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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Mining Permits #G-1398-04
& #G-1399-04.

Proposed Implementation Date: February 2, 2004.

Proponent: Rocky Mountain Stone/Continental Stone—Dave Olmstead

Type and Purpose of Action: To pick up Flagstone/Moss Rock from the surface with a crow bar and Bobcat, stack in pallets @ 2 to 3 tons each, store until feasible to ship, and remove for wholesale.

Location: Sec. 2, T6N, R15E & Sec. 36,
T7N, R15E.

County: Wheatland

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES,
GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS
CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of
the scoping and ongoing involvement for this
project.

Mt. DNRC, Mt. DEQ—Pete Strazdas, Continental
Stone/Rocky Mountain Stone—Dave Olmstead,
Lessee of State Lease #7726—Jim Lane of Lane
Associates, Lessee of State Lease #6348—Bill Jones
of Two Dot Land & Livestock Co.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES
WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS
NEEDED:

Mt. DEQ—Small Miner's Exclusion Permit—
Programmatic EA already done—No bond required.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The "No-Action" alternative.
The Alternative to use a SVP Permit for these
activities.
The alternative to issue two Specialized Gravel
Permits suited for this specific purpose.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY,
STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile,
compactible or unstable soils present? Are
there unusual geological features? Are there
special reclamation considerations?

[N] There are no unusual geologic features. The
flagstone/moss rock is common to this area. Special
stipulations have been added to the specialized mining
permits which address any reclamation considerations.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>5. 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?</p>	<p>[N] Water quality will not be affected by these mining permits. There is no surface or ground waters present within the mining zones. This is shallow rock picking, the integrity of the landscape will be basically in tact.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] This type of mining will not affect air quality. Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no rare plants or cover types present. Under the present plans, natural revegetation will take place after mining in Section 2, G-1398-04. This type of rock removal leaves the surface of the ground similar to a prescribed range renovation scalping project. It should actually improve forage production due to increased water percolation and retention. In Section 36, G-1399-04 some areas will be treated as in Section 2. Other areas of this permit will need to be re-seeded with local native grasses. The special stipulations will address this.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[Y] These two sections are used extensively by antelope.</p>
<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[N] There are no wetlands or threatened identified habitat present. Possible threatened species that could use these tracts are the Bald Eagle, and Piping Plover. A possible endangered specie would be the Peregrine Falcon.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no archaeological, paleontological or historical resources present.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>[N] This project will not use excessive noise or light. It is not visible from any populated areas.</p>

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

12.	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?	[Y] Flagstone/Moss Rock is a limited resource unique to this area. Bozeman Brick has the adjacent state land under another permit. Their activities should not affect this project.
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[Y] Bozeman Brick, is in direct competition with Continental Stone. There has been a history of ill affects and allegations between the two companies.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

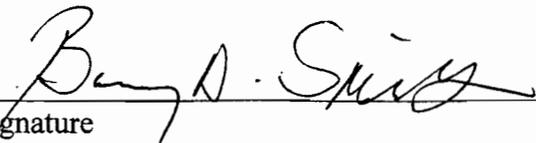
14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] This project will not affect human health or safety. Any medical problems with personnel will be between the permittee and their employees.
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Commercial and agricultural industries will be affected. The Moss Rock has a wholesale of \$80.00 to \$120.00 per ton. Cattle grazing in certain areas will be disrupted for a period of time. There is the possibility of weed infestations at the sites. This is addressed in the permits and the special stipulations.
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs will not be created due to these permits. If the markets expand, new employees may be required at that time.
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] These permits will not affect taxes.
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[Y] There will be additional traffic because of these permits. It should not be too significant or detrimental to the county roads. Although the rock trucks will increase road rutting over time. Other services will not be required.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] The Montana Department of Environmental Quality will issue a Small Miners Exclusion Permit for these sites. There are no other management plans in effect. The following will be special stipulations added to the permits: 1. The permittee must contact

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

	<p>the surface lessee prior to entering the lease. 2. Rock collecting activities can only take place during dry or frozen conditions. 3. This activity must use existing trails as much as possible. 4. During fire danger periods, a water truck with extinguishing equipment must accompany the project workers on site. 5. If noxious weeds are found in the rock collecting areas, for up to three years after this permit expires; the permittee will be responsible for the control/eradication of the infestation. 6. Permittee must notify the Lewistown Unit Office when the rock collecting activities has ceased. 7. Native seed mixture for re-seeding: 7lbs. Blue Bunch Wheatgrass, 7lbs. Western Wheatgrass, 5lbs. Needleandthread grass, per acre. 8. Seed bed preparation, re-seeding and total reclamation must be designed and authorized by the Lewistown unit office.</p>
<p>20. 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?</p>	<p>[Y] Antelope hunting is good in this area and on these tracts.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N] Additional housing will not be required.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] There should not be any disruption.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] There should not be any shift in cultural uniqueness or diversity.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N] None.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By:

BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature
Date: January 21, 2004

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to issue two specialized gravel permits suited for this specific purpose.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected with this project. Special Stipulations are to be attached to the specialized mining permit for this specific project. These stipulations will safeguard the State against resource and financial erosion.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved by:
CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature
Date: 4-21-04