

# ***Community Involvement Plan for the Georgetown Canyon Mine Site***



***Prepared for:***  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



***Prepared by:***  
North Wind Resource Consulting



June 2015

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**Prepared for:**  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Pocatello Regional Office  
Pocatello, Idaho

**Prepared by:**  
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Idaho Falls, Idaho

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFI	CF Industries
CO/ASAOC	Consent Order/Administrative Settlement Agreement Order on Consent
COPC	constituent of potential concern
FS	feasibility study
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
Nu-West	Nu-West Mining, Inc.
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI	remedial investigation
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

# Community Involvement Plan for the Georgetown Canyon Mine Site

## 1. OVERVIEW

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes; Nu-West Mining, Inc. (Nu-West); and CF Industries (CFI) entered into a Consent Order/Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (CO/ASAOC) in February 2014. The CO/ASAOC establishes that the Georgetown Canyon Mine site will be evaluated for potential hazardous waste releases by conducting a remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study (FS) consistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). IDEQ is designated as the “Lead Agency,” with USFS implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) on National Forest System lands. Subsection 10.6 of the CO/ASAOC requires IDEQ and USFS to prepare a Community Involvement Plan for the site in accordance with applicable Environmental Protection Agency guidance and the NCP. This Community Involvement Plan describes how IDEQ and USFS plan to work with the community and communicate with key stakeholders, other interested parties, and the general public throughout the RI/FS and any subsequent remedial actions at the site.

This plan is designed to provide an avenue for public participation and two-way communication, as well as to provide accurate, straightforward, and up-to-date information on the progress of the project. The objectives of this plan include:

- Informing the public of current and planned site activities
- Maintaining open communication with the public about any subsequent remedial actions, ensuring questions are answered, and that concerns are addressed as they occur
- Providing interested parties with information used to support decision making
- Providing citizens with opportunities to comment on, and be involved in, technical decisions when appropriate
- Encouraging and assisting local citizens in providing input to agency decisions that will have long-term effects on their community.

This Community Involvement Plan is a dynamic document and will evolve as the interests of the affected parties are considered and included in the review process. Implementation of this plan will meet regulatory requirements through conducting effective public involvement and information activities throughout the project.

IDEQ is sending this plan to those who have requested to be on their mailing list. In addition, the plan will be posted for review and comment on the IDEQ website ([www.deq.idaho.gov/selenium-investigations](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/selenium-investigations)) and at the Soda Springs Library. If you have questions concerning this site or this plan, or would like additional information, please contact any of the following individuals:

**Mike Rowe**  
IDEQ Project Manager  
(208) 236-6160  
[Michael.Rowe@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Michael.Rowe@deq.idaho.gov)

**Sheri Stumbo**  
USFS Project Manager  
(208) 236-7519  
[sherriastumbo@fs.fed.us](mailto:sherriastumbo@fs.fed.us)

**Ann Riedesel**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(208) 557-0843  
[ariedesel@northwindgrp.com](mailto:ariedesel@northwindgrp.com)

## **2. SITE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION**

Southeast Idaho is a major phosphate-producing region, and phosphate mining has been an important industry in the area since the early 20th century. Overall, the Southeast Idaho phosphate mining district encompasses 2,500 square miles within Caribou, Bingham, Bannock, and Bear Lake counties. In 1996, isolated livestock losses associated with excessive selenium uptake prompted public and agency concern about potential releases of selenium and other naturally occurring constituents to the environment from mining activities and the impact on human health.

Phosphate mining has resulted in overburden piles and open pits that contain materials high in selenium and other constituents of potential concern (COPCs). Past studies – including mining company investigations, area-wide investigations, mine-specific studies, and others – have identified these overburden piles as potential sources of COPCs that may pose a risk to human health and/or the environment. Exposing overburden material to the elements allows the transport of naturally occurring constituents through various mechanisms to potentially impact ground water, surface water, sediment, soil, and plants at and beyond the former mining areas.

The Georgetown Canyon Mine site is located on the northern portion of the east limb of the Georgetown Syncline (Figure 1). Most of the site drains into Georgetown Canyon and contributes runoff to Upper Georgetown Creek. The northernmost area of the site drains to the South Fork of Deer Creek.

