

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Omaha District

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Application No:** 200090740  
**Applicant:** Robert Beede  
**Waterway:** Yellowstone River  
**Issue Date:** March 8, 2001  
**Expiration Date:** April 7, 2001

**30 DAY NOTICE**

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**Helena Regulatory Office 301 South Park, Drawer 10014 Helena, Montana 59626-0014**

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**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
FOR PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
AND  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

The application of Robert Beede, for approval of plans and issuance of a permit under authority of the Secretary of the Army is being considered by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Description of Proposed Project:** The applicant requests permission to conduct placer mining operations on an island of the Yellowstone River. Four 100-foot long X 10-14 foot deep trenches and four 12 X 12 X 8-foot settling/infiltration (S/I) pits. Gravel samples will be excavated on Hotchkiss Island. Gravel samples will be processed using a conventional test-scale washplant. Washed gravel and return water will be directed to the S/I pits. Excavations will be located at least 50 feet from live channels. Equipment will access the site via an existing road and ford at the southwest end of the island. The river bank will not be disturbed. Project equipment will include one track excavator or rubber tired backhoe with a 15-20 foot depth capacity; one Denver Gold Saver or equivalent test-scale placer washplant; a 4WD pickup truck, washplant and miscellaneous hand tools. All excavations will be located at least 50-feet from any live channel. All sediment and water return from the washplant will be directed into an adjacent S/I pit. Excavations will be filled and regraded to a contour that will not promote erosion or sedimentation. Stream channels will not be altered. Stream flow will not be affected because channels will not be altered. Work will be done during low water conditions and above channels carrying water.

**Location:** The proposed activity is located in Section 8, Township 9 South, Range 8 East, Park County, near Corwin Springs, Montana.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed project is for exploration of placer gold mineralization.

**401 Water Quality Certification:** The Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901, will review the proposed project with the intent to certify in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the State's opinion that the operations undertaken by the applicant will not result in a violation of applicable water quality standards. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto.

**Cultural Resources:** The Corps of Engineers, Omaha District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. We have checked the National Register of Historic Places and its current supplements, and there are no known National Register sites in the vicinity; however, we will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Office and the public in response to this public notice, and we may conduct or require a reconnaissance survey of the permit area to check for unknown historic or prehistoric properties, if warranted.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** This project is in the known range of the threatened **Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos horribilis***. In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary "no-effect" determination has been made. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies will be completed to determine the effects on the threatened **grizzly bear** or its critical habitat.

