

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Sarah Cottrell Propst**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Jerry Schoeppner PG, Director**  
Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Richard Reycraft, Ph.D., Archaeologist  
Historic Preservation Division  
NM Department of Cultural Affairs  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek Exploration, Grant Co., NM, Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Dr. Estes:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 12, 2021 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Bronco Creek Exploration ("Bronco Creek"), for its Malone District Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.938 acres of United States Forest Service ("USFS") property (28 drill holes on 14 drill pads) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 15.6 miles NE of Lordsburg, NM off of State Hwy 90 in Grant County New Mexico. Because Bronco Creek has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

The application and map for the Malone District Exploration Project can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the MMD website at:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/GR086EM.html>

Please provide any comments on the proposed project to MMD by March 16, 2021. A site visit regarding this application is set for March 9, 2021. Please contact Clint Chisler at (505) 467-9589 or via email at: [clinton.chisler@state.nm.us](mailto:clinton.chisler@state.nm.us) with any questions on the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clint Chisler".

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead – Permit GR086EM  
Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

**cc:** Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF/MMD

Mine File GR086EM

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Dr. Matthew Wunder, Chief  
Conservation Services Division/New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
PO Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek, Grant Co., NM Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Dr. Wunder:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 12, 2021 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Bronco Creek Exploration ("Bronco Creek"), for its Malone District Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.938 acres of United States Forest Service ("USFS") property (28 drill holes on 14 drill pads) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 15.6 miles NE of Lordsburg, NM off of State Hwy 90 in Grant County New Mexico. Because Bronco Creek has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Anne Maurer, Mining Act Team Leader  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section/NMED - Groundwater Quality Bureau  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek Exploration, Grant Co., NM, Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Ms. Maurer:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 12, 2021 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Bronco Creek Exploration ("Bronco Creek"), for its Malone District Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.938 acres of United States Forest Service ("USFS") property (28 drill holes on 14 drill pads) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 15.6 miles NE of Lordsburg, NM off of State Hwy 90 in Grant County New Mexico. Because Bronco Creek has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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Mining Act Reclamation Program (“MARF”)/MMD

cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF/MMD

Mine File GR086EM

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

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Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Ghassan Musharrafiieh, Chief  
Office of the State Engineer/ Hydrology Bureau  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek Exploration, Grant Co., NM, Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Mr. Musharrafiieh:

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cc: Holland Shepherd, Program Manager, MARF/MMD

Mine File GR086EM



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Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Daniella Roth, Botanist  
NM State Forestry Division  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Post Office Box 1948  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1948

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek Exploration, Grant Co., NM, Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Ms. Roth:

Pursuant to §19.10.3.302 NMAC, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has determined that a Minimal Impact Exploration Permit Application ("application") submitted on February 12, 2021 is administratively complete. The application was submitted by Bronco Creek Exploration ("Bronco Creek"), for its Malone District Exploration Project and proposes to disturb a total of up to 3.938 acres of United States Forest Service ("USFS") property (28 drill holes on 14 drill pads) within the boundaries of claim numbers identified in the application for exploration located approx. 15.6 miles NE of Lordsburg, NM off of State Hwy 90 in Grant County New Mexico. Because Bronco Creek has agreed not to exceed 5 acres of total disturbance at all times, MMD is processing this application as a minimal impact exploration permit pursuant to §19.10.3.302 (A) NMAC.

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**Jerry Schoepner PG, Director**  
Mining and Minerals Division



February 17, 2021

Beth Ihle, Gila National Forest, District Ranger  
United States Forest Service  
Silver City Ranger District  
3005 E. Camino del Bosque  
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

**RE: Request for Review and Comment, Minimal Impact Exploration Operation Permit Application, Malone District Exploration Project/Bronco Creek Exploration, Grant Co., NM, Permit Tracking No. GR086EM**

Dear Ms. Ihle:

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