

# **Plan of Operations for Mining Activities for National Forest System Lands**

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**Golden Crest Project  
Northern Hills Ranger District  
Black Hills National Forest  
Lawrence County, South Dakota**

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**Submitted by:** Walt Hunt      COO      2/8/22

**Signature**

**Title**

**Date**

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

**Title**

**Date**

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**A. Name of Mine/Project:**

Golden Crest Project

**B. Type of Operation:**

Lode, Exploration

**C. Is this a New Operation or Existing Operation:**

New Operation

**D. Proposed start-up date of operation:**

August 2022

**E. Expected total duration of this operation:**

Up to Two Years Three Months following Start-Up Date.

**F. If seasonal, expected date of annual reclamation/stabilization close out:**

November 15

**G. Expected date for completion of all required reclamation:**

November 15 after closure of field operations.

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## II. PRINCIPALS

### **A. Name, address, and phone number of operator:**

Solitario Zinc Corp. (herein referred to as Solitario or Operator)

Attn: Mr. Walter Hunt

4251 Kipling Street, Suite 390

Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033

(303) 534-10300

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### **B. Name, address, and phone number of authorized field representative (if other than the operator):**

Mr. Todd Christensen  
Project Manager

Solitario Zinc Corp.

3018 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Spearfish, South Dakota 57783

(605) 269-1776

Authorization of field representative to act on behalf of operator is attached.

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### **C. Name, address, and phone number of owners of the claims (if different than the operator):**

Golden Crest unpatented lode mining claims numbered 1 through 208 and  
Golden Crest unpatented lode mining claims numbered 216 through 241  
Golden Crown unpatented lode mining claims numbered 209 through 215  
These claims are located in Sections 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,  
33, 34, 35 and 36, Township 4 North, Range 1 East of the Black Hills

Meridian and in Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 2 East of the Black Hills Meridian, in Lawrence County, South Dakota. These claims are owned by Golden Crest II, LLC, a Wyoming limited liability company, and the company contact information is:

P.O. Box 1812  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502  
(970) 250-4031

Easter unpatented lode mining claims numbered 1 through 27  
These claims are located in Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 1 East and Sections 18 and 19, Township 5, North, Range 2 East of the Black Hills Meridian, in Lawrence County, South Dakota. These claims are owned by The Easter Project, LLC, a Wyoming limited liability company, the company contact information is:

630 20 Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81507  
(970) 250 4031

All of the project claims within the area are shown in Figure 1 and listed in Appendix 1 and are either owned by the Operator or listed in Section IIC.

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**D. Name, address, and phone number of other lessees, assigns, agents, etc., and briefly describe their involvement with the operation, if applicable:**

Not Applicable

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### **III. PROPERTY OR AREA**

The Golden Crest Project comprises 1,350 unpatented lode claims located in the Northern Black Hills Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) in Lawrence County, South Dakota. The project area is located in Townships 4 and 5 North, Ranges 1 and 2 East of the Black Hills Meridian. The unpatented claims are listed in Appendix 1.

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### **IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION**

#### **A. Access.**

Figure 1 shows the limits of the unpatented lode claims that consist of the Golden Crest Project area and existing principal access roads to the mineral exploration prospect areas where work is proposed. Principal highways and primary forest service roads are also depicted.

Local access to the project area is provided predominantly by U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Road 134 (i.e., Tinton Road), which runs in a north-south direction through the property. Numerous unmaintained, numbered secondary USFS roads provide additional ingress, as shown in Figures 2 through 4. Other unnumbered logging roads and trails are also present and some are open to motorized travel. Virtually all of the existing access roads shown in Figures 1 through 4 are adequate for entry to the work areas and do not require construction, vegetation removal, or road widening for use. However, berms or boulders have been placed on certain roads to limit public access, as provided in Table 1. Temporary modification of these roads is requested in this Plan of Operations (Plan) to permit passage.

Proposed drilling will be limited by seasonal weather conditions and road closures by the USFS to preserve road integrity. The time frame when roads are open on the property typically extends from approximately May 15 to December 15.

Except for USFS Road 8101, no routine road maintenance is proposed for secondary roads during operation under the Plan. The USFS provides guidance on road usage to protect the roads and Solitario will follow the USFS rules and instructions. If use of roads by the Operator does result in degradation of road conditions, then the Operator commits to performing maintenance, with prior notification and consultation with the USFS, as required to restore the road to preoperational condition.

