

or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful. Therefore it is the intent of the Sierra National Forest to conduct an environmental analysis of the Torosian's proposal, determine the impacts to the environment, identify appropriate mitigation measures, establish a reclamation plan, and issue an approved plan of operation to authorize the proposal.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project from the USFS perspective is to comply with the agency responsibility to comply with the 1872 Mining Act and the 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 228 requiring the USFS to authorize a proposed PoO submitted by Dave and Steve Torosian, with the appropriate mitigation measures and to reclaim the mining disturbance to pre-existing conditions. The purpose of the project from the proponent's perspective is to mine gold bearing gravels along 1350 feet of channel, as a pilot project to determine the most practical, economically efficient and viable future mining method.

Proposed Action

The mining PoO proposes to excavate alluvial gold bearing gravels along the stream channel in three locations. Mining activity would consist of excavating the entire width of the stream channel and floodplain down to a depth of approximately 5 feet. Each excavation would be 200 to 300 feet long with the total volume of excavated stream channel estimated to be 4,000–5,000 cubic yards. Design criteria set forth in the California Storm Water Best Management Practices handbook and be approved by a Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Designer would be implemented as part of the project.

Other activities associated with the mining operation include setting up a camp, adjacent to the West Fork Chiquito Creek and moving in a small storage container to store equipment and supplies. Shallow samples of soil would be collected throughout the 120 acres of the Try Me Claims. Samples would be taken in a grid pattern for assay and geochemical assessment of the area.

All lands disturbed by this proposal would be reclaimed and restored to a condition that is consistent with the Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan, as amended, USFS Region 5 and national USFS native plant policy as well as applicable State air and water quality requirements.

A USFS approved re-vegetation plan would be developed and implemented. The plan specifies site-specific locally native species sown from seed, or propagated from cuttings or other vegetative methods to be planted. Introduction prevention and spread of invasive non-native plants would be built into all stages of the project.

Responsible Official

Sierra National Forest Supervisor,
Dean A. Gould.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to approve and authorize the proposed mining PoO submitted by Dave and Steve Torosian.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues include diversion of water from the small tributary where mining is proposed and stream bed alteration of a perennial stream channel where mining will occur; management of invasive weeds; impacts to riparian habitat; and soil and vegetation disruption resulting in habitat disturbance and erosion.

Permits or Licenses Required

Several permits will be required including (1) permit from California Fish and Game (401) and possible Migratory Bird Take Permit; (2) discharge permit from California Water Quality Control Board; (3) stream alteration permit (404) from the Army Corp of Engineers; and (4) reclamation permit from the California Department of Mines.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Cynthia D. West,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2017–13036 Filed 6–21–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS–2016–0012]

Notice of Availability of Proposed Revisions to Section I of the Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota State Technical Guides for Public Review and Comment

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed revisions to Section I of the Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota State Technical Guides for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue revisions to the State Offsite Methods (SOSM) for use in Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota. The SOSM is used in completing wetland determinations for USDA program eligibility purposes. The existing SOSM's have been in use since July 2015, NRCS is seeking comments only on the proposed revisions to these documents. The revisions are needed to clarify procedures and improve consistency in application.

NRCS State Conservationists in each of these States will incorporate their revised SOSM into Section I of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). As identified in the National Food Security Act Manual these revised methods may be used for completion of wetland determinations. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment all proposed revisions to methods and procedures used to carry out the Highly Erodible Land and wetland compliance provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act (as amended).

DATES:

Effective Date: This is effective June 22, 2017.

Comment Date: Submit comments on or before June 22, 2017.

Final versions of these revised State Offsite Methods will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period and after consideration of all comments.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket Number NRCS–2016–0012, using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attention:

Regulatory and Agency Policy Team, Strategic Planning and Accountability, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Building 1–1112D, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

• *Email:* Verna.Howell@wdc.usda.gov

wdc.usda.gov. Include Docket Number NRCS–2016–0012 or “comment on proposed revisions to Section I” in the subject line of the email message.

