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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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JUN 10 1992
STATE LANDS

TO: Barb Hamburg, Mineral Lease Section Supervisor
FROM: Tom Vars, Stillwater Unit Manager
DATE: June 1, 1992
SUBJECT: Extending Gravel Permit G-~~1325~~-92
1235

As we discussed on the phone, this expansion is acceptable - refer to attached EA Checklist. Special provisions in Section 34 of Hamilton's permit need to be included or made part of the extension. Under 34-4, the second paragraph of that stipulation could be deleted. The paragraph references retention of snow cover on the pit floor.

The following special provisions should be added to the extended permit:

#5 A separate permit to remove the sawlogs is required and would be obtained from the Stillwater State Forest.

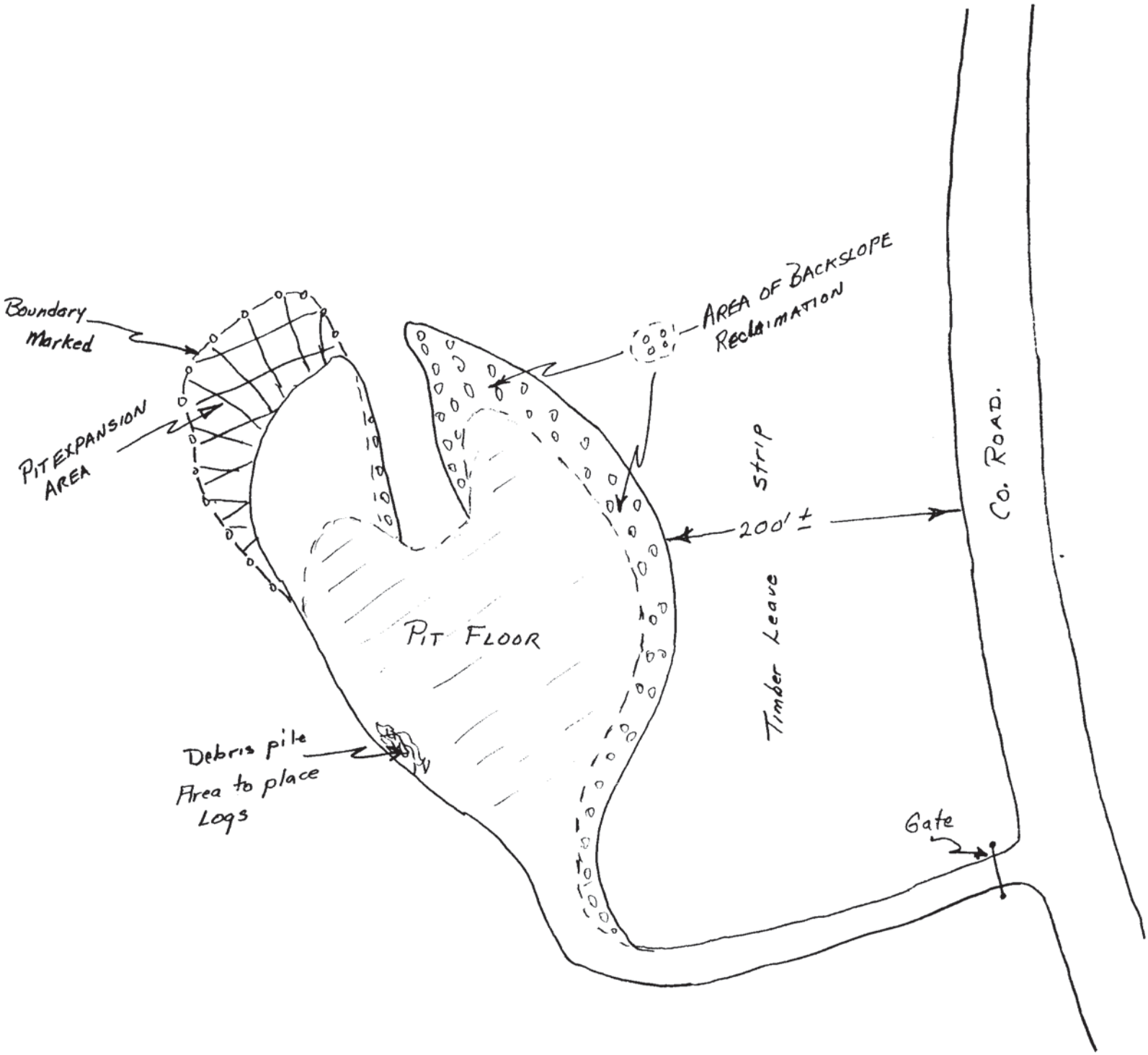
#6 After removal of sawtimber, overburden will be required to be stripped approximately one foot deep and moved across the pit floor.