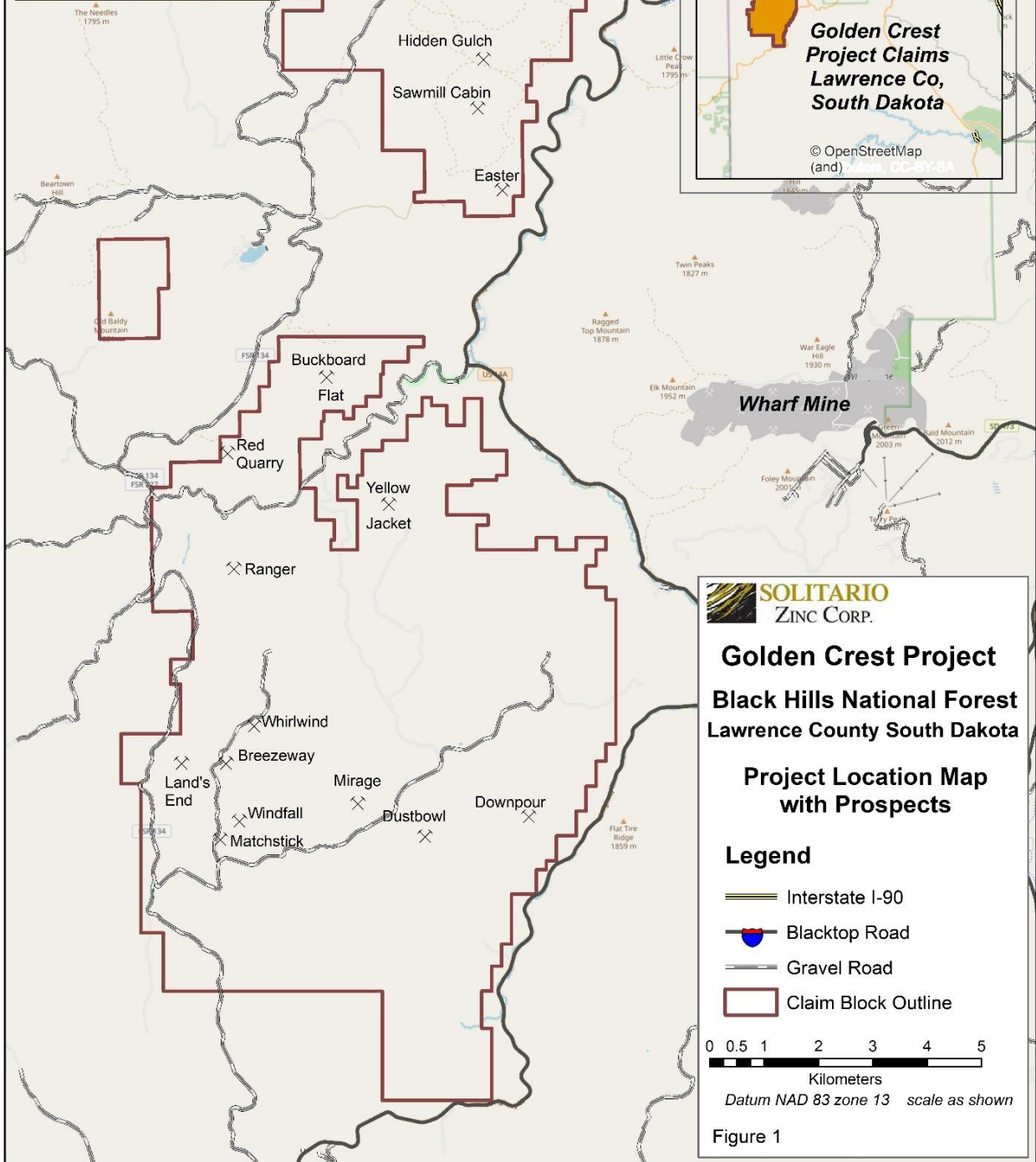
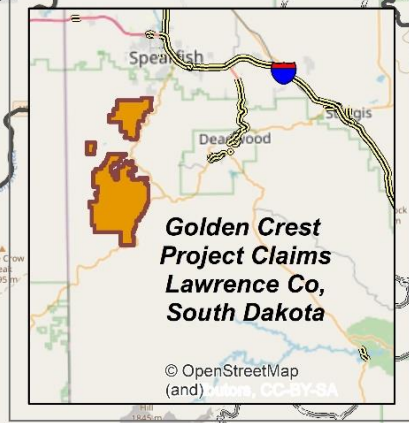
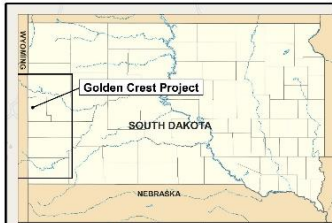
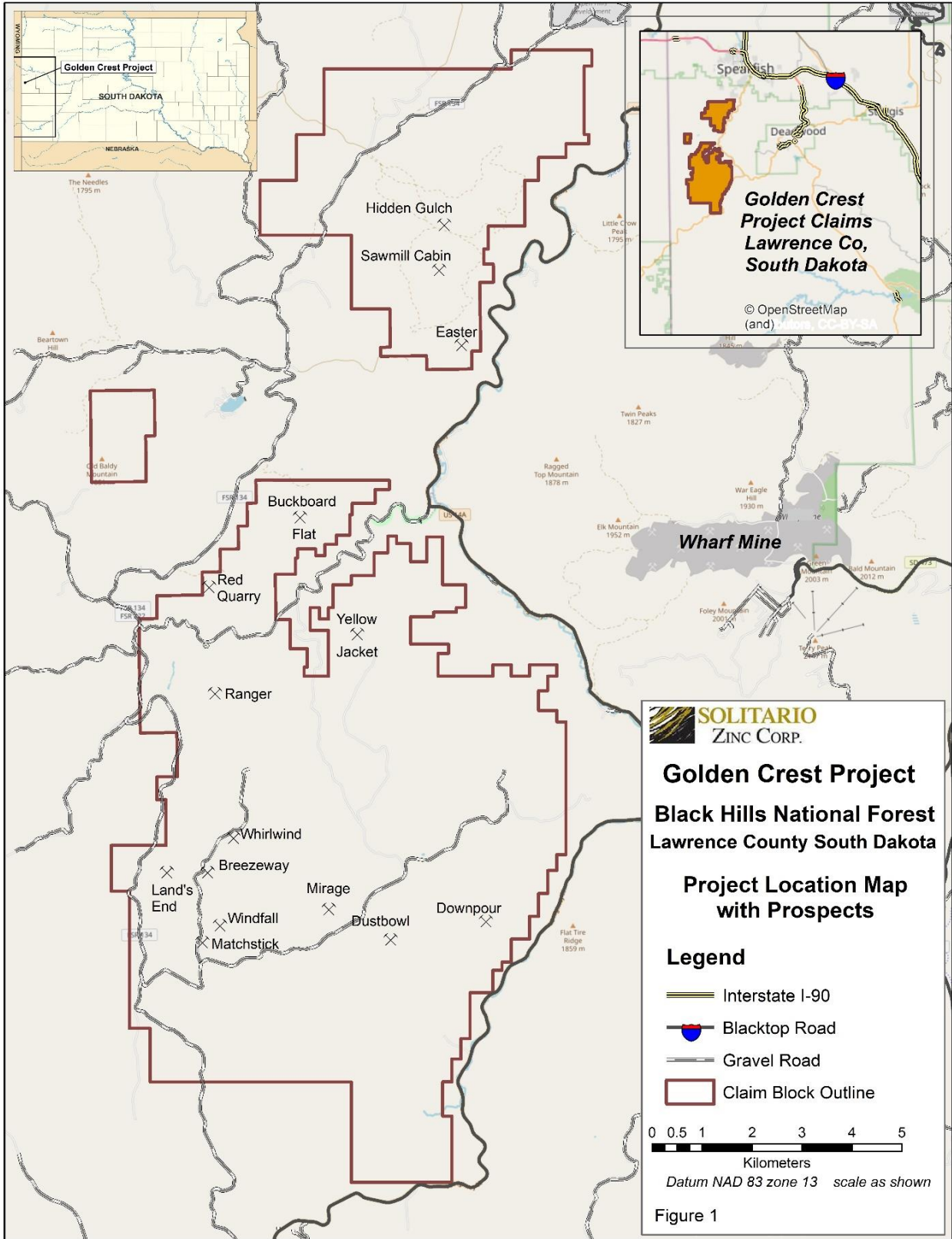
USFS Road 8101, accessed from the Timber Gulch Road (USFS Road 733), is listed as a Special Designation Trail with a vehicle width restriction of 62 inches. As part of this Plan, Solitario seeks a temporary waiver of the vehicle width restriction to allow access for drilling equipment. This road is the only numbered USFS road planned for access use that is in poor condition in several areas. Solitario requests the ability to perform maintenance to improve the road condition before entry to permit safe passage of drill equipment. Maintenance will be restricted to the existing roadbed and no new construction or widening of the roadbed will be required.

