

MINING INSPECTION REPORT

Capitan Iron Mine

Permit #: LI005ME

Date of Inspection: March 4, 2025

Name of Operator: El Capitan Precious Metals Inc. Commodity: Iron

INSPECTION DETAILS

Purpose of Inspection: Annual Inspection **Weather Conditions** Sunny, 50 deg, High wind warnings

Lead Inspector: Samantha Rynas, *MMD*

Present During Inspection: Clint Chisler *MMD*

Time: On-Site: 2 hr Permit Review: 8 Travel: 8 Report Writing: 8

TOTAL INSPECTION TIME: 26 hours

ACCESS NOTES:

When turning off the highway, there is a locked gate on the road. There was a second opening/gate installed just beside it that was open/not locked.

There was no other gate encountered, when arriving at the residence on site, stay to the left.

PERMIT STATUS

No new actions – Permit is “dormant”. It has been ~5.5 years since an inspection was last performed (Oct. 2019). There is little institutional knowledge on this site. This Inspection report also works as a full permit file review to pull in historical context for the site.

INSPECTION NARRATIVE AND PHOTOS

Arrived on site at 11:30. Operator had never responded to previous request for an inspection, MMD staff performed the inspection without Operator Present. Main goal was for initial review of site and determine current conditions, MMD staff accomplished this by walked the site. Significant trash/debris throughout the site. All fencing was falling down throughout the site. There were significant piles of various types of material, seemingly in no order.

Did not visit the cement pad behind the residence on the west side of the permit area. Discrepancies between original permit mapping and more recent mapping didn't indicate the cement pad area being in the current permit area – however it appears the cement pad/USFS

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property was used in Mining activities at some point and this needs to be resolved (see also 2019 inspection)

On desktop review general disturbance is 11.15 acres (see figure 2). This doesn't include the residence or the cement pad area. Additional items of note following a detailed file review on the site:

- Each 5-acre section should have been reclaimed after each “phase” was completed
→ All areas under this permit appeared as active disturbance with no re-grading or appearance of reclamation.
- Original Permit included the cement pad, but later modifications dropped this area. In Original application documents there was a “plant” on the cement pad, and facilities where the residence are. → need to verify associated mine disturbance and what reclamation has been done or needs to be done.
- On imagery review, a small pad appears to have been used in mining that is on Forest Service Land.
- Residence may no longer be associated with Mine activities. Part of the Permit, Parcel map shows the claim parcel may have been split.