The Georgetown Canyon Mine site is located primarily on private lands and partially on National Forest System land. The Utah Fertilizer and Chemical Manufacturing Company began mining at Georgetown Canyon in 1909. In the years following, several other companies operated the mine until 1964. Nu-West Mining, Inc. is the current owner of the private land at the site.

Overburden piles comprised of shales high in selenium and other COPCs are present on the site. Sampling results performed since 1996 at the site and at similar sites show elevated levels of selenium and other COPCs in local and down-gradient soils, vegetation, surface water, sediment, ground water, and biota, indicating that these constituents may be leaching from overburden materials into the environment.

The RI/FS will document the nature and extent of mining related impacts, evaluate risk to human health and/or the environment posed by the release of COPCs, develop and analyze potential remedial options, and recommend a preferred alternative.

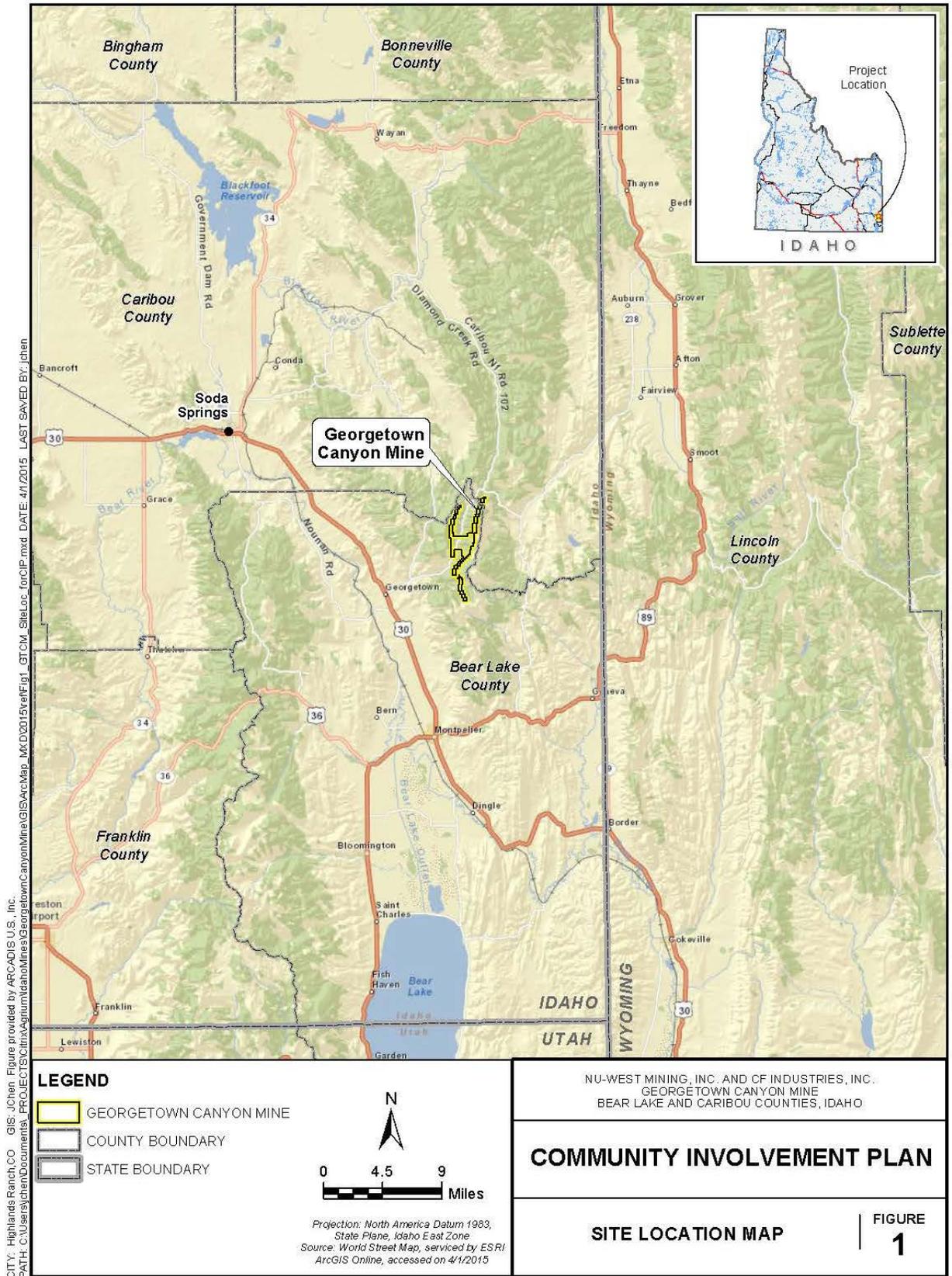


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Georgetown Canyon Mine site.

## 2.2 Previous Site Investigations

Nu-West completed remedial actions at the nearby Georgetown Canyon industrial site (Figure 2) in 2010 under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Consent Judgment. These actions were designed to prevent COPCs from migrating from the former industrial site and surrounding areas.

Caps were constructed on several features, including the slurry pit, the arc furnace, and the clarifier pond. Nu-West removed all remaining phosphate ore from the site and redirected Georgetown Creek from a culvert to an aboveground channel. Public access is restricted with signs and fences, and future land use is limited at the former industrial site.

