

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Project Name:** Carlson

**Proposed Implementation Date:** April 99

**Proponent:** Jim Gilman Excavating

**Type and Purpose of Action:** The proponent proposes to mine, crush, stockpile and transport 85,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 16-acre site to overlay with asphalt a portion of Interstate 15. The proponent would salvage soils, mine sand and gravel, recontour, reseed and reseed the site with grasses. The reclaimed use would be grazing. An asphalt plant would be set up at the site. Final reclamation on the site would be completed by October of 2000.

**Location:** NE¼, Sec. 15, T6N, R6W

**County:** Jefferson

**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
<p><b>1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:</b> Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>[Y] The proposed site lies 6 miles west of Basin along a bench of intermixed glacial and alluvial sands and gravel just west of Red Rock Creek. There has been no previous mining at the site.</p> <p>The soil is a silty sandy loam, approximately 6 to 12 inches deep. The soil contains rock fragments 6 inches plus in diameter. There is no overburden. The soil would be salvaged prior to mining and replaced on the mine site, crusher site, hardstand areas, and mineral stockpile sites following recontouring. Microorganisms should reinvade the site.</p> <p>There are no fragile, compactible or unstable soils present, no unusual geologic features or special reclamation considerations.</p>
<p><b>2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</b> 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?</p>	<p>[N] There are no water wells within 1,000 feet. Red Rock Creek is 50 feet east of the proposed operation. The applicant would mine the bench, above the creek, which is approximately 15 feet high, to a depth of 10 feet.</p> <p>The applicant would berm and line any fuel and fuel storage areas to contain any petroleum-based products spills. Any accidental spills of petroleum-based products would be immediately picked up and properly disposed of. The Department of Environmental Quality Water Protection Bureau has been contacted concerning the need for a Stormwater Discharge Permit. Silt fences would be installed between the bottom of the bench and Red Rock Creek. There should be no impact to ground or surface water sources.</p>
<p><b>3. AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] There would be an increase in airborne particulates while the soil is being salvaged, the gravel being crushed and hauled, asphalt plant operating and soil replaced. The applicant would need to secure an Air Quality Permit from the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality prior to crushing activities and asphalt plant use and must abide with all applicable air quality guidelines. Spray bars will be placed on the crusher to suppress dust. The hard stand areas, soil stockpiles, and haul roads would be watered as necessary.</p>
<p><b>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] Existing vegetation would be removed with the soil. Some roots may remain viable in the soil stockpile and regenerate upon replacement. The applicant would seed all affected land to species compatible with the post mine land use. The site currently contains native grasses, shrubs and forbs. The site would be seeded with native and nonnative species of grasses. There are no threatened or endangered plants present.</p>

<b>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] The location of the proposed operation precludes the significant use of wildlife, although it would be expected to receive transient use by various avian species, deer and rodents.
<b>6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N] The Montana Natural Heritage Program has not identified any threatened or endangered plant or animal species present on this site. There wetlands present to the south of the site and adjacent to Red Rock Creek, but the proposed operation would not impact the wetlands. A ground search did not reveal the presence of any federal listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat or species of special concern.
<b>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] A cultural resource survey was done and it did not reveal the presence of any archaeological or historic values and clearance has been given by the State Historic Preservation Office. Should a significant archaeological or historical value be found, the operation would be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made. The State Historic Preservation Office would be promptly notified.
<b>8. AESTHETICS:</b> 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 operation is of a temporary nature.
<b>9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
<b>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] Zoning clearance has been obtained.

<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
<b>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[Y] The use of heavy mining and hauling equipment will increase the risk of accidents. However, the applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations and it is expected that safety considerations will be given the utmost attention.
<b>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</b> Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] 16.0 acres would be temporarily removed from agricultural production (grazing) until such time as the site is fully reclaimed.
<b>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</b> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N]
<b>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</b> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
<b>15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</b> Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] The site would require periodic site evaluations by DEQ staff, however they would generally be conducted in conjunction with other regional sites.
<b>16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</b> Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] Zoning clearance has been secured from Jefferson County.

