ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SITE NAME**: Hendricks** APPLICANT: **Carter County Road Dept.**
LOCATION**: SE of Sec 14 T1S R59E** COUNTY**: Carter**

PROPOSED ACTION**: Carter County road Department proposes to mine and crush 20,000 yards of gravel from an 8-acre permit area. Access is from the county's McCabe Road. The product would be used on road construction and maintenance jobs.**

Reclamation would be completed to small grain farming by October of 2012. No bond is required.

A: Significant Unavoidable Impacts B: Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation C: Insignificant as proposed
L: Long term Impacts S: Short Term Impacts

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. TOPOGRAPHY			X	X		The site is in the Box Elder Creek valley. It slopes gently toward the east and southeast. The site would be a shallow dish shape with internal drainage.
2. GEOLOGY; Stability			X	X		Alluvium overlays sedimentary rocks of the Fort Union Formation. The material ranges in size from clays to small cobbles.
3. SOILS; Quality, Distribution			X		X	The soils are of the Eapa Series. They are formed in loamy alluvium. They are less than 1 foot deep over this site. The operator would salvage all available soils from the disturbed areas and suitable overburden materials for reclamation. Average annual precipitation is between 12 and 15 inches, most of which falls during the growing season. This land has been farmed for many years. It is in small grains. Reclamation to small grain farming could be accomplished.
4. WATER; Quality; Quantity; Distribution			X		X	There is no surface water in or around the site. Groundwater is over 100 feet below ground surface. The mined depth of the pit would only be about 12 feet. There are no wells or signs of springs in the area. No groundwater would be impacted. Runoff from the disturbance would be kept on site. There would be no impact to water quality or quantity from mining.
5. AIR; Quality			X		X	The crusher would have a permit from the Air Resources Management Bureau (ARMB). Fugitive dust would be controlled with the use of water trucks. Air quality impact would be minimal.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED environmental resources						No species of special concern were identified by the Montana Natural Heritage Program as residing in the area.

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. VEGETATION; quantity, quality, species			X		X	The site is in wheat and small grain mixed rotation. Presently it is a stubble field and would be fallowed through the next growing season. Mining would have minimal impact because of the short duration of disturbance and the small area to be disturbed.
2. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC; species and habitats			X		X	There is scattered sign that deer and antelope have used the site. Mining would have minimal impact on wildlife mainly because the site has limited forage, shelter, or other wildlife value, and there are miles of the same habitat all around.
3. AGRICULTURE; grazing, crops Production			X		X	Mining would result in a minimal short term reduction of grain production.
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
1. SOCIAL; structures and mores			X		X	
2. CULTURAL uniqueness/diversity			X		X	
3. POPULATION; quantity/diversity			X		X	The landowner's home is a half mile to the east. This is a rural site.
4. HOUSING; quantity/distribution			X		X	
5. HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY			X		X	
6. COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME			X		X	
7. EMPLOYMENT; quantity, distribution			X		X	This material would be used for county road construction and maintenance.
8. TAX BASE; state/local tax revenue			X		X	
9. GOVERNMENT SERVICES; demand			X		X	
10. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL and AGRICULTURAL activities			X		X	
11. HISTORICAL and ARCHAEOLOGICAL			X		X	A walkover of the area did not reveal any artifacts or signs of occupation. No signs were evident at depth in the previously disturbed area. 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.
12. AESTHETICS			X		X	There are no residences or businesses nearby that would be disturbed by this project.
13. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS and GOALS; local and regional			X		X	
14. DEMANDS on ENVIRON-MENTAL RESOURCES of land, water, air and energy			X		X	

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
15. TRANSPORTATION; networks and traffic flows			X		X	

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, 3/08