NRCS will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. In general, personal information provided with comments will be posted. If your comment includes your address, phone number, email, or other personal identifying information, your comments, including personal information, may be available to the public. You may ask in your comment that your personal identifying information be withheld from public view, but this cannot be guaranteed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The appropriate NRCS State Conservationist as listed below;

Kurt Simon, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 210 Walnut Street, Room 693, Des Moines, Iowa 50309–2180, (515) 284–4769, Kurt.simon@ia.usda.gov, NRCS Iowa Web site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ia/home/>.

Mary Podoll, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 E. Rosser Ave., Room 278, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502–1458, (701) 530–2003, Mary.podoll@nd.usda.gov, NRCS North Dakota Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nd/home/>.

Cathee Pullman, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 375 Jackson Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101–1854, (651) 602–7854, Cathee.pullman@mn.usda.gov, NRCS Minnesota Web site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mn/home/>.

Jeff Zimprich, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Building, Room 203, 200 Fourth Street SW., Huron, South Dakota 57350–2475, (605) 352–1200, Jeff.zimprich@sd.usda.gov, NRCS South Dakota Web site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/sd/home/>.

Electronic copies of the proposed revised SOSMs are available in the docket information section of this notice. There are separate SOSM documents for each state. In general, all documents have similar language with the exception that the South Dakota and North Dakota SOSM contains procedures for playa wetlands. Playa

wetlands do not exist in either Minnesota or Iowa. NRCS is seeking comments on the revisions to these documents. Each document's revisions (deletions, additions, and strike-throughs) can be viewed in a “track changes” format. Requests for paper versions or inquiries may be directed to Paul Flynn, Wetland Project Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 375 Jackson Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To fully understand the proposed revisions, individuals are encouraged to compare these changes with each State's current version as shown on each State's Web site. To aid in this comparison, following are highlights of the proposed revisions to each State's SOSM by section:

2.1 Develop a Base Map

- Clarifies that sampling unit boundaries as viewed on aerial imagery can be adjusted using other references including Light Detection and Ranging data.

- Reinforces that for sites without pre-1985 manipulation sampling units can be identified using references other than aerial imagery.

- Provides clarification that all sampling units recorded on the Base Map reflect consideration of Normal Environmental Conditions and sites with pre-1985 drainage also accurately reflect the condition of the drainage.

- Provides direction that drainage manipulations and their approximate year of installation will be identified on the base map or another reference.

2.2.1 and 2.3.1 Hydrophytic Vegetation

- Clarifies how the Official Soil Description (OSD) section titled “Use and Vegetation” can be used in verifying hydrophytic vegetation.

2.2.3, 2.3.3, and 2.4.2 Wetland Hydrology

- Clarifies that wetland hydrology for sites without pre-1985 drainage is determined to be present when wetness signatures are found on 50 percent or more of imagery reviewed.

- Explains that the wetland hydrology review for sites without pre-1985 drainage consists of all available normal years starting with the 2014 image year and going back to 1980.

- Clarifies how wetness signatures are defined and annotated on the data sheet.

- Allows that when a normal year image is of poor quality such that wetness signatures are not discernable,

those image years can be excluded from the imagery review.

- Defines the term “all available” when used with aerial images or photography.

2.4.3 Wetland Hydrology (With Pre-1985 Drainage)

- Explains how the agency expert determines the best drainage condition of the sampling unit.

- Explains how, after determining the best drained condition, the agency expert uses aerial imagery to determine when wetland hydrology is positive or negative.

3.1 Verification of Pre-1985 Cropping History

- Allows verification based on person provided records that document cropping history.

3.2 Verification of Pre-December 23, 1985, Manipulation(s)

- Adds additional references that can be used to make this determination.

3.3 Verification of Post-1985 Potential Conversion

- Provides that verification will include review of the most recent year of aerial photography available.

3.5.1 Verification of Presence of Woody Vegetation as of December 23, 1985

- Adds this verification as an independent determination.

3.6 Determination of the Required Conditions for the Following WC Labels

- Deletes this entire Section including Table 1. Guidance in the National Food Security Act Manual will be followed to apply USDA wetland labels.

Dated: May 22, 2017.

Kevin Wickey

Regional Conservationist, Central Region, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–13061 Filed 6–21–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Minnesota Advisory Committee To Review and Discuss a Draft Report Regarding Civil Rights and Policing Practices in Minnesota

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules