

Flagstone

00630

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name NELSON FLAGSTONE PERMIT APPLICATION Proposed Implementation Date: 7/30/92
Proponent Rick Nelson
Type and Purpose of Action Application for permit to remove flagstone.

Location N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 36, T19N, R24W County Sanders

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?	[N] Deep lacustrine silt soils present over the flats that access the pit location. No operation permitted on the site when soils are wet. See Checklist Narrative.
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] Flathead River is important surface water but is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away from site. RECEIVED AUG 31 1992 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants [or] particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed?)	[N] No pollutants or particulate will be produced by this operation. See Item 16.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] No rare plants or cover types present.
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 ISSUES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N] No T & E species present. No limited environmental issues.

7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] See Checklist Narrative.
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] Project area screened by a stand of hardwoods. Not visible from highway or river.
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	
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] See Checklist Narrative.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[Y] Project will create 2 to 4 part time jobs, picking, sorting and palleting rock for sale.
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] Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (Flathead Reservation) is a Class I Airshed. Flagstone removal should not impact this air quality.

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] No recreation or wilderness areas. No organized recreation potential on this tract. Recreation limited to licensed hunting under recreation access law.
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:	[N]

22. Alternatives Considered: No action --- current land management (grazing) would continue. Hunting activities under recreation access would continue. The income from issuing the mineral permit would not occur at this time.

23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted:

Steve Vulles --- grazing lessee.

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: Proposed action will allow removal of 300+ tons of loose stone per year, to be sold as decorative flagstone. No significant impacts will occur. See recommendations on Checklist Narrative.

Recommendations for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Marvin W. Miller *Marvin W. Miller* Plains Unit Manager
name title

Approved By: William E. O'Brien **Area Manager**
name **Northwestern Land Office**
Department of State Lands (Title)

William E. O'Brien August 14, 1992
signature (Date)

CHECKLIST NARRATIVE

NELSON FLAGSTONE PERMIT APPLICATION

General: Rick Nelson of Plains, Montana, is applying for a permit to mine and remove decorative flagstone from an existing pit location in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 36, T19N, R24W. This pit area was under permit to Richard Bossard of Missoula, dba Montana Hearth Co., until canceled in June 1991. The applicant plans to remove in excess of 300 tons of this flat decorative stone per year.

1. **Geology/Soils:** The area involved is a series of outcrops of high quality, thin veneered Pritchard formation flagstone. Each rock face outcrop is well weathered, with large talus slope deposits of fractured, flat stone below each outcrop. The site probably contains several thousand tons of useable flagstone material.

7. **Historical and Archaeological Sites:** This section contains several identified sites. There is an old homestead in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$. There are numerous small lithic scatter sites all along the river. There is a large, pictograph site in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$. All of these sites are well away from the quarry site, and removal of the flagstone should have no impact on any of these identified cultural sites.

12. **Agricultural Activities:** This section is presently leased for grazing. It is seriously overgrazed, and the entire area contains an abundant crop of noxious weeds, including spotted knapweed, dalmation toadflax, goatweed and sulfur cinquefoil. As these weeds are present and a result of grazing abuse, the mineral lessee should not be held accountable for their introduction, spread, or control.

25. **Recommendations to Limit Potential Impacts:**
 - a. No mechanical operations, including driving across the area in vehicles, or hauling out quarried stone, may occur when the lacustrine soils are wet and subject to rutting or compaction. Plains Unit personnel will determine when soil moisture levels are adequate for operation. *

 - b. Impacts to this quarry site will be minimal. There is no topsoil, and essentially no reclamation work can be done. I recommend no reclamation plan, reclamation bond, or performance bond on this permit. *

Maurin W. Miller
Plains Unit Manager
7/30/92

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(SUNRISE SPRING)
3078 1 NW
3078 1 NE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

