



Outlook

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**[External Email] Sheep Creek - tomorrow/Wednesday**

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**From** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

**Date** Tue 9/16/2025 12:54 PM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>

[External Email]

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Dan,

I plan on mapping at Sheep Creek tomorrow - Wednesday - and would like to stop by the office and pick up signage, if that works. ETA around 9:30.

Thanks, Peter Mejstrick



Outlook

---

[External Email] Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

---

**From** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

**Date** Tue 8/12/2025 8:37 AM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; steve cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>

[External Email]

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Dan,

Steve Cutler, geologist for Roughstock Mining out of Bozeman, is working for US Critical Materials. Steve would like to access the Sheep Creek property this Wednesday, 8-13. We are not sure if the gate is open or locked; if locked he will need the combination. Steve said he would call the West Fork office as a heads- up and plans to stop in on his way down to fill out the proper paperwork for access. I expect Steve will make additional trips to Sheep Creek as the season progresses. Will call and catch up sometime. Thanks, Peter



Outlook

---

[External Email] Sheep Creek meeting at WF Ranger Station ?

---

**From** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

**Date** Fri 4/19/2024 10:44 AM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>

[External Email]

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Dan,

Scott Osterman and I will be in the West Fork area next Wednesday afternoon, April 24. If you were around, and would like to meet, it would be a good time to discuss the Sheep Creek project and how US Critical Materials could interface with the USFS going forward.

Thanks,

Peter

---

**[External Email]US Critical Materials / Scott Osterman contact info**

---

**From** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

**Date** Tue 4/16/2024 4:05 PM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; scott.osterman@gmail.com <scott.osterman@gmail.com>

[External Email]

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Dan,

I spoke with Scott Osterman this morning. Among other things, Scott is going to help US Critical Materials with public relations regarding the Sheep Creek project. Scott's phone number is 406-697-2339 and his email is attached. Scott said he would be open to talking at your convenience and you can call him anytime.

Scott,

Dan Pliley is District Ranger for the West Fork Ranger Station and is our point of contact for permitting at Sheep Creek. Dan also is the point of contact for all questions, concerns, and in many cases complaints about the exploration activities at Sheep Creek - a task that has been ongoing for more than a year. Any assistance from US Critical Materials that would provide accurate information on the Sheep Creek property and thereby deflect unfounded rumors about the property would be welcomed by the West Fork. To reach Dan, call the West Fork Ranger Station, 406-821-3269.

Let me know if I can assist in moving this forward.

Peter

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## Permit for MT Tech Dept of Geological Engineering

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**From** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=76B256A8FC684E6AB86EC1F6F85EEF88-DPLILEY>

**Date** Fri 7/19/2024 4:13 PM

**To** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

 2 attachments (385 KB)

Department of Geological Engineering Permit\_signedZHOU.pdf; Exhibit A\_Operating Plan-Itinerary.docx;

Hello Peter,

Please see attached for the permit issued to MT Tech for research in the Sheep Creek area. Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**  
**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**  
**Bitterroot National Forest**  
**West Fork Ranger District**

**p: 406-821-1212**

**c: 406-493-5256**

**[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)**

6735 West Fork Road

Darby, MT 59829

**[www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov)**



**Caring for the land and serving people**

---

**Re: [External Email]RE: Sheep Creek Field Trip**

---

**From** Heather Barber <heather@bitterrootwater.org>  
**Date** Wed 10/15/2025 3:53 PM  
**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>  
**Cc** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

Hi Peter,

Thanks for looking into squeezing in a visit yet this year. We'd really appreciate the chance to connect on-site if that ends up being possible. I completely understand how busy things are at the tail end of the field season - we're in the thick of it ourselves. *From the sounds of your email to Dan, your work may spill into the weekends as ours can also do - if a weekend visit works for you that's fine with me (as long as it doesn't conflict with a Griz game ;)*

You can reach me directly at 608-852-5030 or at [heather@bitterrootwater.org](mailto:heather@bitterrootwater.org).

Appreciate your time, Peter, and thank you Dan for helping make the connection.

Best,

**Heather Barber**  
Executive Director

**Bitterroot Water Partnership** - *Our Waters, Our Ways of Life*  
[bitterrootwater.org](http://bitterrootwater.org) | 406.375.2272



On Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 10:41 AM Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <[Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov)> wrote:

Hi Peter,

Thank you for considering a field trip this late in the season. I am connecting you with Heather Barber, Executive Director for the Bitterroot Water Partnership. If you are able to meet up in the field this season, let me know and I could extend the invite to our Forest Geologists for a combined trip. Heather can fill you in more but if you are curious about the partnership, here is a link to their site: <https://bitterrootwater.org/>

Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**  
**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**

**Bitterroot National Forest**  
**West Fork Ranger District**

**p: 406-821-3269**  
**c: 406-493-5256**  
**[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)**

6735 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829

---

**From:** [pmejstrick@bresnan.net](mailto:pmejstrick@bresnan.net) <[pmejstrick@bresnan.net](mailto:pmejstrick@bresnan.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 13, 2025 12:51 PM

**To:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <[Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov)>

**Subject:** [External Email]RE: Sheep Creek Field Trip

[External Email]

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Dan,

Meeting with the Bitterroot Water Partnership group is possible but I will have to run the idea past corporate. Is there contact information or a contact person for BWP?

Scheduling will be a critical factor as it's busy at season's end. Missed connecting with Xiaobing's group on Saturday because one of the programs that I'm involved with stretched into the weekend. Would still like to get the Forest geologists out to the ground, too.