No new construction of roads, bridges, or culverts will be required for operations under this Plan. Vehicles used in the operation of the project are listed in Section IV (D) below.

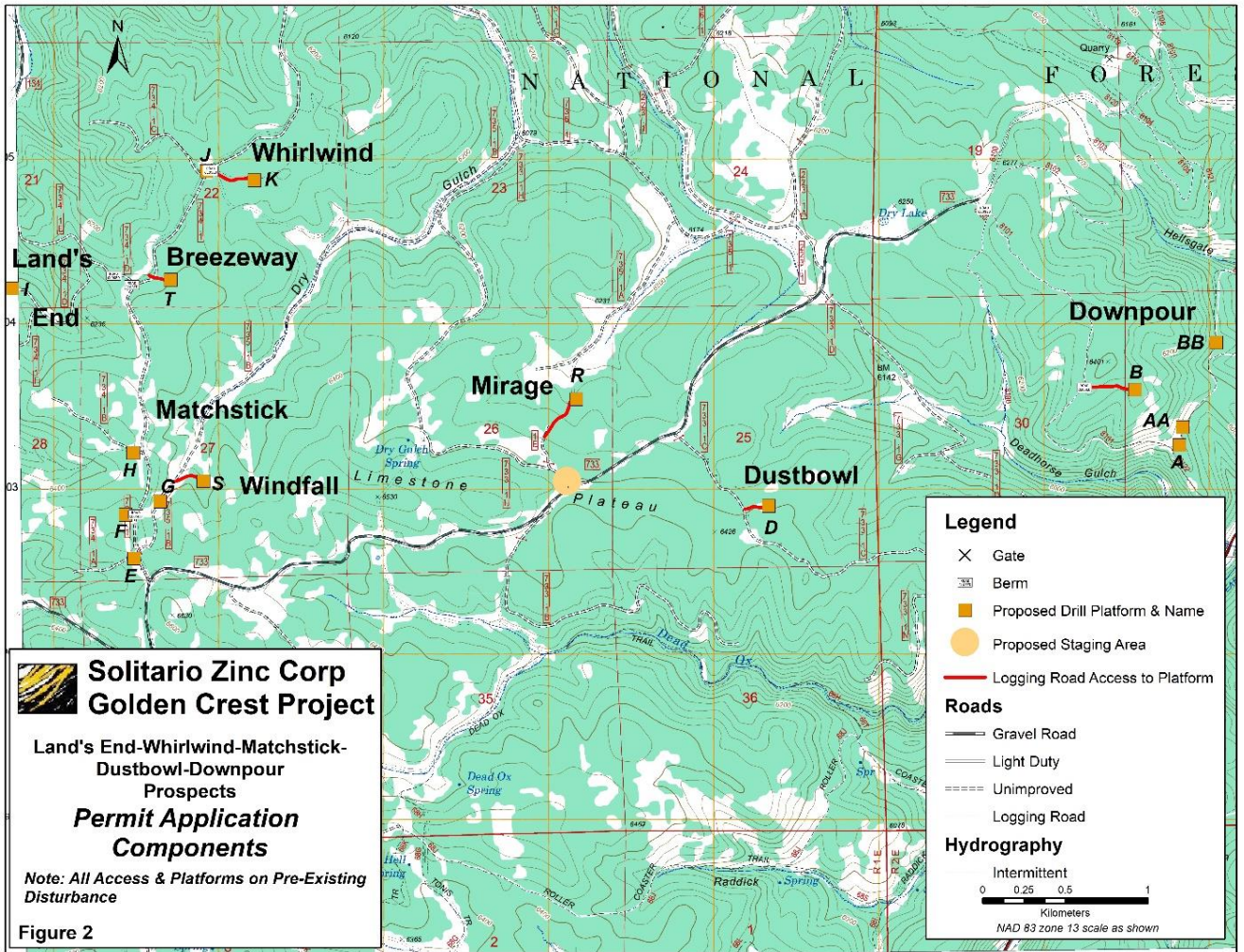
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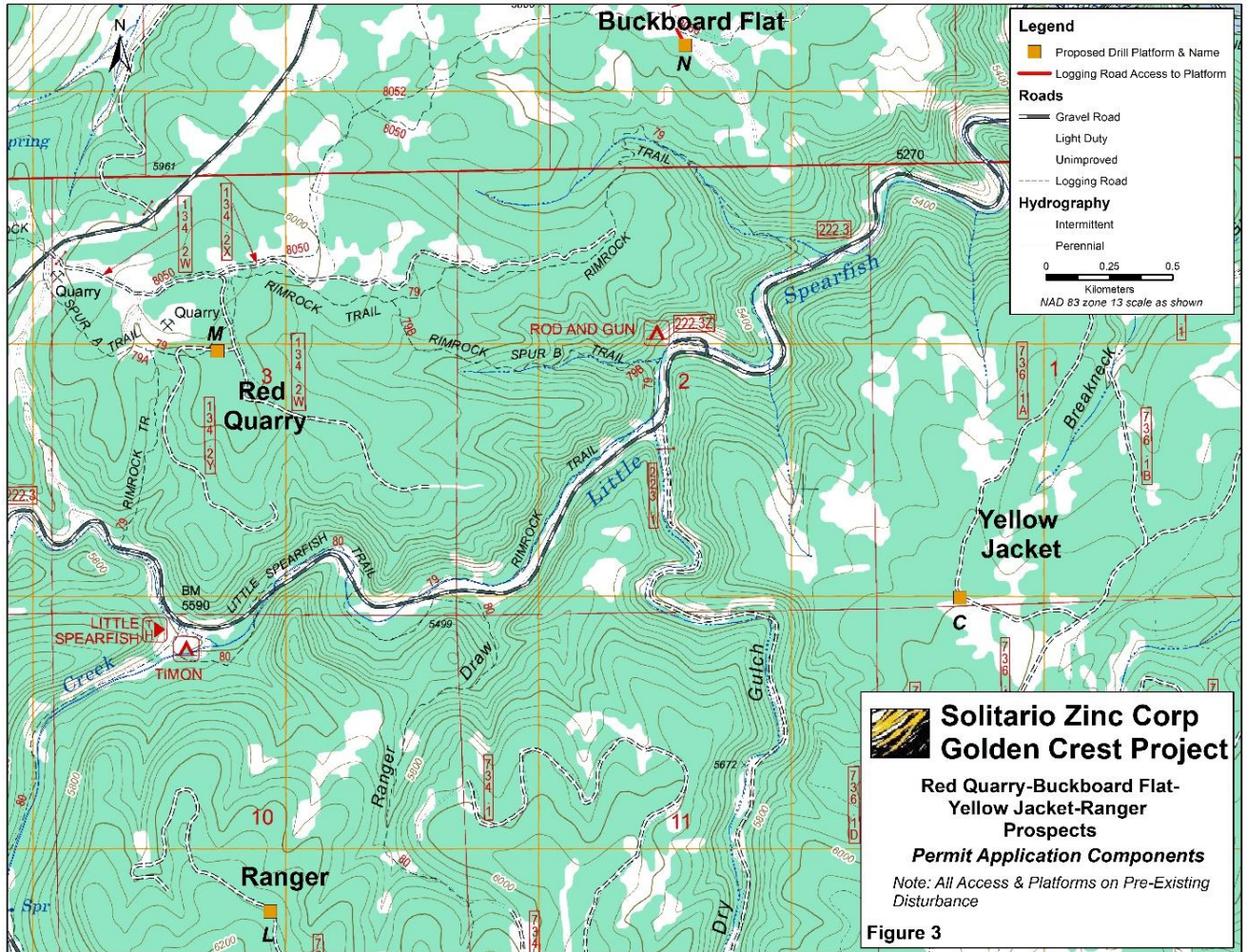
#### **B. Map, Sketch or Drawing.**

