

Bentonite Performance Minerals
Permit No. 267C Supporting Information

Section 2.2 Appendix D-2, History Of The Area

The entire permit area lies within Crook County in the northeast corner of the State of Wyoming. This was named after General George Crook, well known Indian fighter of the plains and Southwest. The county was organized on January 22, 1885.

The first inhabitants of the area were the prehistoric Indians. In historic times, the nomadic Plains Indians, such as the Kiowa, Sioux and Cheyenne roamed the land hunting buffalo and other game. The first documented account of white men to enter the was the passage of the Wilson Price hunting party in 1811. The first United States military expedition to enter was the group under the leadership of Lt. G. K. Warren in 1857. The largest expedition was that headed by General George A. Custer in 1874 when rumors of gold in the Black Hills were verified. The discovery of gold led to an influx of people. In the 1880's the area became the home of great herds of cattle brought up Texas trail. At the same time, a steady stream of homesteaders came into the region.

Livestock are still the main industry in the area. In 1928, the bentonite mining industry began in the area, and has been steady expanding to the point where it is one of the largest employers in the area.

Most of the information presented in Appendix D-2 comes from a report prepared by Mary S. Garman of the Crook County Historical Society.

NOTE: Generally, this section will not be altered with submittals of Chapter 13 Updates, Chapter VII revisions or amendment applications. If there is some unique and highly unusual history associated with any amended lands, the permittee will revise this section in association with the amendment application.