

BIG ROCK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 453
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-7769

September 11, 2015

Jerome E. Perez
Oregon State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208-2965

Re: Proposed Mineral Withdrawal

Dear Director Perez:

We understand that the *Bureau of Land Management* is proposing to temporarily withdraw from mining nearly 100,000 acres of federal public lands in southern Oregon that could be threatened by nickel mining at some point in the future. We also understand that the "Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act of 2015" (S. 346 and H.R. 682) was introduced earlier this year to permanently withdraw these lands from mining and mineral entry. And, we understand that the mineral withdrawals proposed with this legislation, if implemented, would not nullify existing mining claims.

The *Big Rock Community Services District* is a California Special District with Constitutional governance authority over its place of use. Its jurisdiction is proverbially known as the *Township of Hiouchi*. Hiouchi is located on the north bank of the pristine Smith River downstream from where the North, Middle and South Forks converge into a single body of river water. One of the Special District's key municipal obligations is to supply drinkable water to the commercial businesses and community residents within its jurisdiction. Revenue to support all of the *Big Rock CSD's* municipal services comes from water consumers on a fee basis and also from property tax. Indeed, the *Big Rock CSD's* jurisdiction includes the *Redwood National Park* and California's priceless *Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park* that collectively host tens of thousands of visitors to this area every year. Much of the Hiouchi's disadvantaged economy is derived from sport fishing for steelhead and salmon. As is true of this township on a smaller scale, the general health of Del Norte County's businesses at large is dependent upon tourism and recreation throughout the year. A critical component of commercial dynamics in this county and a vital contributor to the attractiveness of the entire region is the pristine nature of the Smith River watershed.

The *Big Rock Community Services District's* Board of Directors/Trustees made an informal, but determined effort to solicit the related views of its constituents. Without exception to date, the residents of this community felt that exploration leading to possible mining operations could threaten the pristine nature of the Smith River and its downstream confluences.

The position of the Special District is thus. A plus B equals C. Having heard of a proposed mineral exploration site being (A) located dangerously near the North Fork (and tributaries) of the Smith River and, worse yet, (B) situated on a steep incline above the river was (C) sufficient to convince the *Township of Hiouchi* to reject any and all attempts by private or commercial operators to acquire permits. Thus, the Board of Directors/Trustees, *Big Rock Community Services District*, officially resolved to support both the proposed 5-year and permanent mineral withdrawals and to oppose *Red Flat Nickel Corporation's* mining proposal.

Inquiries regarding this matter may be addressed to 2680 U.S. Highway 199, Crescent City, CA 95531-9309.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Bradford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" being more prominent than the last name "Bradford".

Craig Bradford, President
Board of Directors/Trustees