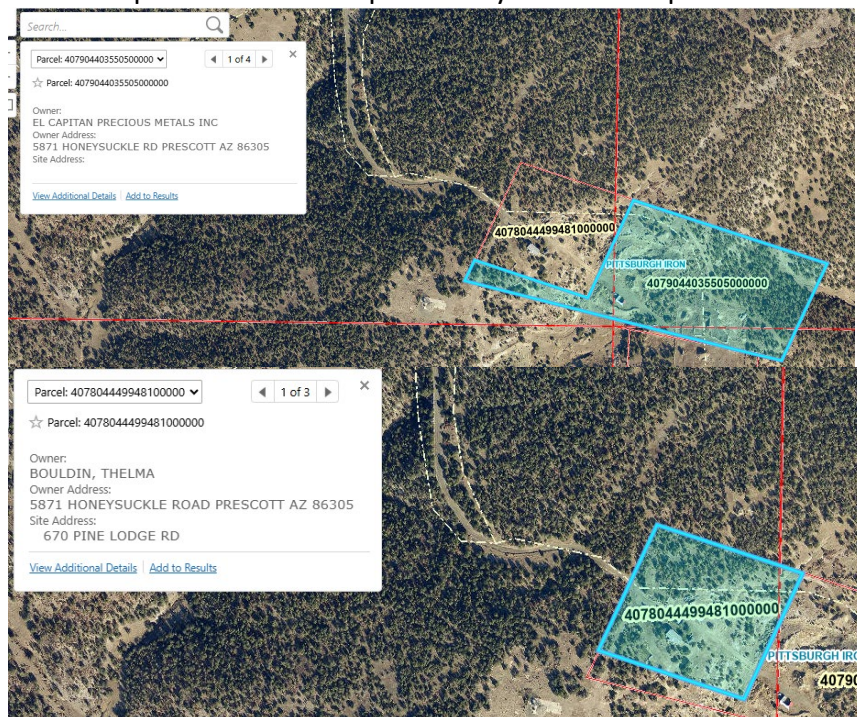


FIGURE 1 PARCEL MAPS OF PITTSBURG LODGE

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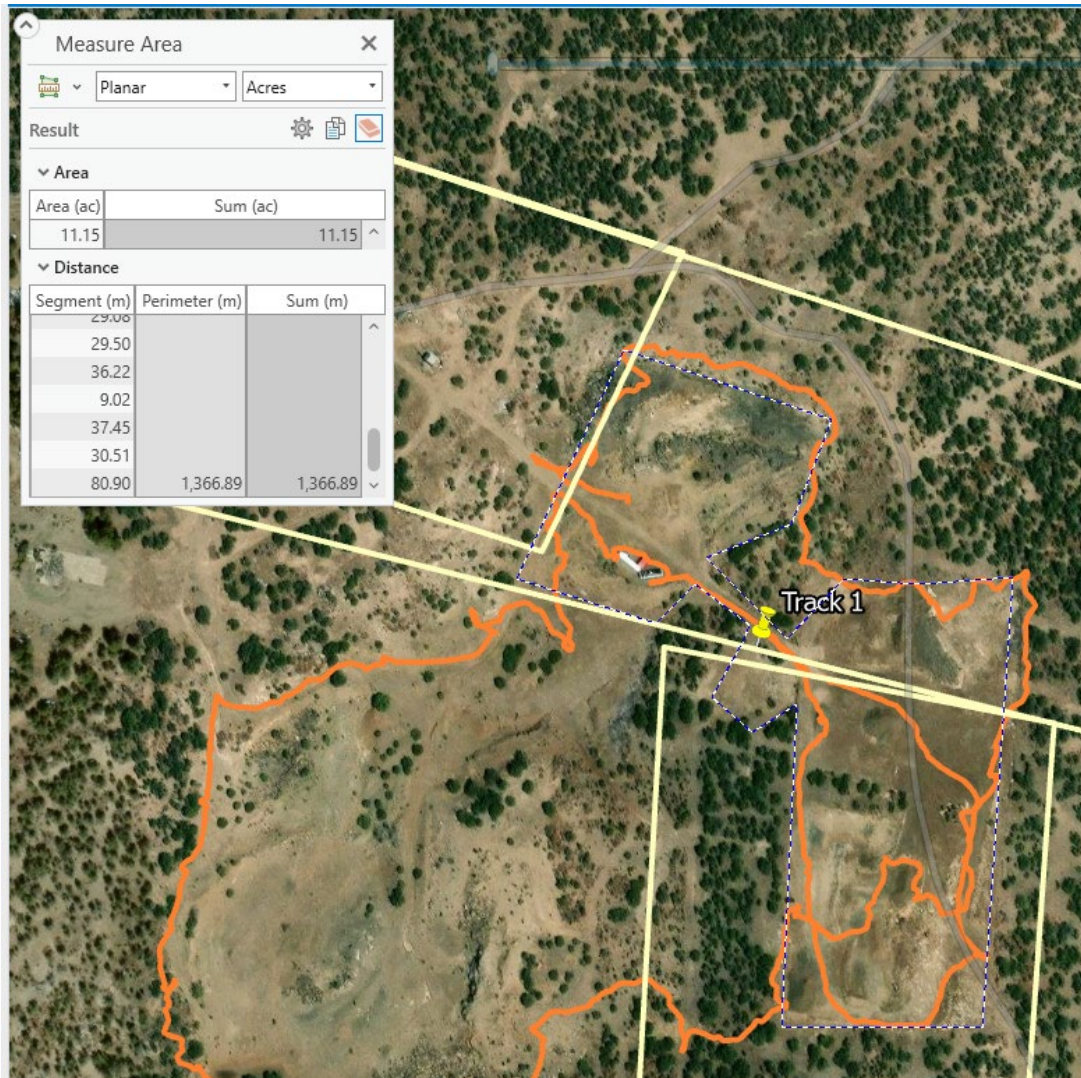


FIGURE 2 DISTURBANCE AREA

Small clearing below yellow marker for Track 1, on google earth review this appears to be part of the mining activities.

