

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Project Name:** Pyramid Mountain Lumber

**Proposed Implementation Date:** Summer 2000

**Proponent:** A-1 Paving, Inc.

**Type and Purpose of Action:** The applicant proposes to mine and transport 25,000 cubic yards of borrow from a 3.0-acre site for the reconstruction of Highway 83 through Seeley Lake. There would not be a crusher or an asphalt plant connected with this operation. The site would be reclaimed by recontouring, respreading the topsoil and reseeding the site with grasses after the site is backfilled with log mill waste. The site would be reclaimed by October of 2000.

**Location:** NW¼ SW¼, Sec. 3, T16N R15W

**County:** Missoula

**N = Not present or No Impact will occur.**

**Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).**

<b>IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
<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?	<b>[N]</b> The proposed operation is located just southwest of Seeley Lake on rolling glacial debris. The soils are approximately 6 to 8 inches deep and are forest duff and silty loam texture. After backfilling the site with log mill waste the soil would be replaced. Microorganisms should reinvade the soil. There are no fragile, compactible or unstable soils present, no unusual geologic features, or special reclamation considerations.
<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?	<b>[N]</b> There is no surface water within 1,000 feet. There is a shallow, commercial well used for fire and log yard operations adjacent to the mine area. This well is 60 feet deep and the static water level is at approximately 20 feet. The site would be mined to a depth of 15 feet. No bulk fuel storage containers would be used at the site. Best Management Practices would be used to prevent any off site sedimentation or erosion. The proposed operation would not impact groundwater or any surface water sources.
<b>3. AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<b>[Y]</b> Air quality would be degraded, but the proponent must comply with air quality standards. No crusher or other processing equipment would be utilized with this proposed operation. A water truck would be used to control any dust on the haul road and the mine area.
<b>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<b>[N]</b> Vegetation on the site consists mainly of pine trees. Native and non-native species would be seeded on the site after recontouring and retopsoiling. A literature search was done by the Montana National Heritage Program and several species of aquatic plants were noted as being present in the area, but none would be present on this site as it has no habitat suitable for those species.
<b>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<b>[N]</b>
<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?	<b>[N]</b> The Montana Natural Heritage Program did a literature search and reported the bull trout and flathead pondsnail as being present in streams near the site and the surrounding area as having habitat potential for the lynx. The site of the proposed operation is not suitable habitat for the lynx due to the presence of human activity. No wetlands are present in the area.
<b>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<b>[N]</b> Steve Platt, archaeologist for the Montana Dept. of Transportation, did not require a cultural resource survey. If the operator of the proposed operation discovers any cultural resources the operation must be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable amount of time

	until salvage can be made. The State Historical Preservation Office must 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?	<b>[N]</b> A buffer of trees will be left untouched between the pit and Highway 83 to provide a visual and sound barrier to insulate the public from pit activities.
<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?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<b>[N]</b>
<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?	<b>[Y]</b> There will be increased hazards because of equipment activity and hauling of the sand and gravel. The applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations however, proper precautions will be taken to avoid accidents.
<b>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</b> Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<b>[N].</b>
<b>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</b> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<b>[N]</b>
<b>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</b> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<b>[N]</b>
<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?	<b>[N]</b> The site will require periodic site evaluations, but these will be done in conjunction with other operations in the area.
<b>16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</b> Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</b> Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</b> Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</b> Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</b> Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</b>	<b>[N]</b>

