

Log 115154

INVENTORY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTING

(Reference FSM 2361)

1. Report Number:				2. Report Date:		
Year	Forest	Number	Series	Month	Day	Year
2019	10	007		05	05	2021
3. Routing: Copies to						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> RO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2360	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SO:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Gore, Larry	
4. Author:						
A.	Healy		A	B.		
5. Project Name/Report Title (Abbreviate if Necessary):						
Cultural Resources Inventory for New World Cobalt Limited Project in Santa Fe and San Miguel Counties						
6. Abstract/Summary of Report and Findings:						
Comexico LLC/New World Cobalt Limited (NWCL) is proposing to develop an exploratory project in the Santa Fe National Forest (Figure 1.1). NWCL proposes to accomplish this by utilizing roads already in existence to conduct work in the defined locations. The proposed project consists of 32 proposed drill locations totaling 1.65 acres (0.66 hectares) as well as a 3 mile (15,840 foot) long access road with a 15 foot corridor totaling 5.45 acres (2.21 hectares), and 0.21 miles (1,138 ft) with a 15 foot corridor of overland route disturbance totaling 0.5 acres (0.20 hectares). The total proposed action encompasses 7.6 acres (3.07 hectares). SWCA Environmental						
						Continued Page 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Consultation/Clearance						
A. Conditions of Clearance:						
<input type="checkbox"/>	None (No potentially eligible sites in project area)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Avoid sites specified below		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitor sites specified below		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report new sites to Forest Archeologist		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other/additional comments					
Two previously recorded sites (AR 03-10-05-00038/LA 30541 and AR 03-10-05-00857/177267) were located within the project area. AR 03-10-05-00038/LA 30541 is a historic copper mine and is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under criterion A and D and AR 03-10-05-00857/LA 177267 is a historic habitation and mining site that was also recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP under criterion A and						
						Continued Page 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
B. Additional Fieldwork Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate sites specified below <input type="checkbox"/> Other, see below						
N/A						
						Continued Page 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Report Accepted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
D. Clearance Recommended: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A						
Forest Archaeologist:					Date:	
E. Effect: <input type="checkbox"/> No Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Adverse <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial						
F. Consult SHPO on: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Info Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
Forest Supervisor:					Date:	
G. SHPO Concurrence: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, per comment below <input type="checkbox"/> No, per comment below						
<input type="checkbox"/> Case-by-case concurrence not required per R-3 Programmatic Agreement						
SHPO:					Date:	
H. Clearance Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Forest Supervisor:					Date:	

8. Ranger District:	05	9. Project Function:	28	10. Primary Activity Type:	A
11. Secondary Activity Type:		12. Programming:	P		
13. Total Project Acres:	66.86	14. Acres Completely Surveyed:	66.86	15. Sample %:	0
16. Acres Resurveyed:	0	17. Total Sites in Project Area:	5	18. New Sites:	3
19. Sites Evaluated Eligible:	2	20. Sites Evaluated Not Eligible:	3		
<i>(By Professional CRM Specialist, Request SHPO Concurrence)</i>					
21. Sites Inspected, Monitored, Enhanced, Etc.:		<i>(Projects other than survey, evaluation)</i>			
22. Recommended Determination:	2	(initial:)	KKT	<i>(By FS Professional CRM Specialist)</i>	
<small>(1. No Effect 2. No Adverse Effect 3. Adverse Effect 4. N/A - Not An Undertaking 5. Beneficial 6. N/A - No Properties)</small>					
23. Project Location (Surveys only):					
Township	17N	Range	11E	Section	1, 7, 8
Township		Range		Section	
Township		Range		Section	
Township		Range		Section	
24. Institution Conducting Project / Survey:					
			FA		
Name of Institution:		USDA, Santa Fe National Forest			
25. Average Number of Individuals Used:					
			26. Average Individual Transect Spacing (ft.):	50	
27. Field Hours:					
		28. Lab/Lib Hours:			29. Travel Hours:
30. Admin. Hrs:		RD:	SO:	31. Mileage:	32. PD Rate:
33. Days of Per Diem:					
34. Cost Weight Factor:		35. Cost (Code):		36. or Actual Cost: \$ ()	
37. Remarks / Continuation from page 1:					
<p>6. Summary continued: Consultants (SWCA) conducted a pedestrian cultural resources survey that included a 100-foot buffer around each of the project components for a total cultural resources survey area of 66.86 acres (46.17 hectares). The U.S. Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, is the lead agency for the current undertaking.</p> <p>The proposed activities include up to 30 boreholes via diamond drilling and/or reverse circulation drilling to determine the possible extent of a mineral deposit containing copper, gold, zinc, lead, and silver. Comexico has proposed exploratory drill holes to confirm the deposit's existence and to explore the known deposit's extents. The proposed disturbance would be limited to areas of existing roads and/or former disturbance. The approximate area proposed to station a drill rig upon a borehole location is 60 × 40 feet and is referred to as a drill site. All proposed surface-disturbing activities are intentionally sited to be co-located where existing roads, historic roads, or historic drill sites have already disturbed the soil. Minor overland routes upon historic tracks and minor earth grading at drill rig stations is proposed.</p> <p>In addition to the proposed drilling activity disturbance, Comexico have identified 1.2 miles of existing Maintenance Level 2 Forest Service roads for which it has proposed road maintenance activities to mitigate existing and future erosive conditions. The 1.2 miles of road is upon an access corridor consisting of</p>					

approximately 3 miles of existing road which, at a width of 15 ft, is considered in its entirety to be part of the total disturbance for the project.