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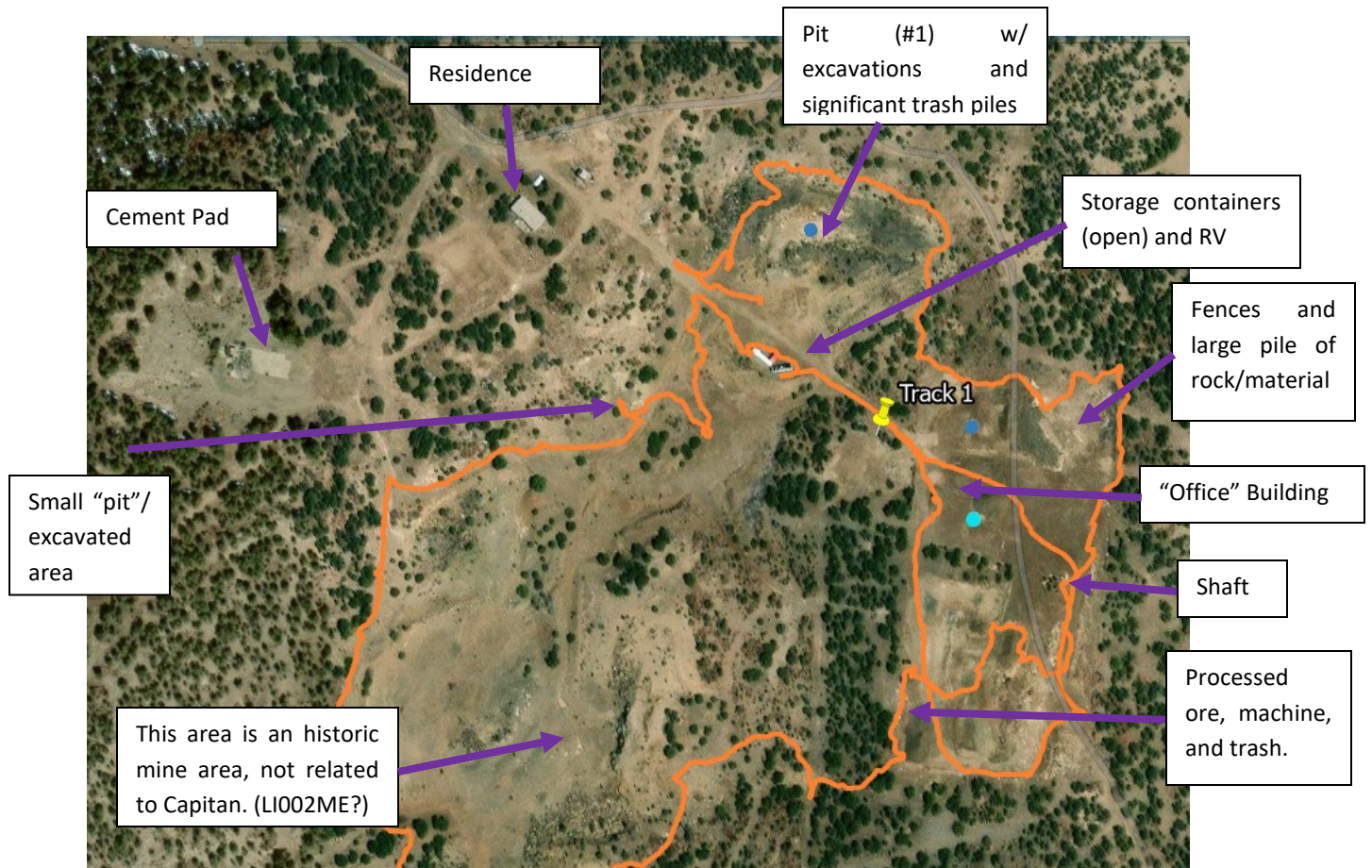


FIGURE 3 FEATURES ON SITE – BLUE DOTS WERE MARKED “ACTIVE” PITS IN PERMIT DOCUMENTS.

View from road behind residence looking South East, residence is over the right shoulder:



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Pit #1 Area:



FIGURE 4 LOOKING TOWARDS PIT AREA FROM THE ROAD

Large rocks piled in the upper left, on the midground right is a pile of unknown material left un-reclaimed/not graded with vegetation now growing.

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FIGURE 5 LOOKING BACK DOWN TOWARDS THE ROAD FROM "TOP" OF THE PIT

- Orange Arrow showing the historic pit – LI002ME – Smokey Mine
- RV and containers visible near road.
- Red arrow is the area of Pit 2/3 of disturbance visible in the background. The small office is also visible.