## 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Georgetown Canyon Mine site is located in Bear Lake and Caribou Counties, Idaho. Wyoming borders the area on the east, while Utah borders the area on the south. Idaho's Bannock and Franklin Counties form its western border; and Bingham and Bonneville counties border it on the north. The estimated population for Caribou County is 6,810 and 5,940 for Bear Lake County. The median household income in Caribou County is \$53,590 and in Bear Lake County is \$44,960; the median Idaho average is \$46,770.<sup>1</sup> Soda Springs – with an estimated population of 3,058 – is the county seat for Caribou County, while Paris – with an estimated population of 513 – is the county seat for Bear Lake County.<sup>2</sup>

### 3.1 Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders for this project include the IDEQ, USFS, FWS, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, as well as local officials, businesses, landowners, and residents.

### 3.2 History of Community Involvement

Community involvement activities have occurred in conjunction with investigation and remedial activities and phosphate mine sites in Southeast Idaho since 2008. In 2008, interviews were held with agency and mining company representatives, and the results were used to develop communication strategies for RI/FS work at Conda, Henry, Ballard, and Enoch Valley mines. Following agreement on the communication strategies and a background document<sup>3</sup>, interviews with area stakeholders were held in 2009 and included elected officials (i.e., mayors, city council members, and county commissioners); staff representatives for Senators Crapo and Risch and Representative Simpson; local legislative representatives; and area landowners and residents.

Additional remedial action updates were issued in 2012 and again in 2014. In 2014, an open house was held to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss investigation and remedial activities at the phosphate mine sites throughout the Soda Springs area.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 data, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics, 2010 Demographic Profile Data.

<sup>3</sup> *Spring 2009 Update: Phosphate Mine Site Investigations in Southeast Idaho.*