SWCA surveyed the parcel on June 10–12, 2019; September 12—13, 2019. They conducted a 100 percent intensive cultural resources pedestrian inventory of the current survey parcels by walking parallel transects spaced no more than 15 m (approximately 50 feet) apart. The survey included a 100-foot buffer around each of the 32 proposed drill locations and 2.1 mile (1,138 foot) proposed overland routes as well as a 3.0 mile (15,840 foot) long segment of Forest Road (FR) 192, with a corridor width of 150 feet (45 m) that leads to the drill locations, for a total of 66.86 acres (46.17 hectares).

SWCA recorded three newly identified sites (AR 03-10-05-00832/LA 194424, AR 03-10-05-00833/195194, and AR 03-10-05-00834/195195), updated two previously recorded sites (AR 03-10-05-00038/LA 30541 and AR 03-01-05-00857/177267), and documented six isolated finds (IFs).

7. Consultation and Clearance, continued:

D. Three newly identified sites, AR 03-10-05-00832/LA 194424, AR 03-10-05-00833/LA 195194, and AR 03-10-05-00834/LA 195195, were observed and fully recorded. These sites are associated with mining and historic use activities that took place in the Santa Fe National Forest around the 1970s. All three new resources are recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any Criteria.

Site AR 03-10-05-00038/LA 30541 the proposed drill pads have been removed from the proposed project and will be avoided during project implementation, therefore no mitigations are proposed.

Proposed mitigations for site AR 03-10-05-00857/177267, located on both sides of FR 192, include no road maintenance outside of existing road prism, and an archaeological monitor is required during any road maintenance proposed on the road within site boundaries.

The three new sites recorded, AR 03-10-05-00832/LA 194424, AR 03-10-05-00833/LA 195194, and AR 03-10-05-00834/LA 195195, are recommended not eligible for the NRHP. No mitigations are proposed for these sites as long as NM SHPO concurs with the eligibility determinations.

If the recommendations in this document are followed, subject to agency consultation and comment, the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Tribal Consultation:

The Santa Fe National Forest consults with twenty-seven American Indian Tribes that continue to use and have historic ties to lands now managed by the Forest for a variety of traditional and cultural purposes. Tribal consultation for the Comexico Exploratory Drilling project was initiated, pursuant to NEPA and NHPA, in July 2019 as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meetings and Tribal Listening Sessions the Forest and Region conducts with some of the associated Pueblos. After discussions with Tesuque Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, and Santa Clara Pueblo a field visit date and meeting was scheduled for July 30, 2019. Representatives from the Pueblos of Jemez, Tesuque, and Santa Clara along with Comexico LLC and the Santa Fe National Forest attended. Other MOU and Listening Session were held in August and December of 2019.

A letter dated November 4, 2019 was sent to all consulting tribes with a copy of the draft archaeology survey report. A review of the draft archaeology survey report was requested during the July 2019 meeting. On December 2, 2019 the NEPA Scoping letter was sent out to all consulting tribes. Responses were recorded from Hopi Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Tesuque, and the Comanche Nation. Responses included both response to scoping and references to the draft archaeological survey report. After reviewing the Tribes and other concerns the decision was made, by the Forest, to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Comexico Exploratory Drilling project.

Main considerations are the use of the area for high elevation resource collection. Multiple Tribes have noted that the project area is a special collection and hunting area due to the high elevation. The Forest Service will work with the pueblos and tribes to develop a plan with the Tribes and the operator to arrange short-term operation shut-downs to allow for cultural practices in the area .

On March 11, 2020 meeting was held at the request of the Hopi Tribe. A portion of the meeting included a discussion on the Comexico Exploratory Drilling project.

On July 14, 2020 a field visit to the project area was conducted with members of Tesuque Pueblo and the Santa Fe National Forest. Concerns were discussed. A similar meeting was attempted with members of Jemez Pueblos on July 16, 2020, an outdoor meeting was conducted but the project area was not visited until September 29, 2020. Similar concerns were expressed by both tribes. The Sangre de Cristo mountains are sacred to both Pueblos and concerns were expressed over mining in the area.

Consultation with Pueblos/Tribes is ongoing.