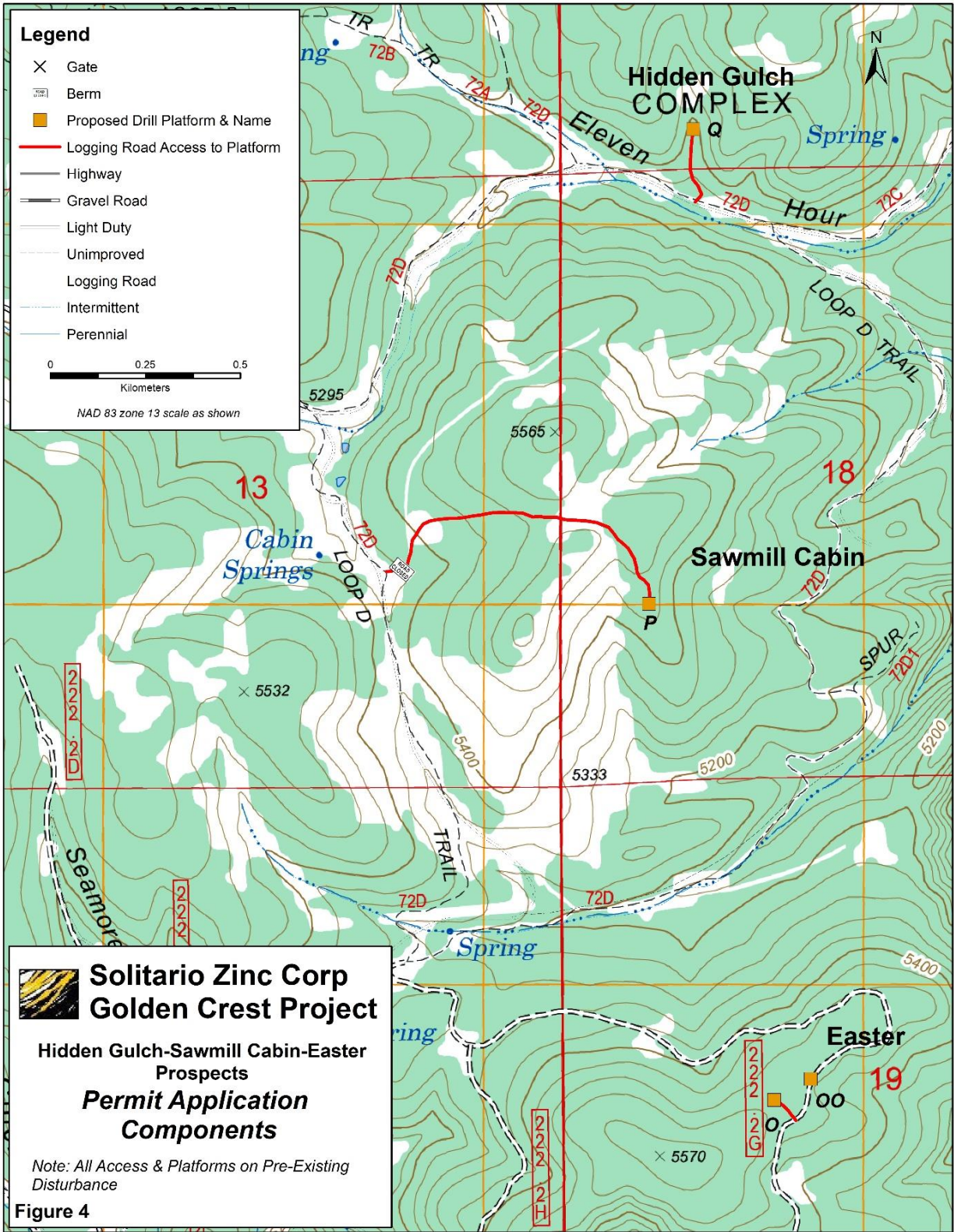
Figures 1, through 4 show access to the proposed drill sites and a staging area. Figures 2 through 4 show detailed topography and active or intermittent stream courses. All of the drill sites and the staging area are located on existing areas of disturbance that resulted from logging and timber salvage operations.











Drill sites are positioned beside and along secondary roads that were previously constructed for logging activities. These sites are located where logging equipment used flat, wide areas along access roads for staging and storage of equipment (such as skidders and dozers), turnarounds for logging trucks and light trucks, and laydown areas for storage of equipment and cut timber before being loaded for transport.