**Evaluation Factors:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R.; Part 230).

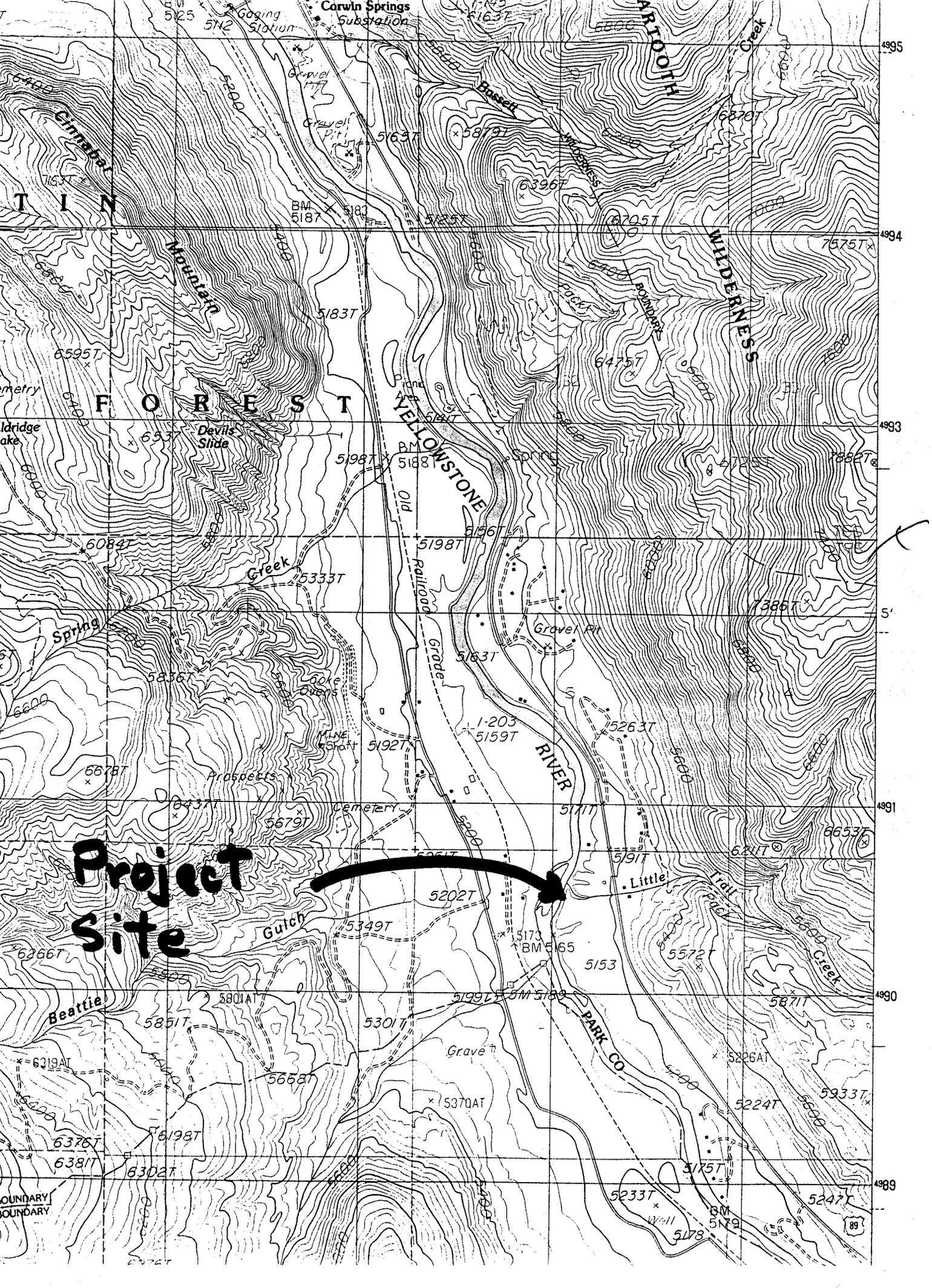
**Comments:** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. All public notice comments will be considered public information and will be subject to review by the applicant.

Any person may request, in writing and within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held for the purpose of gathering additional information. Requests for public hearings must be identified as such and shall state specifically the reasons for holding a public hearing and what additional information would be obtained. The request must be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 301 South Park, Drawer 10014, Helena, Montana 59626-0014. If it is decided that additional information is required and that a public hearing should be held, interested parties will be notified of the date, time and location.

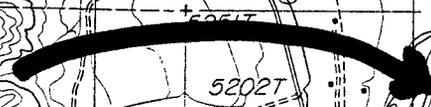
Any interested party (particularly officials of any town, city, county, state, or Federal agency; Indian tribe; or local association whose interests may be affected by the work) is invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before the expiration date listed on the front of this notice. Any agency or individual having an objection to the work should specifically identify it as an objection with clear and specific reasons. Comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted, made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in subsequent actions on this application. All replies to the public notice should be addressed to the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 301 South Park, Drawer 10014, Helena, Montana 59626-0014. Please reference the Application Number found on the first page of this notice in any correspondence.** Doug McDonald, telephone number (406) 441-1375, may be contacted for additional information. You may also fax your comments to (406) 441-1380.

Comments postmarked after the expiration date of this public notice will not be considered.

