

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SITE NAME: Jardee APPLICANT: Carter County Road Dept.
 LOCATION: Sec 26 T1N R60E COUNTY: Carter

PROPOSED ACTION: Carter County Road Department proposes to mine and crush 35,000 yards of gravel from an 8-acre permit area. Access is from Prairiedale County Road and an existing 2-track. The product would be used on road construction and maintenance jobs.

Reclamation would be completed to small grain farming by 2018. 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					EXPLANATION
	A	B	C	L	S	
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		The site is on a low, small terrace within a loop of Box Elder Creek. The site would be mined to leave a shallow, dry bowl with internal drainage.
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability			X	X		Alluvial material ranges in size from clays to small cobbles.
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	Several acres of the site have been mined over the years by unknown parties. Little topsoil was stockpiled for future reclamation. The remaining soils are generally loamy with large rock content. They are about 10 inches deep with very little overburden. The operator would salvage all available soils from the disturbed areas for reclamation. Average annual precipitation is between 12 and 15 inches, most of which falls during the growing season. This land has never been plowed up. Reclamation to rangeland could be accomplished.
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity; Distribution			X		X	Box Elder Creek is a permanent waterway that loops half way around the site. Groundwater is 12 feet below ground surface at the existing mined area. The mined depth of the pit would only be about 9 feet. 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. <u>AIR</u> ; 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. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources						Sauger is the only species of concern identified by the Montana Natural Heritage Program for this site. No impact to Sauger would occur because there would be no impact to Box Elder Creek.

						POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
						A	B	C	L	S	EXPLANATION
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT											
1.	<u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species			X					X		The site is in native range. Mining would have minimal impact because of the short duration of disturbance and the small area to be disturbed.
2.	<u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; 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.	<u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops Production			X					X		Mining would result in a minimal short term reduction of pasture.
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT											
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 is a rural site. No homes are within a half mile.
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		This material would be used for county road construction and maintenance.
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		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.	<u>AESTHETICS</u>			X					X		There are no residences or businesses nearby that would be disturbed by this project.
13.	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS</u> and <u>GOALS</u> ; local and regional			X					X		
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		

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, 10/08