These areas previously used in logging activities will be used under this Plan for the drill sites where the drill hole, drill rod storage, and parking/turnaround sites for the water truck and light vehicles will be located. After drilling is completed at the drill sites, the pad will be recontoured (if needed), seeded, and mulched during final reclamation, as described in Section V(I). All of the drill sites, staging area, and USFS roads used for access are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1 Proposed Drill Sites, Staging Area, and Existing Access Roads**

PLAT_ID	Easting*	Northing	Elevation (m)	Prospect	USFS Road ID	Remarks
PLAT_A	586820	4903267	1850	Downpour	8101	rock berm
PLAT_AA	586840	4903376	1851	Downpour	8101	rock berm
PLAT_B	586552	4903602	1935	Downpour	8101	rock and soil berm
PLAT_BB	587044	4903887	1841	Downpour	8101	rock berm
PLAT_C	583667	4908994	1840	Yellow Jacket	736.1	
PLAT_D	584331	4902899	1957	Dustbowl	733.1C	
PLAT_E	580487	4902579	1986	Matchstick	734.1A	
PLAT_F	580436	4902845	1980	Matchstick	734.1	soil berm
PLAT_G	580645	4902926	1959	Matchstick	735.1B	
PLAT_H	580483	4903220	1973	Matchstick	734.1B	
PLAT_I	579749	4904216	1916	Land's End	734.1D	two rock berms
PLAT_J	580928	4904926	1934	Whirlwind	734.1	
PLAT_K	581217	4904871	1935	Whirlwind	734.1	soil berm
PLAT_L	580939	4907751	1859	Ranger	734 2A	
PLAT_M	580730	4909971	1840	Red Quarry	134 2Y	
PLAT_N	582580	4911181	1798	Buckboard Flat	8051	
PLAT_O	585764	4914697	1680	Easter	222 2G	
PLAT_OO	585861	4914753	1672	Easter	222 2G	
PLAT_P	585436	4916002	1661	Sawmill Cabin	222 2F 72D Loop D	rock and soil berm
PLAT_Q	585552	4917250	1581	Hidden Gulch	222 2F	
PLAT_R	583166	4903545	1918	Mirage	733.1E	
PLAT_S	580907	4903049	1947	Windfall	735.1B	
PLAT_T	580709	4904268	1952	Breezeway	734.1	
Staging Area	583110	4903050	1957	Staging Area	733.1H	behind USFS gate

\*Datum NAD 83 Zone 13

m = meters.

### **C. Project Description:**

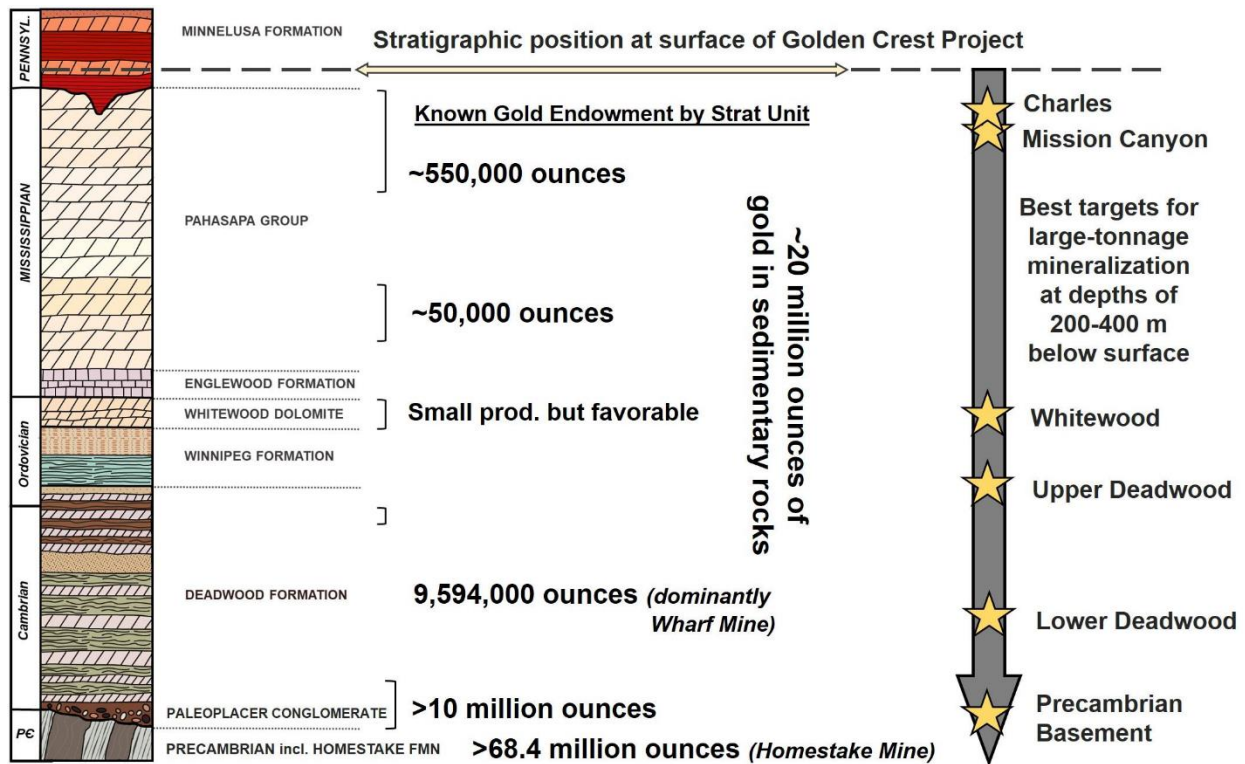
*Describe all aspects of the operation including mining, milling, and exploration methods, materials, equipment, workforce, construction and operation schedule, power requirements, how clearing will be accomplished, topsoil stockpile, waste rock placement, tailings disposal, proposed number of drillholes and depth, depth of proposed suction dredging, and how gravels will be replaced, etc. Calculate production rates of ore. Include justification and calculations for settling pond capacities, and the size of runoff diversion channels.*

The primary purpose of this Plan is to provide documentation and support for a request for authorization of a program of core drilling or reverse circulation drilling to test for subsurface gold mineralization on the Golden Crest property. Twenty-three potential drill sites and one staging area are shown in Figures 2 through 4. One to two truck, track or skid mounted drill rigs, are planned to be used. Of the proposed twenty-three sites some may not be used depending on results of drilling previous holes.

No subsurface information is currently available within the project area, so exact depths of drill holes are unknown until drilling occurs. An estimate of the average required depth of drill holes is 400 m, based on surface geology and knowledge of local stratigraphy. However, depending on the geology encountered in each hole, the Operator will have equipment on hand to drill to a maximum depth of 500 m. If mineralization is encountered in an initial drill hole on a drill site, up to four additional angled holes may be drilled from the same site to better define the geometry of geologic features.

The general stratigraphy of the area is provided in Figure 5. The sedimentary rocks of the prominent cliff-forming Pahasapa Formation of Mississippian age (regionally known as the Madison Formation) underlie much of the area and consist predominantly of limestones. Below the Pahasapa Formation is a sequence of thinner carbonates, siltstones, and shales of Ordovician age. The lowermost sedimentary formation is the Cambrian Deadwood Formation that comprise mixed limestones, shales, and sandstones. The thickness of the entire sedimentary sequence is between 350 and 400 m. Intrusive, nearly horizontal Tertiary age sills are also known in the region but their thickness and location, if present, are unknown within the project boundary.

