

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Pole Canyon Construction - Fall/Winter 2006

Updates:

On October 2, 2006, Regional Forester Jack Troyer selected the agency's preferred alternatives to divert Pole Canyon Creek, before it flows beneath a waste rock overburden disposal area (ODA), as part of the plan to remediate contaminant releases from the J.R. Simplot Co. (Simplot) Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine. Pole Canyon Creek water unaffected by mine wastes will be discharged into Sage Valley below the ODA. The Site Investigation determined that significant concentrations of selenium and other hazardous substances were discharged into the environment down gradient and beneath the ODA.

Proposed actions include:

- A 30" pipeline to divert Pole Canyon Creek around the Pole Canyon ODA.
- An infiltration gallery to collect all water not diverted by the pipeline and to infiltrate that water into the Wells Formation aquifer.
- A run-on ditch on the north side of the ODA to collect water before it flows onto the dump.
- Effectiveness monitoring of parts 1-3.

Simplot started construction on the project this fall to address the surge of selenium contamination into groundwater and surface water during spring runoff next year. Simplot will attempt to complete much of the major construction on the water diversion project before weather makes it impossible to continue. Construction photos below.



Diversion Footings



Pole Canyon Diversion, before construction



Pipeline Installation



Hydro seeding pipeline diversion access road cut-off



Pipe used in diversion



Access road removal