

						POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
						A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity; Distribution								X		X	<p>The site would continue to drain to the northern swale a quarter mile away and about 60 feet below the mining level. This is an ephemeral drainage.</p> <p>The closest surface water is Box Elder Creek - a perennial stream about 130 feet below the site and a half mile to the southeast. The site would continue to drain away from the creek. Any runoff that might occur would not reach any surface water. There would be no impact to water quality or quantity from mining.</p> <p>No springs are visible on the slopes around the site. A stock tank/well is on the west side of a saddle that seems to be a hydrologic divide between the proposed mine site and the well. This well is not listed on the GWIC database.</p> <p>Previous mining did not intercept a water table. This mining activity would only be about 8 feet deep. Since the site slopes from the top of the ridge due north toward the swale and not westward toward the stock tank, it is unlikely that any impact to the stock water would occur. No appreciable amount of infiltration could accrue from this small site near the top of the ridge. The water table at the landowner's residence at the bottom of the swale seems to be about 60 feet below ground level there. It is highly improbable that groundwater would be impacted by this mining activity.</p>
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality								X		X	<p>The crusher would be permitted by the air quality section of DEQ. Fugitive dust would be controlled with the use of water trucks. Air quality impact would be minimal.</p>
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources											<p>None. There are no unique or endangered species or habitats on site. Sauger reside in Box Elder Creek which would not be impacted.</p>
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT											
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species								X		X	<p>This is typical plains rangeland - mixed grassland with some sagebrush. Reclamation would be to a similar dryland mix. The site does not hold any special habitats. Mining would have minimal impact because of the short duration of the project, part of the site is already disturbed, and the overall size is small.</p>
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats								X		X	<p>Deer and antelope use the area. There is some sagebrush, but it does not provide any special sage grouse habitat. Sharptail grouse have been reported by the landowner to use the area. Mining would have minimal impact because part of the area has been previously disturbed, because of the relatively small area that would be disturbed, and because of the short timeframe for disturbance.</p>
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops Production								X		X	<p>Mining would result in a minimal short term reduction of vegetation for grazing.</p>
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT											

						POTENTIAL IMPACTS	
	A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION	
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		
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity/distribution			X		X		
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY</u>			X		X		
6. <u>COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME</u>			X		X		
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity, distribution			X		X		
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; state/local tax revenue			X		X		
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand			X		X		
10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL</u> and <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> activities			X		X		
11. <u>HISTORICAL</u> and <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>			X		X	<p>A careful grid pattern walkover of the area did not reveal any artifacts or signs of occupation on the site. Seven tepee rings were found along the edge of the bluff to the southeast outside the proposed site. The rocks used were from the conglomerate outcrop at the edge of the bluff. No chips or other artifacts were discovered in a careful examination of the rings.</p> <p>The tepee rings were marked with metal fence posts. The fence posts were also flagged and/or painted to make them more visible. The proposed mine site was set back over 100 feet from the rings. Topsoil would be stockpiled along perimeter of the site to block accidental stray traffic from approaching the rings. When the topsoil is to be replaced at the end of mining the scraper or dozer operator would be warned against accidentally straying outside the site boundary and impacting these rings. After reclamation of the site the landowner will remove the posts or any thing that might draw attention to the tepee rings.</p> <p>No signs were evident at depth in the previously disturbed area. No signs were found along the edge of the bluff or down the face of the slope. If during operations resources were to be discovered, activities would be halted, or possibly temporarily moved to another area until SHPO was contacted and the importance of the site was determined.</p>	
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X		X	<p>The landowner's and hired man's homes are in the swale north of the site a quarter mile away and 80 feet below. These homes cannot be seen from the site and it is unlikely that noise would be annoying. There are no other residences or businesses nearby that would be disturbed by this project.</p>	
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS</u> and <u>GOALS</u> ; local and regional			X		X		

						POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
						A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
14. <u>DEMANDS on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> of land, water, air and energy								X		X	
15. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> ; networks and traffic flows								X		X	This material is for construction and maintenance of the Hammond-Ekalaka road. This is a major thoroughfare for people in this area and must be passable year round.

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, Natural Heritage Program, State Historic Preservation Office

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: Air Resources Management Bureau, Mining Safety and Health, Carter County Commissioners, Carter County Weed Board

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Denial

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

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Prepared by Jo Stephen, 1/07