Drill holes to test for indications of mineralization are planned to penetrate the Precambrian-age metamorphic rocks that underlie the Paleozoic and Tertiary rocks. Generally, only 20 to 50 m of Precambrian rock is planned to be drilled. Holes may penetrate greater depths of the Precambrian stratigraphy if alteration or mineralization is encountered.



**Figure 5. Stratigraphic Column of the Rocks at the Golden Crest Project**

The Pahasapa and Cambrian Deadwood Formations and the Precambrian rocks are known to be aquifers at some locations in the region. Final drill hole closure requirements will prevent cross-aquifer contamination. Based on drill hole logs of water wells in the area, the hydrostatic water level is below all of the proposed drill collar elevations.

No petroleum is present in the rocks expected to be encountered on the property.

Construction of new access roads or drill sites on previously undisturbed land will not be required nor will clearing of trees or other vegetation. However, Solitario requests to move or modify berms and/or large boulders that are used to block access to some roads to access the drill sites as noted in Table 1. Drill sites have been sited to take advantage of gentle topography within areas of previous disturbance at each site. The drill sites will require little or no modification of the previously disturbed surface to accommodate access for the drill rig, water truck, fresh water and recirculation tanks, as well as the potential sump installation for the settling and burial of particulates from drill water. Final closure and reclamation of the site is described in Section V(I). The choice of sites with gentle topography was also preferred to reduce reclamation complexity.

The previous commercial logging operations were conducted under timber sales, some of which were salvage operations of trees damaged during the Stateline Tornado on July 6, 2020. Numerous logging roads, skid paths, staging areas and laydown sites were constructed by dozers and skidders for use in these logging activities. The terrain within the project area where the drill holes are proposed is mostly flat or gently rolling. Photographs of typical drill sites are provided in Appendix 2.

Little or no formal recontouring or revegetation of the existing logging related disturbance is assumed to have been performed after logging was complete.

The Plan proposes to exclusively use these same unreclaimed areas of constructed access for the proposed drill sites. After completion of the drill program, this Plan proposes to recontour the drill sites and mulch and reseed these areas to improve the affected locations, as described in the following paragraphs and in Section V(I). This recontouring is designed to enhance the locations' natural conditions in comparison to the current status of the land.

The condition of the current surface in many of the proposed sites is currently rough because of previous mechanical disturbance by dozers, skidders, and logging trucks as well as the lack of recontouring. Other less disturbed sites may not benefit from recontouring. After drilling, all of the sites used under this Plan will be assessed in cooperation with USFS personnel and recontoured as recommended before mulching and reseeding.

Most of the topsoil on the proposed drill sites has been removed or disturbed by previous operations. If remnants of topsoil remain that can be selectively reclaimed within the drill sites, then the topsoil will be segregated and stockpiled for use in final closure as described in Section V(I).

The proposed drill sites have been chosen based specifically on both geologic potential and on minimal visual and operational impacts. The drill site locations along the logging roads will not interfere with traffic on maintained primary USFS roads and will have minimal impact to forest visitors using off-road vehicles. Visual impacts will be minimized by selection of drill sites that are not visible from paved roads or permanent structures, as discussed in Section V 5(C). Other alternate sites were evaluated during selection of the proposed sites. The location of these other sites and analysis of suitability will be discussed in a separate document.

Drilling will occur during one or two shifts per day, 5 to 7 days per week. If drilling is conducted after dark, two portable generator-powered light plants will be used to supply adequate lighting for the work site, as described in Section V5(D).

Water required for core drilling will be sourced from either municipal or privately owned water supplies in the Lead/Deadwood area or, if approved, from one or more existing water wells on USFS property. Water will be transported to and stored in a free-standing surface tank or bladder at or near drill sites and may be pumped or gravity fed to the point of use. Water from distant sources, such as municipal wells, will be delivered by water truck to the storage tank.

Drill water will be stored and recirculated from a series of two to three free-standing holding tanks at the drill sites or a lined sump where drill solids will be separated by gravitational settling before reuse. Upon a drill site closure, the drill solids will be buried in a lined sump, mulched, and seeded, as described in Section V(I) below.

Both drilling and water haulage will be performed by contractors.

Drill core or reverse circulation drill cuttings will be transported as necessary from the Drill site by pickup truck to the Solitario office in Spearfish, South Dakota, where the samples can be logged and prepared for analysis.

No mining or processing of mining products will occur on the project.

Personnel required at a drill site will include the following employees or contactors during one or two shifts:

- Driller
- One to three drill helpers
- Geologist
- Water truck driver (part time, as required)
- Consultant to conduct geologic, engineering, or surveying studies on drill holes (as required)
- Drilling and/or Operator supervisor (occasional).

Solitario commits to following all of the South Dakota laws and statues concerning drill hole plugging and abandonment and would install a full cement grout where needed, such as in any instance where aquifer cross contamination is possible. All of the exploration drill holes will be plugged in accordance with Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) 74:11:08 and South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30. The drill holes are planned to penetrate the Pahasapa (Madison) and Cambrian Deadwood sedimentary formations and the older Precambrian rocks, which are water-bearing units or aquifers in some locations of the Black Hills. If an aquifer is penetrated, the completed exploration drill holes will be plugged from bottom to top using bentonite grout, which complies with the requirements of ARSD 74:11:08:05 and ARSD



74:11:08:05:01 (i.e., requirements for plugging exploration drill holes that penetrate single unconfined aquifers and confined or multiple aquifers). If a confined aquifer is penetrated, the weight of the bentonite grout column would be either sufficient to overcome formation pressure or the hole will be plugged using cement grout. The collar elevations of the planned holes are higher than the static water level to be encountered in the exploration holes; therefore, no natural artesian discharge from drill holes is anticipated.

Records regarding aquifers encountered during drilling and the plugging methods used will be recorded and retained for each exploration hole and those records would be provided to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) at the end of exploration. All exploration drill holes are planned to be plugged immediately upon completion while the drill rig is still on the site. If a drill hole temporarily needs to remain open, a temporary surface plug will be emplaced. If a hole needs to remain open for more than 30 days, Solitario will apply for an alternate plugging schedule to temporarily keep the hole open.

No mining or processing of ore or storage of tailings is proposed under this plan.

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#### **D. Equipment and Vehicles.**

Each Drill Site may require a maximum of the following equipment during active operation:

##### Motorized:

- One core or reverse circulation drilling rig with auxiliary compressor
- Two or more pickup trucks
- One water truck
- One small dozer for repositioning of skid mounted rig (if needed)
- One Skid Steer
- One Utility Task Vehicle (UTV).

