

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SITE NAME: Magalsky Park Site APPLICANT: Magalsky Roof & Gravel

LOCATION: Section 11, T1N, R9E COUNTY: Park

PROPOSED ACTION: Magalsky Roof & Gravel proposes to mine 7,500 cubic yards of gravel from a 4.5-acre site about 2 miles south of Clyde Park 200 feet east of Highway 89. The product would be sold for miscellaneous small projects. The reclamation would include leaving a small pond with grasses and is proposed to be subdivided into a minor subdivision.

Reclamation would be completed to rangeland by November 30, 2019.

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
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>		X		X		The site has been mined in the past and is adjacent to a hill that leads to the highway and county road to the west and north. The area consists of rolling, hilly topography. Mining is occurring into the hillside.
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability		X		X		The site is composed of sandy alluvial/fluvial material. Mining would remove gravel by mining into the existing hill from the bottom and digging the small proposed pond. The slopes would be reclaimed to 3:1. The existing slope adjacent to the county road appears to be sloped to near 3:1.
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	The site is a gravel hill with very little topsoil. Soil is a loam to sandy loam from 2 to 4 inches deep with 6 inches of overburden. Because of the thin layer of soils it would be difficult to salvage them without picking up non-soil material. There would be some adverse impacts to this soil. Historically this soil has eroded. There is a thin grassland community with a few sagebrush. There is no reason to believe that a grassland community could not be reestablished. Sagebrush would most likely naturally invade. Average annual precipitation is about 12 inches.
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity;			X		X	Several wells are listed in the GWIC system

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
Distribution						within ½ mile of this site. Water levels in these wells range from 15 to 30 feet. The depth to the water table at the site is less than 4 feet below the floor of the pit. There would be little impact to water quality or quantity from mining with the current plan of operation.
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality		X			X	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						<p>Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout are not found on or near the site.</p> <p>The Greater Sage-grouse is the largest of Montana's grouse. In Montana, it ranges primarily in the southwestern and eastern portions of the state. This species does not migrate. Sagebrush is its preferred habitat. The open cut operation would disturb a relatively small area. Abundant similar habitat exists in the area. It is not likely to inhabit the site due to past disturbance and "developed" area.</p> <p>The Grasshopper Sparrow is found in prairie habitat with intermittent brush and is present in many counties in the state. The mine site is small and abundant similar habitat exists in the area. This species is unlikely to be significantly affected by the operation.</p>
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			X		X	There is no sign that game animals use the site. Mining would have minimal impact because of the small area that would be disturbed.
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species			X		X	The land is native range. Mining would have minimal impact because of the small area and reclamation to a dryland seed mix.
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops Production			X		X	Mining would result in a minimal short term reduction of vegetation for grazing.
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	The landowner's home is within the surrounding ½ mile of the site. There are several other home sites within ½ mile of this site. Many of the houses are on top of the hill and sound and sight impacts from mining should be minimized.
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity/distribution			X		X	

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
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	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	
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	This material is for sale to nearby residents for personal uses.

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, MT Dept. of Transportation, Park County Commissioners, Park County Weed Board

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Denial

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

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Prepared by J.J. Conner, July, 2009