



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Toni Hardesty, Director

December 21, 2011

Mr. Clint Hughes  
U.S. Forest Service  
104 Airport Way  
Grangeville, ID 83530

Subject: Site Assessment of the Poorman Mine, French Creek-Florence Mining District,  
Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of historical mining data and geological information for the above referenced mine, located near Florence, Idaho. Subsequent to that review, DEQ conducted a site visit of the Poorman Mine.

During the site visit, mining activities such as a cabin, shaft, three adits, and waste dumps were observed and mapped in order to provide a comprehensive analysis necessary to complete an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA).

Preliminary Assessments are conducted by DEQ according to the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liabilities Act (CERCLA). The reasons to complete a Preliminary Assessment (PA) include:

- 1) To identify those sites which are not CERCLIS caliber because they do not pose a threat to public health or the environment (No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP));
- 2) To determine if there is a need for removal actions or other programmatic management of sites;
- 3) To determine if a Site Investigation, which is a more detailed site characterization, is needed; and/or
- 4) To gather data to facilitate later evaluation of the release of hazardous substances through the Hazard Ranking System (HRS).

Clint Hughes  
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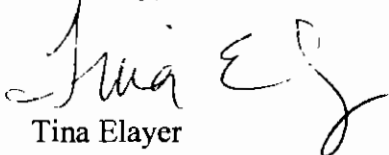
DEQ has also completed PAs under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in order to identify risks to human health and the environment, and make recommendations to land owners regarding how risks might be managed, if necessary.

During a DEQ field visit if sources, pathways, and receptors are identified for heavy metal contamination and samples are collected, a PA is generally written. If there is no evidence of receptors being influenced by sources of contamination, as was the case with the Poorman Mine property, then an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) is written.

Attached is the Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment for the Poorman Mine. The APA includes limited geological information, photographs, and a map of the property. This information was used by DEQ to make a determination that the property status is No Remedial Action is Planned (NRAP).

DEQ looks forward to addressing any questions you may have regarding our findings. Please contact me (208-373-0563) if you have any comments, questions, or if I may be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,



Tina Elayer  
Mine Waste Program Specialist  
Waste Management and Remediation Division

Attachments

cc: Ken Marcy – U.S. EPA  
Daniel Stewart – DEQ Grangeville  
~~Poorman~~ Poorman Mine File

## ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Poorman Mine 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 Poorman Mine. Additional sheets are attached which contain relevant information including historical information, photographs, a map, and references generated during the site visit or desktop research.

**Preparer:** Daniel D. Stewart **Date:** 10/24/11  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
300 W. Main  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208) 983-0808  
daniel.stewart@deq.idaho.gov

**Site Name:** Poorman Mine

**Previous Names (aka):** Sun Daun (or Dawn) Mine; Sundown.  
A recent claim notice at the site identified it as the Sun Daun (or possibly Dawn or Down) Mine, filed by Amador Silver and Gold Mining Co., Craigmont, ID. The notice was signed by David Lowery and dated July 22, 2000.

**Site Owner:** U.S. Forest Service

**Address:** 104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530

**Site Location:** Access to the mine is via FS Road 394 to the junction with FS Road 9929, north on FS Road 9929 past Looking Glass Butte to the ridge above the mine, then on foot downhill approximately .25 mile to the mine.

Township 26 North, Range 3 East, Section 26

**Latitude:** 45.47425°N **Longitude:** -116.06148°W

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

This site was investigated by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on September 22, 2011 for potential releases of heavy metals and sediment from mine waste dumps and potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals. No evidence or indications of sources for these materials was located on site.

**Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation**

<b>If all answers are “no” go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an “alias” of another site?		<b>x</b>
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		<b>x</b>
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)?		<b>x</b>
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		<b>x</b>
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>	<b>x</b>	

**Please explain all “yes” answer(s):**

A site inspection involving direct observations confirmed sources for contaminants of concern do not exist in concentrations that present a threat to human or ecological receptors. No mining related equipment, barrels, petroleum products, or substances were observed. Therefore, no complete airborne, surface or ground water pathways were found to be complete. An old cabin and outhouse are on the site.