##### Stationary:

- Portable toilet
- Drill steel
- Drill rod rack storage

- Water tank or bladder for water storage
- Two to three water recirculation tanks
- Water line and pumps
- Mud pump and tank for mixing drill mud, grout, and cement for drill hole reclamation
- Waste receptacles clearly labeled for trash and recyclables.

#### Drilling Consumables:

- Diesel fuel used by the drilling rigs will be transported to the drill site in a fuel tank mounted on a pickup truck and transferred to the fuel tank on the drill rig on site. Pickup trucks may use either diesel fuel or gasoline that will be stored in mounted tanks.
- Gasoline will be used to power water pumps and a generator, if used, at the drill site. Gasoline may be stored in portable containers.
- Drill mud will be used as a high-density additive to drill fluid, which increases viscosity and density of the fluid for increased efficiency of the drilling process and improved recirculation of drill water.
- Grout will be used as a high-viscosity or cemented material used to prevent drill water from penetrating the adjacent rock, to fix the drill casing into the hole or to reclaim drill holes upon completion.
- Absorbent wipes for cleanup will be used for spill confinement.
- Fuel or other hazardous materials stored at either the staging area or drill rig will be placed on a flat platform with a raised berm around the perimeter then lined with a geomembrane to mitigate a spill or leakage event. The containment area will be sufficiently sized to accommodate a 100 percent spill.

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#### **E. Structures**

No fixed structures are proposed under this plan. Stationary mobile equipment was described in Section IV(D).

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## V. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES (SEE 36 CFR 228.8)

### A. Air Quality

The maximum daily vehicle trips to and from the drill site are eight per shift; however, the estimated average is three per shift. To minimize fugitive dust from vehicle travel on primary and secondary USFS roads on the project, vehicles will be required to observe a speed limit of 25 miles per hour (mph). Minimizing the number of trips to the project area will also lower the generation of dust.

No open burning is proposed in this Plan.

Operation of all of the equipment, including vehicles, drill rig, generators, and pumps, will be conducted in accordance with manufacturer's operating specifications. No modifications of any equipment will be made that will alter the emissions of equipment used on site.

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**B. Water Quality.** *State how applicable state and federal water quality standards will be met. Describe measures or management practices to be used to minimize water quality impacts and meet applicable standards. State whether water is to be used in the operation, and describe the quantity, source, methods and design of diversions, storage, use, disposal, and treatment facilities. Include assumptions for sizing water conveyance or storage facilities.*

Water will be used in drilling as a drill lubricant and coolant as well as to evacuate drill cuttings from the drill face. The amount of water to be used will be determined by the permeability of the geologic formations encountered in a drill hole. Water will be recirculated to the extent possible.

Water will be transported to the site from private or public sources depending on availability, either from a local water well or public source. A water truck will transport water to the site and deposit the water into an on-site tank or bladder for storage. Water usage is estimated to range from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons per day; however, if circulation of drill water is lost, up to 1,000 gallons per hour may be required until circulation can be reestablished.

Water will be recirculated during drilling whenever possible and placed in either a lined sump or a series of two to three contained water settling tanks so that drill cuttings can be segregated by gravity from the liquid and the fluid can be reused.

Upon completion of each drill hole, the hole will be plugged in accordance with state standards as prescribed in Section V(I) to prevent cross aquifer contamination.

Surface water will be controlled to prevent erosion, as described in Section V(B)(2). No active or intermittent streams exist near any of the drill sites in which uncontrolled surface water can enter; however, in areas of gentle to moderate slopes near the drill holes, surface water will be contained, as described in Section V(B)(2).

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## **2. Describe methods to control erosion and surface water runoff from all disturbed areas, including waste and tailings dumps.**

Twenty of the twenty-three planned drill sites are located on flat ground with permeable sandy soils. No mitigation for erosion control is proposed for these flat sites where permeable soils and lack of slopes will naturally prevent uncontrolled runoff. However, if erosion is observed at a site, diversion ditches or erosion control logs will be emplaced to eliminate onflow of water.

Three proposed drill sites (A, AA, and BB) have side slopes of up to a 5 percent grade. Proposed mitigation to minimize erosion on these sites will include using erosion control logs up- and downgradient from the drill site to prevent onflow and runoff of surface water. As necessary, water diversion structures may alternatively be used to divert surface water away from the work site.

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## **3. Describe proposed surface water and groundwater quality monitoring, if required, to demonstrate compliance with federal or state water quality standards.**

No perennial streams or other water bodies are present at or near any of the drill sites; therefore, no surface water sampling is planned.

Drill holes will be promptly reclaimed and no water monitor wells are located in the project area, therefore, no groundwater monitoring is planned.

Upon completion of a drill hole, plugging will be by backfilling, grouting, or cementing in accordance with state regulations South Dakota Legislative Research Council (SDLRC) – Rule 74:11:08.

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**4. Describe the measures to be used to minimize potential water quality impacts during seasonal closures or for a temporary cessation of operations.**

During seasonal or temporary closures, the surface water hydrology of the drill site will revert to preoperational conditions where no surface water is present near the work areas. However, temporary mitigation measures such as erosion control logs or diversion structures may be left in place during short-term closures as needed for areas with side slopes.

Immediately upon completion of a drill pad's use, the sites will be inspected and all of the tools, supplies, and other foreign materials will be removed. The sites will be monitored throughout the drill program and any unsightly ruts or irregularities in the surface may be modified to minimize erosion. Final closure and reclamation of the drill sites is described in Section V(I).

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**5. If land application is proposed for wastewater disposal, the location and operation of the land application system must be described. Also describe how vegetation, soil, and surface and groundwater quality will be protected if land application is used.**

No land application of wastewater is part of this Plan; however, recirculated water from the drill holes will be settled in tanks or a lined sump, as described in Section V(B)(1). The recirculated water will be reused in drilling after solids are separated by settling in holding tanks. A skid steer will be maintained on site to ensure that excavation of the sump can be completed in a timely manner when needed.

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**C. Solid Wastes.**

All of the solid wastes generated on site will be transported, as needed, to approved solid waste facilities for disposal except for the drill cuttings recovered by gravity separation in settling tanks (i.e., sumps). These cuttings consist of crushed/pulverized rock from the drill hole with a consistency of mud or sand. When separated from the drill water by settling, these solids will reside in a lined sump at site and will be buried, mulched, and seeded during final reclamation.

Human waste will be managed by using portable toilets under contract with a commercial provider. The disposal of this waste will be undertaken by the contractor at a licensed and permitted facility.

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**D. Scenic Values.** *Describe protection of scenic values such as screening, slash disposal, or timely reclamation.*

Proposed drill sites and the staging area are located to avoid visibility from paved roads, permanent structures, dwellings, or developed campgrounds.