FIGURE 6 UN-RECLAIMED PILES WITH VEGETATION

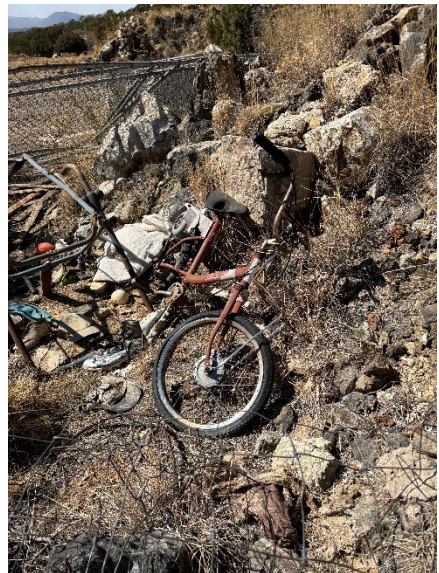
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Pit 1 Trash:



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Storage containers and RV Area:

Storage containers were not closed or locked. RV appeared to possibly have some door damage. Unsure of if any materials have been vandalized or damaged.



FIGURE 10 RV



FIGURE 9 RED STORAGE CONTAINER

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FIGURE 12 RED CONTAINER



FIGURE 11 MATERIALS



FIGURE 14 WHITE CONTAINER & CONTENTS



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FIGURE 15 RV



FIGURE 16 UN-RECLAIMED PILE NEAR CONTAINERS

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Pit 2/3 Areas:

Pits 2/3 are not very defined, the entire north-south disturbance is composed mostly of large disordered piles. There are various fences but they are mostly fallen down.

There is a Shaft on this area which is fenced/protected.

There is also a Small office building on the site that was open.



FIGURE 18 WALKING UP TO OFFICE - DOOR VISIBLY OPEN

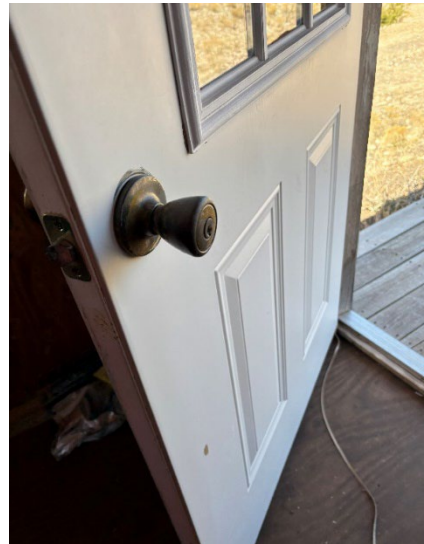


FIGURE 17 NO DAMAGE TO FRAME/DOOR



FIGURE 20 NO DAMAGE TO FRAME



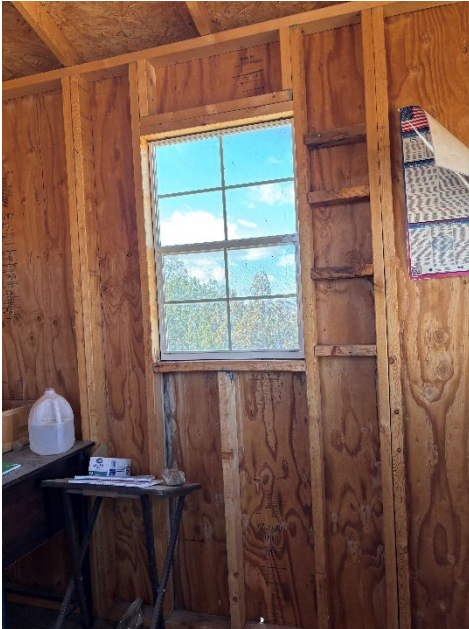
FIGURE 19 DAMAGED WINDOW

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Figures above: Office Interior Photos.

General Pit 2/3:



FIGURE 21 UNRECLAIMED PILES

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FIGURE 22 OVERVIEW OF DISTURBANCE



FIGURE 23 NORTHEAST CORNER OF PIT 2, FENCING DOWN AND PILE VISIBLE

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FIGURE 25 SHAFT FENCING



FIGURE 24 SHAFT

Shaft is ~2-3 feet wide.