**Statutory Authorities:** A permit, if issued, will be under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.



**Project Site**



BOUNDARY  
BOUNDARY

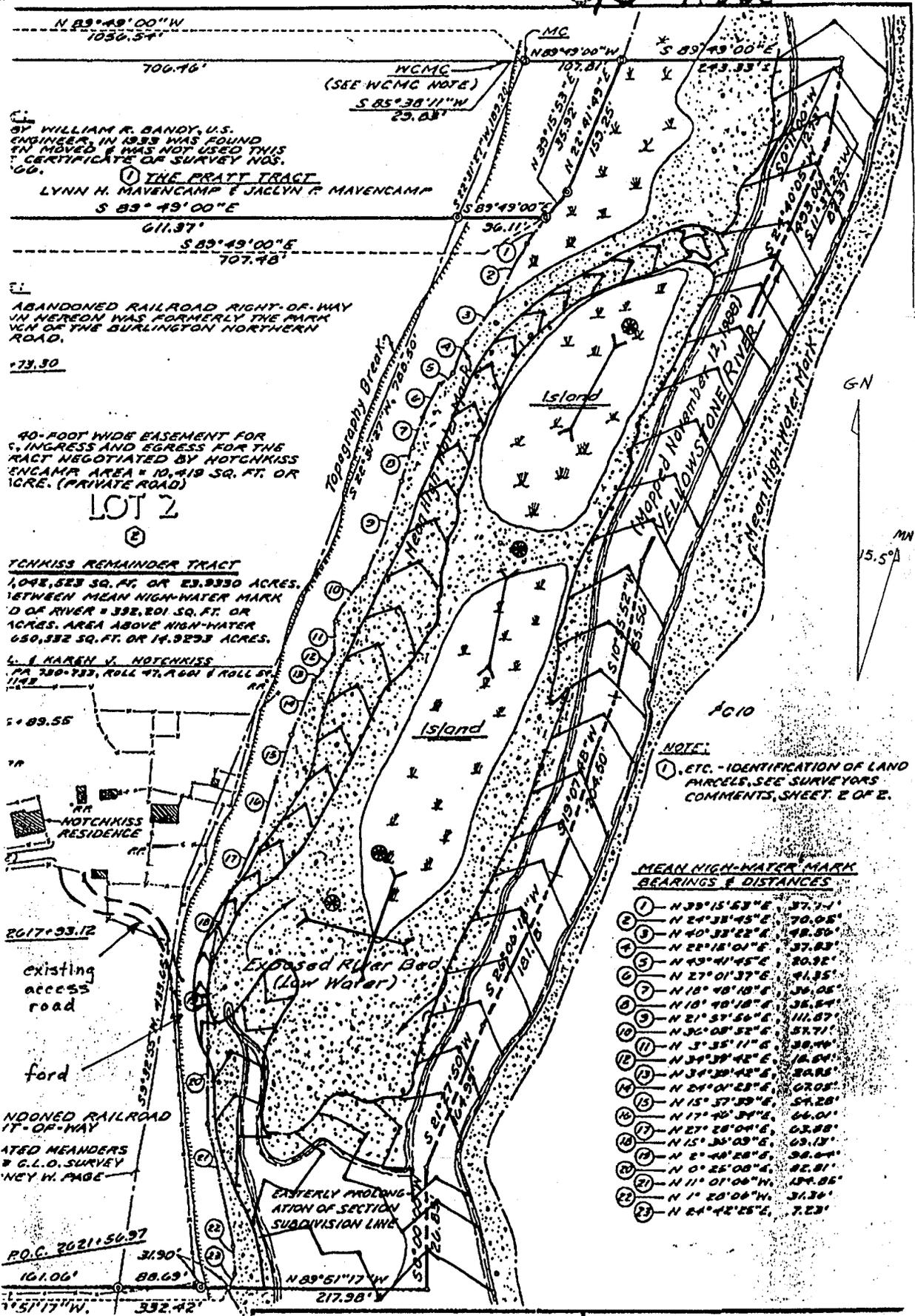


FIGURE 1 - Planimetric Map of Area of Exploration. Map shown is a portion of a subdivision plat map supplied by the landowner. The scale is approximately 1:1,200.

- active river channel on 4-6-98
- proposed exploration trench
- proposed settling/infiltration ("S/I") pit

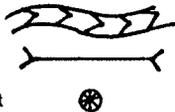


FIGURE 2 - Planimetric Sketch Map and Footprint of Exploration Trench. Excavations and equipment shown will move from one trench to the next. Trenches will be excavated in 20-30 foot segments with concurrent reclamation. Scale = 1:240. 1 inch = 20 feet.

