



# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 16, 2003**

## **Information Open Houses Scheduled for Buckhorn Mountain Project**

**Okanogan** – The Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service will host two open houses where people can learn more about the Buckhorn Mountain Project proposal.

Open houses will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at Tonasket High School and Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Paschal Sherman Indian School/St. Mary's Mission-Longhouse, five miles east of Omak. Both meetings will run from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Crown Resources is proposing to extract approximately 1.2 million ounces of gold from beneath Buckhorn Mountain over a 10-year period utilizing underground mining techniques. The site is located 3 miles east of Chesaw, Washington in Okanogan County.

In 1997, the agencies completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) analyzing a proposal for an open-pit mine at the site. A more focused supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) is proposed to be prepared to address specific environmental issues raised by Crown Resources' underground mining project proposal.

The environmental review will identify impacts of the proposal on the environment and what permits will be required for operating the mine and mill under the new operating plan.

During this "scoping" period, the agencies are accepting comments on what issues should be addressed in the SEIS. Representatives will be available to accept public comments during both open houses.

Written comments will be accepted until Oct. 20 and may be addressed to Derek Sandison, Washington Department of Ecology, 15 W. Yakima Ave., Suite 200, Yakima, Wash., 98902. E-mail comments may be made to [dsan461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dsan461@ecy.wa.gov).

A copy of Crown Resources' Plan of Operations may be viewed online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/okanogan/> (in the bulletin board section).

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**Media contacts:** Debbie Kelly, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest, (509) 826-3396  
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**Ecology's Web site** <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

### **Broadcast version**

Environmental review has begun for a new proposal to mine 1.2 million ounces of gold from beneath Buckhorn Mountain near Chesaw in Okanogan County.

The Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Forest Service are examining what effects the proposed underground mine will have on the surrounding environment.

Two open houses are planned to provide information about the project proposal and begin collecting public input about the project. They are scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th at the Tonasket High School and Thursday, October 9th at the Longhouse at the Paschal Sherman Indian School/ St. Mary's Mission, located five miles east of Omak. Both open houses will run from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

People will have until October 20th to submit written comments on what they think should be addressed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement the agencies will prepare for the project.

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