**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.

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

<b>If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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:**

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.

The Poorman Mine is not located near any occupied dwellings, towns, or inhabitants. No hazardous materials were evident during the site visit. The partially collapsed shaft is a physical/safety hazard and should be buried.

**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.

<b>Suspected/Documented Site Conditions</b>		<b>APA</b>	<b>Full PA</b>	<b>PA/SI</b>	<b>SI</b>
1. Are releases or potential releases documented at the site?		No			
2. Are uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances documented as being present on the site (i.e., they do exist at site)?		No			
3. Are on-site, adjacent, or nearby receptors present?		Yes			
4. Is there 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)?	Option 1: APA	No			
5. Is there documentation that a sensitive receptor has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?	Option 2: Full PA or PA/SI	No			
6. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of targets, or is there targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?	Option 1: APA SI	No			
	Option 2: PA/SI	No			
7. Is there 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			
8. Is there 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			

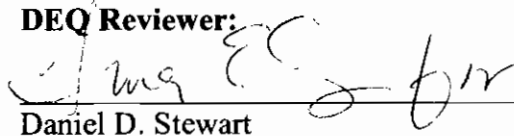
**Part 3 - EPA Site Assessment Decision**

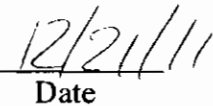
When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was “no,” then an APA may be performed and the “NRAP” box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is “yes,” then you have two options (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
	Higher Priority SI		Refer to Removal Program
	Lower Priority SI		Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site
	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C		Other:

**DEQ Reviewer:**

  
Daniel D. Stewart

  
Date

**Please Explain the Rationale for Your Decision:**

Because there was no evidence of sources (past or present) of toxic substances found on the site, there cannot be complete airborne, surface or ground water pathways to any potable water sources or residences. As shown in the photographs at the end of this report, all waste dumps and disturbed area are well stabilized.

No significant evidence of heavy metals or sulfide mineralization was found at the mine site. The dump/waste sites consisted primarily of native, country rock and material. They were well vegetated and stable.

As a result of DEQ’s research and observations, it is recommending this site be designated as NRAP.

**Attachments:**

- Historical Information
- Site Conditions and Photographs
- Map
- References

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## Historical Information

K. L. McKay (1998, p. 223-224) reported:

*In 1894 C.B. Wood and others located the Poorman and adjacent claims (Silver King, Richmond, and Crown), and this discovery reportedly initiated Florence's quartz boom. The Poorman was the first property to attract capital to Florence during this boom. In the summer of 1895 Wood sank a shaft to 50 feet and ran a tunnel to connect with the shaft and tap the vein at a depth of 60 feet below the surface. The property was bonded to J.F. Cameron of Wardner, Idaho, at that time. By late fall of that year the tunnel had reached a length of 198 feet, which was connected to the surface by a 60-foot-deep shaft. Another 50-foot-deep shaft sunk on the vein was planned. The ore averaged \$35 per ton in gold and 1 to 400 ounces in silver. At the face of the tunnel, the vein was 5 feet wide.*

*By winter of 1895-96, Poorman was considered the most developed lode mine in Florence, and much ore was already stockpiled. The owners then were Phillips and Green. In early 1897 the Poorman group of mines was incorporated by George K. Reed (president), Ezra Baird, Charles Wood, M. Green, Charles Phillips, and J.A.S. Wood. That summer foreman Claude Flint had two shifts working on the Poorman tunnel and shaft, under the management of H.E. Heppner. Heppner bought one-seventh interest in the Poorman from Charles Phillips for \$3,000 cash and a block of stock. During the summer, development work included blocking out ore ready for stoping, laying track, digging a good drain, etc. A large house for employees was constructed, plus a building at the mouth of the tunnel that was used as a blacksmith shop and a place to store and frame timbers.*

