Media Contact:
Hollie Brown 801-243-9466
ogm.utah.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR WILLARD PEAK ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Willard -- The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining’s (OGM) Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is requesting public input on the proposed Willard Peak Project. The project proposes to safeguard 52 abandoned mine openings on the west face of the Wellsville and Wasatch mountain ranges in Box Elder, Weber and Davis counties. Public comment is open now until Sunday, July 26.

The project would secure abandoned mine openings using steel grates, concrete block walls, polyurethane foam plugs and earthen backfills. Closures are designed to protect features of historic significance and animal habitat, while protecting the public from injuries or death. Abandoned mines are hazardous because they are no longer maintained, lack ventilation and may collapse.

This scoping period provides an opportunity for public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process. The environmental review is being conducted in coordination with the Logan and Ogden ranger districts of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

All comments will be accepted; however the most useful comments are specific and contain new technical or scientific information relevant to the proposal. Comments which contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response but may be considered in the decision-making process.

Email comments to Jan Morse janmorse@utah.gov or mail to P.O Box 145801 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Please reference the Willard Peak Project. Additional information and photos are available at ogm.utah.gov.

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