

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SITE NAME: Spain Bridge Meadows  
 LOCATION: SWNE of Sec 4, T1S, R5E

APPLICANT: Spain Bridge Meadows, LLC  
 COUNTY: Gallatin

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Spain Bridge Meadows, LLC. is a company that proposes to mine approximately 32,000 yards of gravel from an 18.5-acre site about 3 miles east of Belgrade within the Belgrade planning area. The site is within an approved subdivision plat. Access is from Spain Bridge Road.

The product would be used for street, home site, and construction within the subdivision. The site starts about 100 feet from the East Gallatin River and continues to the north along the road. The 3-acre mine area is within the 100-year floodplain, but the stockpile area is outside it. The site would be mined in 2 phases. Mining would occur this spring and next spring for about 2 weeks at a time.

Reclamation would be completed to wetland and grassland by the fall of 2007. The bond is \$39,331.

The final plat for the Spain Meadows subdivision was recommended for approval by the Belgrade planning staff and the Gallatin County Commission approved it. A Finding of Fact from the Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator has been submitted that outlines mitigation and restrictions on development. If either a stormwater permit or MPDES permit is necessary they will be secured by the developer.

A: Significant Unavoidable Impacts    B: Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation    C: Insignificant as proposed

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		Flat, wide plain about 15 feet above East Gallatin. Been farmed for many years. Part of the site is in the 100-year Floodplain.
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability			X	X		Sedimentary rocks and glacial outwash
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	Silty clay soils ranging in depth from 8 inches to 16 inches with up to 126 inches of overburden. Average annual precipitation is about 14 inches.
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity; Distribution			X		X	There are no nearby wells. East Gallatin River is a perennial stream flowing along the north boundary of the subdivision. All disturbances would be at least 100 feet from the river. All necessary protection devices are being installed and actions taken to protect the river from harm.
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			X		X	
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources			X		X	None. The Natural Heritage Program identified two vascular plants, last seen about 1900, and an unidentified stonefly. The possible area of concern extends to within a mile of the site. It is probable that if habitat for the vascular plants ever existed on this site, it has been destroyed by the

				<b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS</b>		
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						<p>farming that has occurred for many years. Reclaiming to wetland and native grassland might replace some habitat for these species.</p> <p>Stoneflies require flowing water for completion of their life cycles. There would be no impacts to the river so the stonefly, if it did occur in the area, would not be impacted by this project.</p>
<b>BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			X		X	<p>Deer, waterfowl, raccoon, weasel, fox, other small mammals, and 40 species of birds were identified in the riparian zone near the site.</p> <p>Sculpins, whitefish, suckers, and trout inhabit the river.</p>
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, Species			X		X	<p>The site is actively farmed for is small-grain production.</p> <p>There is no riparian or wetland vegetation in the site although they do exist in the adjacent river bottom.</p>
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops production			X		X	
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>SOCIAL</u> ; structures and mores			X		X	
2. <u>CULTURAL</u> uniqueness/diversity			X		X	
3. <u>POPULATION</u> ; quantity/diversity			X		X	This portion of Gallatin County has been developing quickly as suburban or ex-urban residential properties.
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity/distribution			X		X	The pit would provide materials for build-out of the 500+ acre subdivision. Lots are approximately 3.5 acres. Five residences exist around the subdivision.
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u>			X		X	
6. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME</u>			X		X	
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity, distribution			X		X	Construction of the subdivision would provide temporary employment in this location. Generally, construction jobs float from one project to another within the county.
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; state/local tax revenue			X		X	
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand			X		X	

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
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10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL</u> and <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> activities			X		X	
11. <u>HISTORICAL</u> and <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>			X		X	Most of the site has been disturbed previously by road construction and farming. A walkover of the area did not reveal any artifacts or signs of occupation. If, during operations, resources were to be discovered, activities would be halted and temporarily moved to another area until SHPO was contacted and the importance of the site was determined.
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X		X	
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS</u> and <u>GOALS</u> ; local and regional			X		X	The plat for the subdivision has been approved by the Belgrade Planning Board and the Gallatin County Commission.
14. <u>DEMANDS</u> on <u>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> of land, water, air and energy			X		X	
15. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> ; networks and traffic flows			X		X	Access is from Spain Bridge Road.

**REGULATORY IMPACT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY:** The analysis done in response to the Private Property Assessment Act indicates no impact. The Department does not plan to deny the application or impose conditions that would restrict the use of private property so as to constitute a taking.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Landowner, Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Weed Board, Belgrade Planning Department, Gallatin County Floodplain Administrator, DEQ Water Protection Bureau

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** Denial

**OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION:** Air Resources Management Bureau, Mining Safety and Health, Natural Heritage Program, State Historic Preservation Office

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS:** Unnecessary, No Significant Impacts

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Jo Stephen