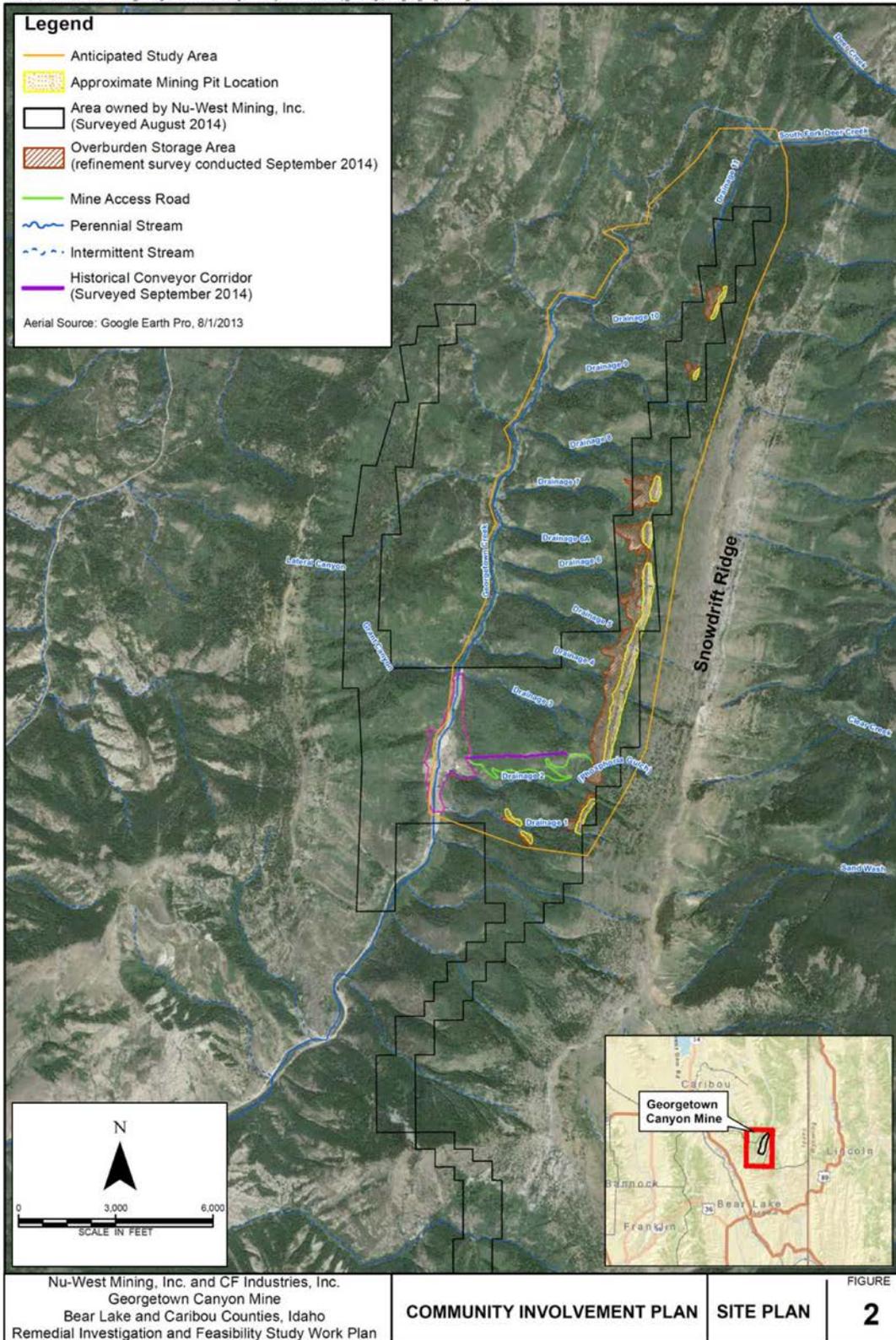


Figure 2. Site plan map of the Georgetown Canyon Mine site.

### 3.3 Community Concerns and Information Needs

Community interest in the project is primarily focused on:

- Agency actions
- CERCLA process
- Potential impacts from mining activities
- Cost of remedial actions
- Data/data quality
- Lack of progress
- Mining company actions
- Job/financial impacts
- Stakeholder relationships
- Surface and groundwater impacts
- Technical approach
- Tribal issues
- Vegetation/grazing impacts
- Visual and aesthetic impacts.

## 4. PLANNED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Public involvement activities will be coordinated, as appropriate, with activities planned for other RI/FS and remedial actions in the area. Coordinated outreach will avoid the need to conduct dual activities for the same set of stakeholders. Planned public involvement activities include:

- Community Interviews – A new round of community interviews will be conducted to update the information since the 2008 and 2009 interviews. An interview plan will be developed to reach new stakeholders in the area. Interviews will be scheduled for summer and fall 2015, and the feedback will be incorporated into ongoing and future public information activities.
- Public Information Updates – In cooperation with USFS, FWS, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, IDEQ will continue to prepare and distribute updates on project developments to the project contact list. Public information products may include:
  - Fact sheets – The format of the information will be similar to the previous updates. Fact sheets will be developed and mailed at least annually to the project contact list.
  - Postcards/e-mails – These will direct interested stakeholders to Internet content, document availabilities, or locations of the administrative record and information repositories.
  - Press releases or briefings to announce important developments.

