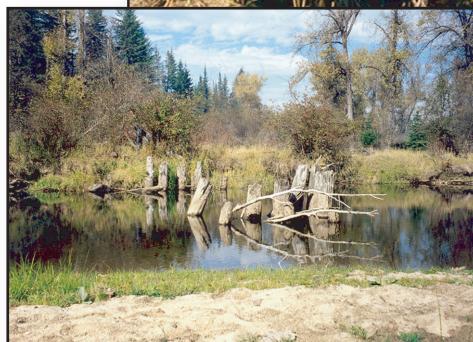


Emerald Creek Garnet

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Volume I
October 2004



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter	SCS	Soil Conservation Service
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
ADT ^a	Average Daily Traffic	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
APE	area of potential effect	TMDL	total maximum daily load
AQD	Air Quality Division	TSS	total suspended solids
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act	U.S.	United States
BA	Biological Assessment	USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis	USC	United States Code
BLS	United States Bureau of Labor Statistics	USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
BMP	Best Management Practice	USFS	United States Forest Service
CAA	Clean Air Act	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority	USGS	United States Geological Survey
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps	V/C	volume-to-capacity
CDC	Conservation Data Center	VOC	volatile organic compound
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	VQO	Visual Quality Objective
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
cfs	cubic feet per second		
CV	Cost/Valuation		
CWA	Clean Water Act		
dB	decibel		
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement		
DMP	Dredge Mining Permit		
DOT	Department of Transportation		
ECG	Emerald Creek Garnet Ltd.		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
EO	Executive Order		
ESA	Endangered Species Act		
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement		
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act		
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code		
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act		
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality		
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game		
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands		
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources		
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department		
L _{dn}	Day-Night Average Sound Level		
LEDPA	least environmentally-damaging practicable alternative		
LGP	Low Ground Pressure		
LWD	large woody debris		
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
mph	miles per hour		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act		
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service		
NOI	Notice of Intent		
NO _x	nitrogen dioxide		
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System		
NPS	nonpoint source		
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service		
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places		
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit		
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory		
O ₃	ozone		
OHWL	ordinary high water line		
OHWM	ordinary high water mark		
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration		
PCPI	per capita personal income		
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter		
ROD	Record of Decision		
ROI	Region of Influence		
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation		

**Walla Walla District
Emerald Creek Garnet
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

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Comments: Public comments were sought during 2003 on the Draft EIS.
The comments received and their responses are contained in Chapter 8 of this Final EIS.

Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and evaluate reasonable and practical alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project. Emerald Creek Garnet, Ltd. (ECG) proposes to mine garnet reserves within the St. Maries River floodplain near Fernwood, Idaho in Benewah and Shoshone Counties.

To proceed, ECG must obtain a Department of the Army Permit under §404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined that its evaluation and issuance of a §404 permit would be a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and therefore required the preparation of an EIS. The USACE evaluated the potential impacts of no action and five action alternatives in a Draft EIS published in .

In November 2003, USACE distributed the Draft EIS to federal agencies, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, state agencies, organizations, and individuals who had expressed an interest in the project, and invited comments from recipients and the general public. USACE carefully considered all comments received as it revised the Draft EIS and prepared the Final EIS. Chapter 8 of the Final EIS lists comments received, along with USACE responses to each. Copies of written comments and the public meeting transcript are contained in Volume I Appendices A and B.

The Final EIS identifies Alternative 3, *Twelve Month Wet and Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetlands Mined* as the Preferred Alternative. For reasons stated in the Final EIS, USACE believes this alternative best meets the purpose and need for the project and is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.

EMERALD CREEK GARNET
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

VOLUME I

OCTOBER 2004

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APPENDIX B TRANSCRIPT FOR PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT EIS

APPENDIX C WATER RESOURCES – HYDRAULIC AND HYDROLOGIC CALCULATIONS (this appendix represents a revised version of Draft EIS Volume II Appendix E)

APPENDIX D CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION (this appendix represents a revised version of Draft EIS Volume II Appendix K)

APPENDIX E AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (the full Biological Assessment is presented as Volume II Appendix G. The Corps of Engineers submitted a revised Biological Assessment, which is presented in this appendix)

APPENDIX F ADDENDUM TO THE RECLAMATION AND MITIGATION CONCEPTS REPORT (Volume II Appendix D presents options for reclamation and mitigation. This appendix identifies mitigation concepts that are part of the Preferred Alternative)

APPENDIX G FINAL WORKPLAN [FOR] SEDIMENT YIELD MODELING TO ESTABLISH POLLUTANT CREDITS FOR SEDIMENT DELIVERY TO THE ST. MARIES RIVER

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