If drilling occurs during nighttime hours, then portable light plants will be required for work to safely proceed. To minimize stray light and light pollution, a maximum of two directional light plants will be used on a drill site. Directional lighting will generally minimize unnecessary glare by focusing the light downward on the worksite and away from populated areas to reduce stray light. Shielding of the sides and upward will reduce scattered light skyward and laterally.

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**F. Fish and Wildlife.** *Describe measures to maintain and protect fisheries and wildlife, and their habitat (includes threatened, endangered, and sensitive species) affected by the operations.*

- Fisheries: No fisheries exist on the property of this Plan. Erosion controls and mitigation of potential runoff into streams is addressed in Sections V(B)(2) and V(B)(4).
- Wildlife: A desktop evaluation of threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife that are potentially present on site will be prepared by a third-party contractor. Mitigation of potential impacts may be recommended.
- Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Desktop biological surveys that include wildlife and botanical studies will be prepared in collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) to identify potential T&E species that may occur in the area as well as potential impacts. Based on the results of these studies, the operator will consult with the SDGFP and USFS to assess potential impacts and determine if further studies or recommended mitigations are warranted.

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**G. Cultural Resources.** *Describe measures for protecting known historical and archeological values, or new sites in the project area.*

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be undertaken to determine what studies in the area have been historically conducted and what

archeological sites may have been identified by past work, if any. A Level 1 archeological survey will be completed by a third-party contractor and submitted to the SHPO and USFS. Known sites will be located in the field and planning of project activities will follow recommendations of the State and USFS with regard to protection of historical and cultural resources.

Tribal consultations required under the National Historic Preservation Act will address any known, or the discovery of, Traditional Cultural Properties. Such consultations will occur in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will be initiated by the USFS. During the conduct of exploration activities, Solitario shall avoid bones, artifacts, foundation remains, or other evidence of previously unrecorded past human use. If any artifacts or other archaeological or cultural resources are discovered during exploration activities, activities shall be temporarily halted and the state archaeologist will be notified.

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## **H. Hazardous Substances.**

- 1. Identify the type and volume of all hazardous materials and toxic substances which will be used or generated in the operations including cyanide, solvents, petroleum products, mill, process and laboratory reagents.*
- 2. For each material or substance, describe the methods, volume, and frequency of transport (include type of containers and vehicles), procedures for use of materials or substances, methods, volume, and containers for disposal of materials and substances, security (fencing), identification (signing/labeling), or other special operations requirements necessary to conduct the proposed operations.*
- 3. Describe the measures to be taken for release of a reportable quantity of a hazardous material or the release of a toxic substance. This includes plans for spill prevention, containment, notification, and cleanup.*

Solitario will prepare a spill prevention control plan that will describe protocols for avoiding and controlling any spills that could occur on site under this Plan. This Plan will incorporate any pertinent elements of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan of the BBNF, if such a plan is in place. Training of on-site personnel in the response protocols will be mandatory. The Plan will include a list of quantities and locations of any hazardous materials that will be on site. This list will be submitted to the USFS before operations commence.

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## **I. Reclamation.**

*Describe the annual and final reclamation standards based on the anticipated schedule for construction, operations, and project closure. Include such items as the removal of structures and facilities including bridges and culverts, a revegetation plan, permanent containment of mine tailings, waste, or sludges which pose a threat of a release into the environment, closing ponds and eliminating standing water, a final surface shaping plan, and post operations monitoring and maintenance plans.*

Seasonal (annual) closures will be preceded by stabilization that is designed to prevent erosion at working sites, as described in Section V(B)(4).

The proposed drill sites are located on lands that have been previously disturbed by logging and other activities. Final reclamation of the drill sites and staging area will include the following elements:

- Drill holes will be sealed and reclaimed in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 and SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30.
- Drill sites will be recontoured to eliminate excessive rutting regardless of the pre-project condition.
- Secondary road areas occupied by the drill sites or staging area will be modified by installing water bars or diversion structures, as necessary and depending on the slope of the existing topography, so that post-use erosion is not promoted.
- Drill fluids will be contained in recirculation tanks or a lined sump on the Drill Site to allow solids to settle. The solids will ultimately be disposed of in a buried lined sump before final reclamation.
- Overly compacted areas at the drill sites, turnarounds, and staging area that are not located on an active roadbed will be roughed either manually or mechanically to enhance seeding viability and minimize erosion.
- Areas to be enhanced by reseeding will initially be mulched with locally derived, stockpiled organic-rich amendments or with commercially available certified weed-free mulch. Seeding will be applied in accordance with USFS guidance. The proposed seed mix is provided in Table 2 and is compatible with existing habitat and USFS recommendations.



**Table 2 , Reclamation Seed Mix Table: Recommended by USFS Northern Hills District, BHNH**

<b>Species</b>	<b>North Zone</b>
Annual rye ( <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> )	10%
Slender wheatgrass ( <i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> )	25%
Prairie junegrass ( <i>Koeleria macrantha</i> )	5%
Western wheatgrass ( <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> )	30%
Canada wildrye ( <i>Elymus canadensis</i> )	30%

Application Rate: 20 Pounds Live Seed/Acre

Noxious weeds will be managed by Solitario in adherence with the USFS's current Noxious Weed Control Plan (NWCP). Solitario will prepare a plan that will include site inspections for noxious weeds and control measures as defined in the NWCP. This Plan will include spraying for weeds 1 year after final reclamation.

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**Appendix 1**  
**Mineral Claims**

CLAIM NAME	Claim Count
<b>BH CLAIMS</b>	<i>Total BH Claims = 268</i>
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<b>DG CLAIMS</b>	<b>Total DG Claims = 360</b>
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<b>EC Claims</b>	<b>Total EC Claims = 130</b>
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<b>LC Claims</b>	<b>Total LC Claims = 108</b>
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<b>TG CLAIMS</b>	<i><b>Total TG Claims = 63</b></i>
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<b>IRON CLAIMS</b>	<b>Total IRON Claims = 194</b>
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<b>ST CLAIMS</b>	<i>Total ST Claims = 5</i>
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<b>GOLDEN CREST CLAIMS</b>	<i>Total GOLDEN CREST Claims = 241</i>
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<b>EASTER CLAIMS</b>	<i>Total EASTER Claims = 26</i>
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EASTER 27	

**Appendix 2**  
**Photographs of Typical Proposed Drill Sites and Roads**

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**Soil Berm on Road to Drill Site K.**



**Proposed Drill Site M. Spur Road.**



**Proposed Drill Site D. Log Landing from Previous Logging to Right of Road.**



**Log Landing right of Road. Proposed Drill Site G.**





**Drill Site K on Spur Road with Soil Berm.**