

Exhibit Number: 7

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EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1/21/05
HB 7

GRANT PROPOSAL

Reclamation and Development Grants Program

Excelsior Reclamation Project

Project Sponsor:

**Butte-Silver Bow Local Government
155 W. Granite
Butte, Montana**

Presentation

**Long Range Planning Subcommittee
Montana Legislature**

January 21, 2005

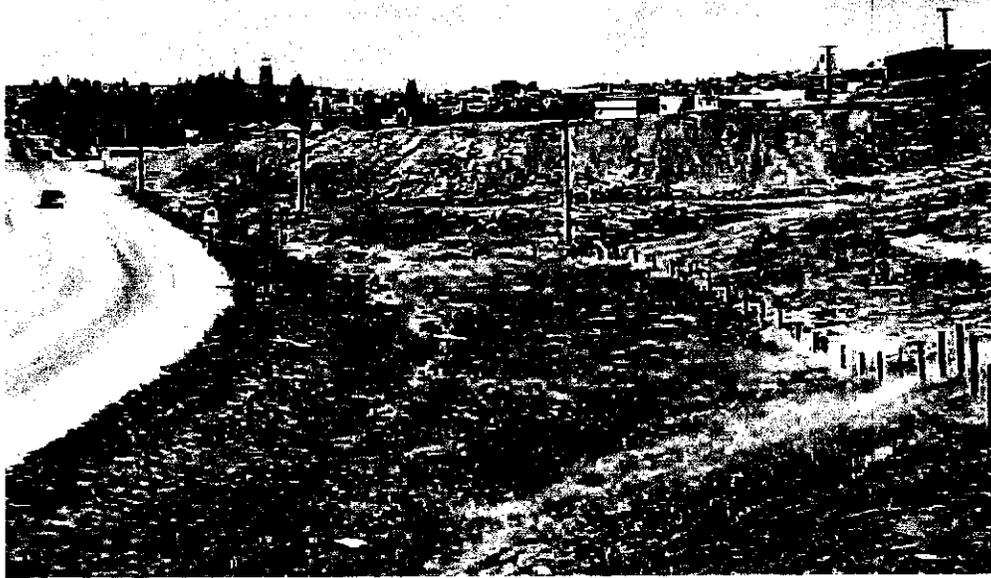


Figure 1:

This view from the Iron Street overpass, looking north, shows the entire project site. Major work will be performed on the severe slopes in the background, to recontour to grades that can support vegetation growth that will control erosion of materials into the drainage ditch along the roadway. All existing vegetation will be preserved and enhanced.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

- To reclaim approximately four acres of land impacted by mineral development in the urban corridor of Butte, Montana.
- Properties surrounding the project site have been reclaimed in the past decade, primarily through the Superfund cleanup program.
- The land immediately adjacent to the east of the site is the Travonia Mineyard, a 16.6-acre site that was reclaimed under the Superfund program in 1990.
- The west border of the site is Excelsior Street, a main arterial road (State Highway) from the Interstate to Butte's westside neighborhoods and the historic uptown business districts.
- The project site is a sliver of land between the reclaimed mineyard and the roadway.
- The Excelsior Project area is a typical example of an area in Butte that has "fallen through the cracks." Based on determinations from state and federal government officials, this site will not be addressed under any other program.
- The job in Butte is simply not done and RIT support is vital.

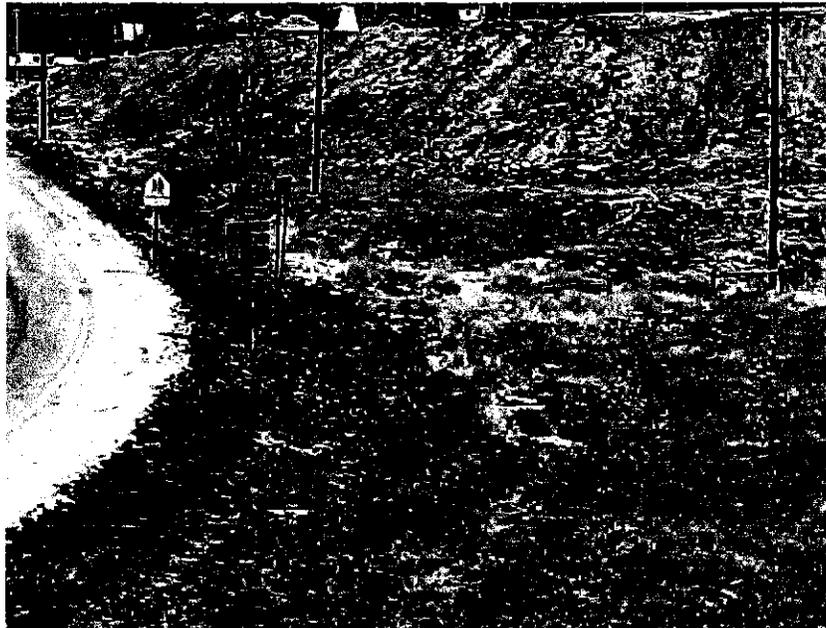


Figure 2:

Another, closer view from the Iron Street overpass. Note the waste piles in the background and the barren areas in the foreground along the drainage ditch. On several occasions during the past year, this drainage ditch has carried tons of sediments downhill to be deposited in a newly constructed sedimentation pond, by the Superfund cleanup program. The sediment from this target site alone, required numerous sediment removal operations to be performed by crews working under the Superfund program. This site needs to be stabilized immediately.

