

Greg Hallsten

4-10

TO: Mark Ahner, Area Manager - Central Land Office  
FROM: Robert Viahovich, Field Supervisor - Helena Unit *R✓*  
DATE: January 31, 1990  
SUBJECT: Davis Mineral Lease Application

James F. Davis has applied to lease State Land in Sec. 2, T12N, R6W for gold and silver exploration and possible mining. Some mining activities have occurred on adjacent private lands, (primarily core drilling).

Past range evaluations have indicated a knapweed infestation along Meagher Gulch. The Surface Leasee is working in conjunction with a weed control demonstration area, (WOW Project), to control this problem.

An old wood construction building is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2 on State land (see 1986 Evaluation). This site should be looked at by the Department Archaeologist for evaluation purposes, prior to any activity that could disturb the site.

I recommend approval of the proposed lease subject to the following special stipulations:

1. Prior to ground disturbing activities the mineral leasee meet with the surface leasee and DSL representative to develop and implement a mutually acceptable Weed Management Plan.
2. Mineral leasee contact the DSL for approval prior to any disturbance in the area immediately adjacent to the old cabin in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, T12N, R6W.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CHECKLIST

DS-252

PROPOSED ACTION Mineral exploration leaseCOUNTY Lewis & Clark TOWNSHIP 12N RANGE 6W SECTION 2

\*(Yes) (No) (NA)

- |                                     |                          |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1. Significant use of area by important wildlife and fish species. <i>Elk winter range in general area. Impact should minor <del>step</del> in site &amp; timing of operations.</i>                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2. Important vegetation communities present which may influence be influenced by proposed project. <i>Knapweed in Meagher Gulch</i>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 3. Significant historical, archaeological, or paleontological resource present. <i>Old cabin in NESW 2 T 12N R 6W should be evaluated before disturbance.</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. Significant topographic features, terrain or aesthetic values are present.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5. Reconstruction of existing roads or trails or new road are proposed.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6. Important surface or groundwater resources present.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7. Fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 8. Buildings, structures, pipelines, powerlines or other utilities located nearby. <i>Old building mentioned on attached summary</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 9. Land has been included as a part of a baseline study or other type of report, for any purpose. (e.g. Natural Area Program, Resource Development Bureau projects, rights-of-way, easements or other leasing actions) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 10. Previously permitted or leased activities on this tract result in special protective stipulations. <i>Knapweed control efforts need to be continued</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 11. Present tract management is influenced significantly by adjacent state, federal or private land management practices.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 12. Tract is near designated Class I air area, or non-attainment area.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 13. Tract contains areas with unique or special reclamation considerations (past mining, erosion, saline seep, etc.). <i>Knapweed in Meagher Gulch. See attached narrative</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 14. Additional Comments: (If so, explain in attached narrative) <i>See attached narrative</i>  |

\* Explain all "yes" answers in narrative form and attach to check list.

15. Public Interest: *Should be minimal, Surface Leasee was contacted by letter*

Prepared by: *Robert V. ...* Title *Holena Unit Manager*

Based on my review of the above action I have included that a EA is is not required  
(Circle appropriate response)  
because: *Impacts do not appear significant as long as recommended stipulations are included and addressed to by the applicant.*

Area Manager / Bureau Chief *Mark D. Jones* Date *2/2/90*  
Route copies to: File