FIGURE 26 UNRECLAIMED PILE

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FIGURE 27 LARGE UNRECLAIMED PILES



FIGURE 28 LARGE UN-RECLAIMED PILES LOOKING EAST

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FIGURE 29 LARGE PILES OF PROCESSED AND UN-PROCESSED MATERIAL



FIGURE 30 UN-RECLAIMED PILE

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Perimeter Photos of Pits 2 and 3:



FIGURE 32 LARGE UN-RECLAIMED PILES ON PERIMETER



FIGURE 31 FENCING DOWN ALONG PERIMETER



FIGURE 34 BERNS ALONG PERIMETER, ORE PILE ON RIGHT SIDE



FIGURE 33 BERMING

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Southeast border of the Pittsburg 1 Lode disturbance:



FIGURE 35 ORE PILE WITH MATERIAL COMING DOWN INTO DRAINAGE



FIGURE 37 BERM "GAP" WHERE MATERIAL FLOWING THROUGH



FIGURE 36 GOING DOWN DRAINAGE - TOWARDS SMOKEY MINE

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FIGURE 38 TRASH ALONG BERM, ORE PILE ON THE LEFT



FIGURE 39 TRASH IN DRAINAGE



FIGURE 41 TRASH IN DRAINAGE



FIGURE 40 ORE MATERIAL VISIBILE FLOWING THROUGH DRAINAGE TOWARDS SMOKEY MINE

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Trash and Materials left on site along the South east border.



FIGURE 42 MACHINE LEFT ON SITE

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Possible staging area



Yellow outline/Shading is the Permit area, the photos are from the area not under the Permit area, on USFS property. Orange tracks show walking around the materials left on site.



FIGURE 43 VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS LEFT BEHIND

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Larger Machinery Equipment with red rollers, red arrow marking items in the background. Zoom in below.



FIGURE 44 MATERIALS ON USFS PROPERTY



FIGURE 45 MATERIALS ON USFS PROPERTY.

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FIGURE 46 ROAD EROSION WALKING LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE ROAD

Not included in this inspection but saved into the file on the G: Drive; Photos of the Smokey Mine.

The mine at this point appears mostly self-reclaimed. This area is extremely close to the El Capitan Mine and it is hard to determine where historical mining occurred through the Smokey Mine versus more recent disturbance under Capitan. Below are several photos along the road on the east perimeter of the Smokey Pit. There were small excavations/pad areas on the east side of the road.



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As MMD staff drove off site the section of road that was ‘improved’ and filled with mine material was checked. There are no culverts and it appears that while some head cutting and erosion was present previously, however on inspection there is erosion and stability concerns that need to be reviewed.



FIGURE 47 LOCATION OF ROAD CHANGES & DRAINAGE

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West side: Soil looks like it consistently holds water.



East Side: Significant erosion occurring as the water drops off the road.



FIGURE 48 VIEW OF WHERE WATER FLOWS OFF ROAD

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FIGURE 50 LOOKING DOWN TO DRAINAGE



FIGURE 49 LARGE ROCKS AND DROP OFF ROAD AND PROXIMITY TO THE CEMENT ROAD BARRIERS



FIGURE 51 CEMENT BARRIER VISIBLE IN THE BOTTOM, DIRT AND ROCKS ARE WASHED OUT FROM UNDER THE BARRIER.

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FIGURE 52 HEADCUT IN THE ROAD - PREVIOUSLY NOTED IN PRIOR INSPECTION (2016)

Related Inspections for reference:

- 2016 0325 Inspection: details the road changes as well as exceeding the 5 acre permit boundary for disturbance. This disturbance appears to be the same location as Figures 43-45 which is on USFS property as well as outside the permit boundary.
- 2019 1009 Inspection: Mentions the concrete pad with USFS and needing reclamation.

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ACTION ITEMS

Continue desktop review of file. Look into related projects: LI008EM, LI009ER.

Notify USFS on road status and materials on USFS property. Confirm what Bonds, or NOI's/Permissions does Operator have for the site.

Reach out to operator about:

1. Has any reclamation work been performed.
2. Updated FA/Mine Plan → Possible application for regular existing mine.
3. Likely need a remediation plan for the road in conjunction with USFS.
4. Confirm if Smokey Mine is now owned by ECPMI. And records of any reclamation work done.

INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: Samantha Rynas **DATE:** 3/13/2025