



## COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** April 7, 2026

**ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER:** Consideration and Approval of Letter of Comment on Forest Service Proposed Rule for Locatable Minerals, Nick Sandberg, Public Lands Coordinator

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve and sign letter

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### SUMMARY

The U.S. Forest Service proposes to revise its regulations for prospecting, exploration, development, mining, processing and reclamation activities as to management of locatable minerals. The stated objectives for the revision are to improve customer service and efficiency and transparency of agency review of proposed mining operations while still minimizing adverse impacts to the environment. The proposed rule is open for public comment until April 21, 2026.

### HISTORY/PAST ACTION

The Forest Service updated regulations for the management of locatable minerals in 1974, the base authority for which is the Mining Law of 1872. These regulations have not been substantially changed since the 1974 edition.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Undetermined but likely to increase applicant's costs due to more detailed filing requirements and responsibilities.