1901, when it was listed as having much development work. In 1907 the owners (from Dayton, Washington) made a three-ton test run at the mill on the Bear Track claim and got a return of about \$125, averaging over \$40 gold per ton. The Mikado is not mentioned again until 1926, when a little gold ore was treated by amalgamation. From at least 1931 until 1937, the claim was owned by J.W. Jesse of Dayton, Washington.

Reed (1939, p. 41) noted: "The principal evidence of former development at the Mikado is an inaccessible shaft in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 13, T. 25 N., R. 3 E., on a branch of Miller Creek."

Safety: *It could not be determined if the shaft is open or caved below the water in the bottom of the pit. If it is open, the shaft is a significant hazard; if it is caved, there is little or no hazard.*

If the shaft is open, DEQ recommends the property owners reclaim the shaft site.

References:

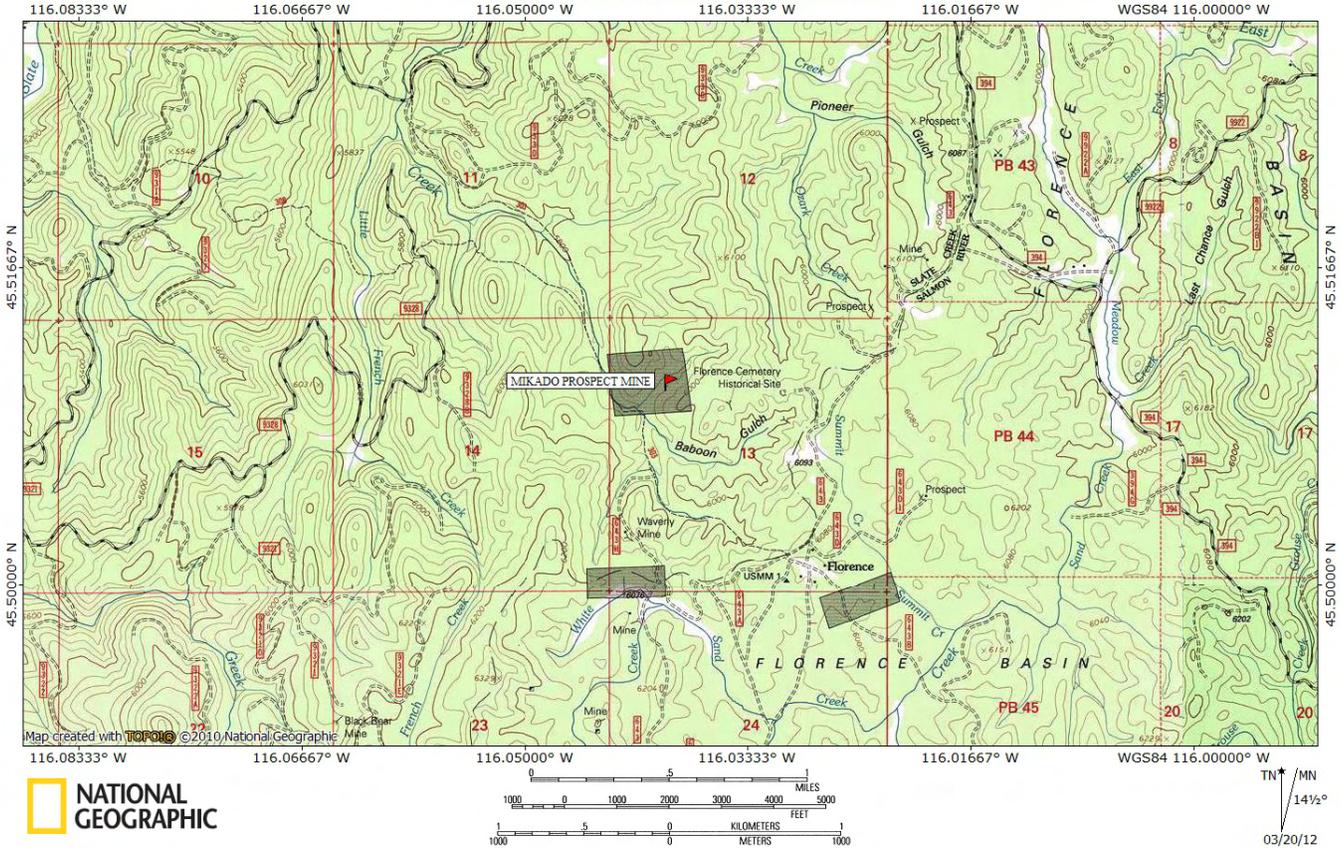
IGS (Idaho Geological Survey). Kauffman, John, Earl H. Bennett, and Victoria E. Mitchell 2003. *Site Inspection Report for the Abandoned and Inactive Mines in Idaho on U.S. Forest Service Lands (Region 1) Nez Perce National Forest. Volume I Florence and Rapid River Areas, Idaho County, Idaho.* Prepared for the U.S. Forest Service Under Participating Agreement No. FS-01-96-14-2800. Staff Report 03-19.

Topographic Overview Map of the Mikado Prospect Location. 10/25/2011. 1:24,000. Daniel Stewart; National Geographic Topographic Software.

<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/topo%21-state-series/topo%21-idaho>

Attachment:

Map



**Topographic Overview Map of the Mikado Prospect Location
(Map Source: National Geographic Topographic Software).**