*A five-stamp mill with pans and settlers (one man reports a Wilfley table) and a steam hoist were brought to the mine in 1898. They ran the mill in July for just a short time and then shut it down because it needed alterations (the mill was later sold to the Little Giant Company of Warren). During the summer of 1899 the tunnel reached over 500 feet in length, reaching a 12- to 15-foot-wide vein that yielded ore averaging \$50-\$60 per ton. That year the mine was out of debt and the mill was paid for. The Poorman Mining & Milling Company purchased two adjoining claims that had valuable timber, water, and right-of-way. Sale of stock yielded over \$12,000 in cash. A total of 898 feet of underground workings had been completed, including a 140-foot shaft. Buildings at the mine included a bunkhouse, stable, blacksmith shop, carpenter and timber framing house, cookhouse, cold storage, woodshed, and shaft house, plus roadways and grading for hauling wood and timbers.*

*The excitement at the Poorman was short-lived, however, as no mention of it is found in contemporary newspapers or mining reports after 1898 until 1939, when John Reed described it as having been inactive for many years. He found large waste dumps at the site and inaccessible workings. According to Florence miner Gus Halmadge, the buildings still standing at the site in 1981 were the log office (which he re-roofed in 1930) and a two-seat outhouse. The twenty-four-bunk, bunkhouse (40 feet x 60 feet) and the remaining eight or so buildings were burned down by Halmadge in about 1938 because they were seen*

*as a hazard to cattle and because they were home to many packrats. The Poorman mine is now called the Sundown.*

From John C. Reed (1939):

*The Poorman Mine lies at the head of a tributary of Looking Glass Creek. It is one of the old mines of the Florence district. Large dumps testify to a large amount of underground work. The mine has been inactive for many years and is now inaccessible.*

According to Waldemar Lindgren (1900):

*The mine is “developed by a shaft 120 feet deep and a tunnel. The ore contains equal parts of gold and silver by value. The quartz is similar to that of other veins, but is said to contain, in addition, some ruby silver and horn silver”.*

## Site Conditions and Photographs

All of the Poorman Mine photographs in this section were taken by DEQ on September 22, 2011.

No mineralization was present at Collapsed Adit 1. It was well vegetated with brush and trees. No water was flowing from the adit.



**Photo 1.** Collapsed Adit 1.  
Latitude 45.47808°N, Longitude -116.06123°W

The hole remaining at the partially collapsed Shaft 1 was approximately 20 yards deep and 15 yards wide. It is a physical hazard due to its depth and steep sides. The shaft was dry.



**Photo 2.** Partially Collapsed Shaft 1.  
Latitude 45.47805°N, Longitude -116.06139°W



**Photo 3.** Collapsed Shaft 1 (steep banks, deep and dangerous).

The waste dump from Shaft 1 consisted of country rock and native materials. No mineralization was observed. The waste dump was approximately 20 yards by 6 yards by 7 yards in size and was well vegetated and stable.



**Photo 4.** Waste dump from Shaft 1.



Approximately 40 yards from the north side of Shaft 1 is a cabin. The cabin is 8 yards long by 7 yards wide and is full of pack rat trash and debris.



**Photo 5.** Cabin on north side of Shaft 1.  
Latitude 45.47805°N, Longitude -116.06209°W

Directly behind the cabin was Adit 2. The adit was dry with no flowing water. It has a small waste dump which is well vegetated and has been flattened out. DEQ was unable to estimate the size. It consisted of country rock and native materials. No mineralization was present.



**Photo 6.** Poorman Mine Adit 2.  
Latitude 45.47827°N, Longitude -116.06204°W

Poorman Mine collapsed Adit 3 is 25 yards east of the back of the cabin. The adit was dry with no flowing water.