Peter

-----

From: "Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT" <[Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov)>

To: <[pmejstrick@bresnan.net](mailto:pmejstrick@bresnan.net)>

Sent: October 9, 2025 at 1:51 PM MDT

Subject: Sheep Creek Field Trip

Hi Peter,

I hope your season is going well. I had a conversation with the Bitterroot Water Partnership and they are interested in a visit to Sheep Creek to understand the area, what your exploration efforts look like. Their main interest is understanding impacts to water resources in terms of exploration and mining. Would you be willing to have them out with you one day, similar to the field trip you hosted for us? It would probably just be 3 or 4 people. I know your field season will be wrapping up near the end of the month, but they have availability any day that you may be available in the next few weeks.

Thanks,

Dan

**Dan Pliley**  
**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**

Bitterroot National Forest  
West Fork Ranger District



**p: 406-821-3269**

**c: 406-493-5256**

**[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)**

6735 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829

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---

Re: [External Email]Sheep Creek - tomorrow/Wednesday

---

From Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>  
Date Tue 9/16/2025 1:00 PM  
To pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>

Hi Peter, I'm not around this week but we'll have it ready.

**Dan Pliley**  
**District Ranger**  
**Forest Service**  
Bitterroot National Forest  
West Fork Ranger District  
**p: 406-821-3269**  
**c: 406-493-5256**  
[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)  
6735 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829

---

**From:** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:54:46 PM  
**To:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Sheep Creek - tomorrow/Wednesday

[External Email]

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Dan,

I plan on mapping at Sheep Creek tomorrow - Wednesday - and would like to stop by the office and pick up signage, if that works. ETA around 9:30.

Thanks, Peter Mejstrick

---

**Re: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist**

---

**From** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>

**Date** Tue 8/26/2025 5:51 PM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>

Thanks Dan

See you tomorrow morning

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---

**From:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 5:12:22 PM

**To:** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>

**Subject:** RE: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

You don't often get email from daniel.pliley@usda.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Steve,

Yes, please stop by our office on the way up. We'll get you the gate code and two documents. 1) Authorization to work behind a locked gate to hang on the gate, 2) a vehicle pass to display in your windshield. This way, law enforcement and other employees know you're authorized to be back there. Please ensure the gate is closed and locked behind you on the way in and out.

Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**

**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**

Bitterroot National Forest

West Fork Ranger District

**p: 406-821-3269**

[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)

6735 West Fork Road

Darby, MT 59829

---

**From:** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 2:58 PM

**To:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; pmejstrick@bresnan.net; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Re: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

Hi Dan

We plan to go to Sheep Creek tomorrow to finish some survey work. Can we stop in and get the gate code in the morning?

Thanks, Steve Cutler

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**From:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:15:05 AM  
**To:** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

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Hi Peter,

Thanks for the heads up. Access won't be an issue for Steve for a couple more weeks, we have the gate open to allow for firewood cutting. The gate does close on August 25<sup>th</sup>, prior to archery hunting season so at that time Steve will need to stop in, get the authorization documents for working behind a closed gate and also the gate code.

Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**  
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**From:** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 8:37 AM  
**To:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; steve cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

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**Re: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist**

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**From** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>

**Date** Tue 8/26/2025 2:57 PM

**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>

Hi Dan

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Thanks, Steve Cutler

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---

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**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:15:05 AM

**To:** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>

**Subject:** RE: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

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Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**

**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**

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**p: 406-821-3269**

[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)

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Darby, MT 59829

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**Subject:** [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist

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**Re: [External Email]Sheep Creek / Steve Cutler, geologist**

---

**From** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>  
**Date** Fri 9/19/2025 2:12 PM  
**To** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>

Hi Dan

Plan to go to Sheep Creek next Tuesday and do some work behind the gate. Can I stop in and get an authorization at the office Tuesday morning?

Thanks,  
Steve Cutler-Roughstock Mining  
406-580-7016

---

**From:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 5:12 PM  
**To:** Steve Cutler <scutler@roughstockmining.com>; pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; ed cowle <edcowle@aol.com>  
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Dan



**Dan Pliley**

**District Ranger**

**Forest Service**

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**RE: [External Email]Sheep Creek NOI 2025**

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**From** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=76B256A8FC684E6AB86EC1F6F85EEF88-DPLILEY>  
**Date** Mon 4/21/2025 12:24 PM  
**To** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>; Troop, Kristin - FS, MT <kristin.troop@usda.gov>

Hello Peter,

NOI received, we'll take a look and get back to you as quickly as possible.

Thanks,

Dan



**Dan Pliley**  
**District Ranger**  
**Forest Service**  
Bitterroot National Forest  
West Fork Ranger District  
**p: 406-821-3269**  
**c: 406-493-5256**  
[daniel.pliley@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.pliley@usda.gov)  
6735 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829

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**From:** pmejstrick@bresnan.net <pmejstrick@bresnan.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 11:13 AM  
**To:** Pliley, Daniel - FS, MT <Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov>; Troop, Kristin - FS, MT <kristin.troop@usda.gov>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Sheep Creek NOI 2025

[External Email]

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Dan, Kristin,

Attached is a Notice of Intent to Conduct Mineral Exploration for the Sheep Creek property primarily located in T4S R22W, Ravalli County, Montana. The NOI is identical to the NOI filed in 2024, except the dates are changed to reflect the 2025 Operating Season. Please contact me if you have questions.

Peter Mejstrick

Geologist for US Critical Materials