#7 Refer to permit attachment map. Existing backslope areas as shown on the attachment will be reclaimed to a three to one ratio in the area shown. Overburden removed from the expansion area should be, as much as possible, equally distributed over these reduced backslopes. Logging slash is to be distributed and incorporated into the overburden (topsoil) placed on reclaimed slopes. Prior to reclamation work being done, it is required the Stillwater Unit Manager be notified. Reclamation work would proceed after this notification.

#8 The pit floor contains gravel and the permittee is authorized to remove gravel from the pit floor by ripping or scraping. It is required the pit floor remain in a level and usable condition for parking of vehicles during winter use by the Flathead Snowmobile Group and other users.

#9 Backslopes in the expansion area will not be left in a over-steepened condition. Prior to movement of equipment from the pit, notification to the Stillwater Unit Manager is required.

Permit Attachment
June '92



Not to scale

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name Gravel Permit G-1235-92 - Whitefish Lake Gravel Pit
Proposed Implementation Date: June 2, 1992 Proponent Hamilton Enterprises
Type and Purpose of Action Expansion of Existing Whitefish Lake Gravel Pit to remove 1,500 cu. yds. of gravel and 1,250 bd. ft. of sawtimber growing on the expansion area.
Location SE1/4NE1/4SW1/4, Section 32, T32N, R22W County Flathead

N = Not present or No Impact will occur
Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts)

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[Y] Deep outwash material - silt loam 8-12" deep over cobbly and gravelly sandy loam. Overburden is to be removed/stockpiled/redistributed. Underlying gravel will be used and commercially sold. Final reclamation will occur at a later day. Area is a commercially active pit used yearly.
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[N]
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] Slash from harvested trees from expansion area will be crushed and redistributed over reclaimed backslopes to add woody debris to the soils.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] The expansion area is approximately one-half acre in size. Vegetation is mostly low forbs and shrubs associated with an ABLA/CLUN h.t. Scattered sawtimber, Douglas-fir and larch, is to be removed from the site.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there significant use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N]
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N] The area is outside the Stillwater Bear Management Unit of the Northern Continental Ecosystem. There is an identified bald eagle nesting territory at the head of Whitefish Lake. The gravel pit is within the home range of this pair of eagles. The limited duration of activity at the pit and its proximity to other ongoing activities of local residents would not impact the eagles.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N]

8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] The gravel pit area is well screened from the adjacent county road. The screen area is a small ridge that is timbered and approximately 200 feet across. The access road to the pit is closed with a locked gate.
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number	[N]
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will significant traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N]
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N] The area is also licensed for use by the Flathead Snowmobile Association as a winter parking area for vehicles at a trailhead for snowmobiling.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]

19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[ ]

22. Alternatives Considered: No action was an alternative. Review by resource specialists did not determine any negative impacts associated with the project. The action alternative is recommended.

23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted: Resource specialists within the Department of State Lands.

24. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction, List of Permits Needed, and Agencies or Groups Contacted or Contributing Information: None

25. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: None

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:
[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: H.T. Vars (name) Unit Manager (title)

Approved By: _____ (name) _____ (title)

_____ (signature)