**Photo 7.** Collapsed Adit 3.  
Latitude 45.47824°N, Longitude -116.06204°W

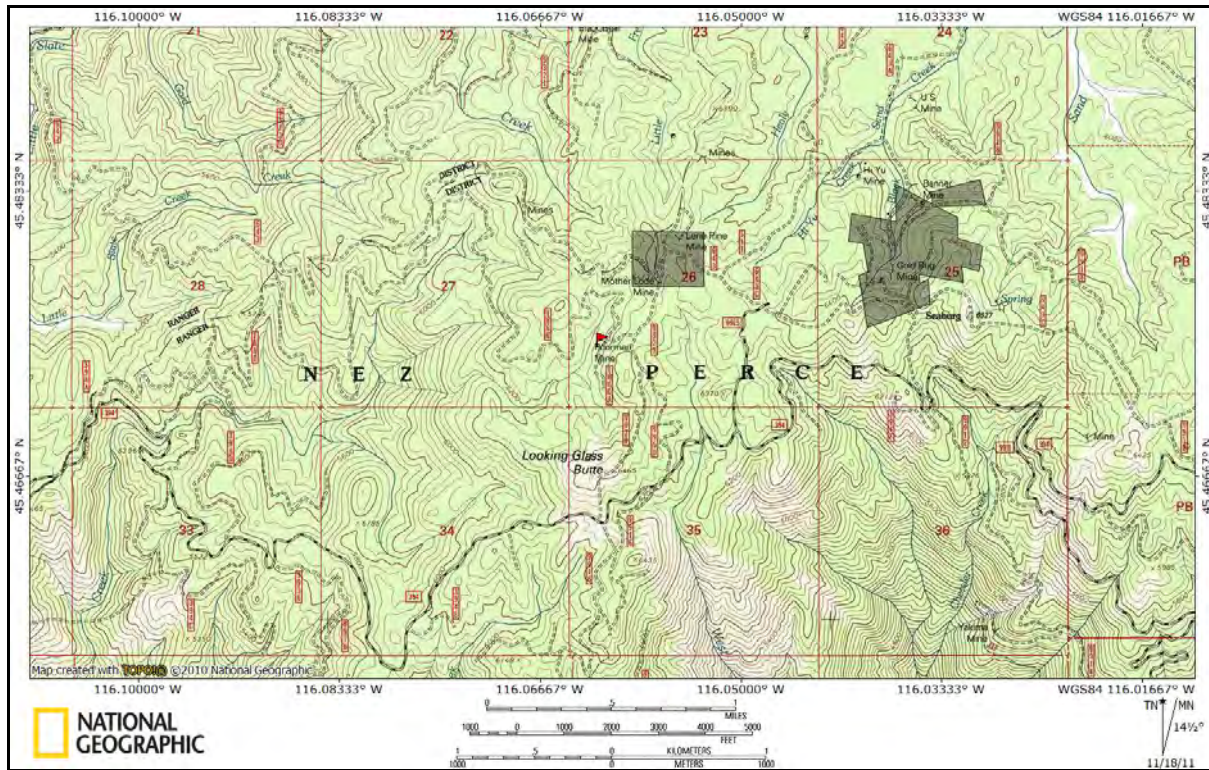
The Adit 3 waste dump is spread out into a boggy area and is well vegetated and the plants did not appear stressed. Waste material is country rock and native material. No mineralization was evident.



**Photo 8.** Waste dump from Adit 3.



# Map



**Figure 1.** Topographic Overview Map of the Poorman Mine Location  
(Map Source: National Geographic Topographic Software)

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## 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.
- Lindgren, Waldemar. 1900. The Gold and Silver Veins of Silver City, De Lamar and Other Mining Districts in Idaho: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey to the Secretary of the Interior 1898-1899, Part 3: Precious Metal Mining Districts p. 65-256.
- McKay, K.L. 1998. Gold for the Taking: Historical Overview of the Florence Mining District, Idaho County, Idaho: Historical Overview Prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture, Nez Perce National Forest under Contract #43-0295-5-0172, 429 p.
- Reed, J.C. 1934. Geology and Ore Deposits of the Florence Mining District, Idaho County, Idaho. Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology Pamphlet 46.
- Topographic Overview Map of the Poorman Mine Location. 10/24/2011. 1:24,000. Daniel Stewart; National Geographic Topographic Software.  
<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/topo%21-state-series/topo%21-idaho>