PROJECT SCOPE:

- To change contours and regrade the steep topography
- To add compost to existing soils to enhance plant growth
- To import clean topsoil, compost, soil amendments and rock cover materials
- To establish diverse and self sustaining erosion control vegetation
- To produce a stable landscape that will reduce erosion, particularly during “gully-washing” storm events
- To minimize long-term maintenance costs
- To improve the neighborhood and spur development of adjoining properties
- Without the RIT/RDGP grant funds, the project site may never be reclaimed, and the area will persist as a damaged landscape at one of the key gateway entrances to the historic uptown business districts.



The first sights of urban Butte coming off I-90 or I-15 is the project area. The landscape needs to be improved to enhance the “first-image” of the community and focus attention more on the substantial work that has been done to mitigate the impacts of mining on the Butte Hill.



Technical Approach

- No-frills approach is proposed for reclamation of the area
- Designed to withstand “Gully-Washing” events and convey and control storm water runoff
- Minimal grade changes are proposed to minimize construction costs and to preserve as much “bench” property for future redevelopment.
- Diverse, self-sustaining native plants are proposed for the site, thus minimizing water use, preventing weed infestations and minimizing long-term maintenance costs
- Diverse, native shrub and tree species have been proposed to withstand the Butte climates and soils, and will be fed by a low cost, low-water-use, drip irrigation system
- Curbs and gutters along Excelsior Street are proposed to control storm water run-on and run-off, but no pedestrian sidewalk is proposed, thus minimizing construction costs

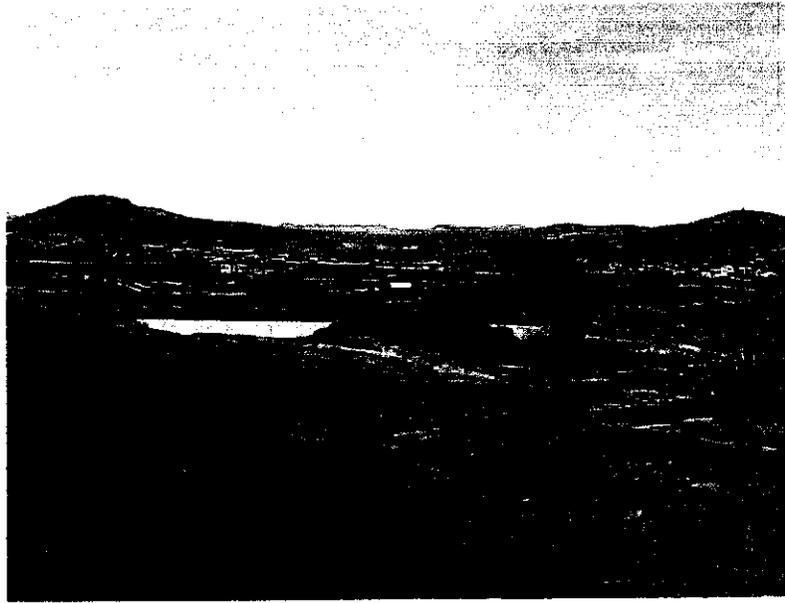


Figure 4: This view is from the Iron Street I-90 and I-15 overpass, looking south. This sediment basin in lower Missoula Gulch was constructed under the Superfund program to control sediments from upper Missoula Gulch and Walkerville. To the right of the sed basin is the reclaimed Emma Mine dumps. A similar cap, with appropriate grades and vegetation is proposed for the Excelsior Project site. Due solely to the target dump on Excelsior Street, sediments have been removed from this sedimentation basin on several occasions. Costs for the operation and maintenance of Superfund remedies are being improperly elevated due to sediments from the target site on Excelsior Street, which can not, and will not be reclaimed under the Superfund program.



Figure 5: The unreclaimed wastes erode off the steep slope, and sediments collect in this area of the site. During "Gully-Washing" storm events, sediments are carried down this ditch to the Superfund sedimentation basin. Re-contouring the dump slopes is proposed to control storm water run-on and run-off so that the reclaimed site can support native vegetation and mitigate further damages.