- Project Contact List – IDEQ will maintain a contact list of stakeholders and those who have expressed an interest in the remedial investigations and any remedial action projects.
- Administrative Record – In accordance with CERCLA, IDEQ is required to maintain an administrative record file for remedial actions and to make a copy of that file available at or near the site. The administrative record for this project will be available for public review at the following location:

**Idaho IDEQ Pocatello Regional Office  
444 Hospital Way Suite 300  
Pocatello Idaho 83201  
208-236-6160**

- Information Repository – CERCLA also requires that information developed, received, published, or made available to the public be available for public inspection and copying at an information repository at or near the site. Technical documents and reports related to the environmental investigations and remedial action plans will be available for review at the following location:

**Soda Springs Public Library  
149 S. Main St.  
Soda Springs, ID 83276-1496  
208-547-2606**

The library has some hard-copy mine-related records for other remedial projects but lacks sufficient space for large numbers of printed documents. Records relating to the Georgetown Canyon Mine site (and other mine remedial action projects as well) will be maintained on an electronic system that can be kept current by uploading new files regularly. The same new files will also be uploaded to IDEQ's Selenium Investigations in Southeast Idaho website (<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/selenium-investigations>), and a CD copy can be provided to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for use at the Shoshone-Bannock Library Repository.

- Public Meetings/Workshops – Public meetings/workshops will take place at major project milestones (e.g., availability of the draft Proposed Plan), as required, and will be announced and advertised at least 2 weeks in advance. The community involvement team will develop a public meeting plan in advance, detailing plans for print and/or broadcast advertising, identifying media outlets, and ensuring the accuracy of mailing lists for key contacts and general distribution. Notification to stakeholders on the project contact list will take place via mail or e-mail (depending on any preferences identified during previous contacts).

Appendix A includes an action plan outlining specific tasks and schedules for implementing this Community Involvement Plan. The action plan will be updated at least annually to ensure actions are scheduled to meet the objectives of this Community Involvement Plan.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Team Member	Organization	Responsibilities
Doug Tanner	IDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste and Remediation Manager</li> <li>• Reviews communication products</li> <li>• May participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Trina Burgin	IDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Relations Planner</li> <li>• Reviews communication products, may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Mike Rowe	IDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDEQ Georgetown Canyon Mine Project Manager</li> <li>• Provides direction to Community Involvement Team</li> <li>• Receives all communications products and coordinates reviews; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Sherri Stumbo	USFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFS Deputy Director of Engineering/Environmental Remediation</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in meetings or workshops</li> </ul>
Mitch Hart	Nu-West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nu-West representative</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Randy Brandt	CFI (Geosyntec Consultants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside consultant representing CFI</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Kelly Wright Susan Hanson	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal representatives</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Sandi Fisher Jeremy Moore	FWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and wildlife representative</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>
Ann Riedesel	North Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor Project Manager</li> <li>• Community Involvement Coordinator</li> <li>• Develops communications products</li> </ul>
Lori McNamara	North Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Involvement Specialist</li> <li>• Meeting and information material logistics</li> <li>• Develops communications products</li> </ul>
Anjali MacDonald	ARCADIS U.S., Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead technical consultant representing Nu-West and CFI</li> <li>• Reviews communication products; may participate in some stakeholder interactions</li> </ul>

**APPENDIX A**  
**Georgetown Canyon Mine Site**  
**Community Involvement Plan Action Plan**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Develop community interview plan and conduct community interviews	Summer 2015
Prepare and issue Georgetown Canyon Mine Site Fact Sheet (announce AR/IR and WP)	Summer 2015
Update contact list	Ongoing throughout the project
Conduct editorial board meetings with selected local newspaper editors ( <i>Caribou County Sun, The News-Examiner, Idaho State Journal, The Post Register</i> ) to provide project background and status	Summer 2015
Prepare updates as needed (e.g., fact sheets, postcards)	As needed
Update AR/IR	Ongoing throughout the project