

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**COMPANY NAME:** American Innovative Minerals

**Project:** Jay Gould Dump Testing

**PERMIT OR LICENSE:** 00742 (pending)

**LOCATION:** 13N/7W/Section 14

**County:** Lewis and Clark

**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:**  Federal  State  Private

**TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** American Innovative Minerals under the guidance and supervision of Alan Branham plans to explore the existing dump material at the Jay Gould Placer Lot 42 Mineral Survey 1986 to test for the presence of economic quantities of gold and silver ore. If testing results are positive this material may be screened and/or crushed and shipped to Golden Sunlight. Up to five trenches 100 to 300 feet long and 6 to 15 feet deep are proposed to fulfill their 10,000 – ton bulk sample. A 600 foot road will be constructed to access the dump which will be left in place for improved access to the property for the landowner.

**Reclamation Plan:** Material remaining onsite and not shipped to GSM would be graded to a suitable landform and covered with topsoil salvaged during the operation. A native seed mix will be applied to all disturbed ground to control erosion and prevent the invasion of noxious weeds.

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are soils present which are fragile, erosive, susceptible to compaction, or unstable? Are there unusual or unstable geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] The project lies within the Gould-Stemple Mining District. The rock types on the dump are thermally-altered hornfelsic shale and mudstone with quartz carbonate vein material, which recent tests show to be net-neutralizing. (A. Branham, personal correspondence)
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[N] A collapsed adit lies 50 feet north of the dump to be tested has a minor quantity of water (< 5 gpm) which percolates into the subsurface as it flows towards the dump. A ditch may be constructed to direct this flow away from the dump during the course of the project. As mentioned above, the water should not be acid-generating due to the carbonate geology at the site.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] The screening and crushing process will be conducted using a portable plant with an approved air pollution permit.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] Disturbed areas will be seeded with native seed mixture.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N]
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] The principal mine, the Jay Gould, was discovered in 1884. It was worked intermittently until the middle 1930s. Its high-grade surface ores were easily milled in a ten-stamp mill until 1890 when the mine was closed down. Considerable milling was

## IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	done when it reopened between 1903 and 1907, and again from 1910 to 1914, when heavy flows of underground water suspended the work. In 1922 State Senator Owen Byrens acquired the property and resumed work on the Fool Hen tunnel until it reached one mile and 600 feet into the mountain. The tunnel partially drained the old workings and permitted the resumption of mining. After Byrnes' death the property changed hands and became the Standard Silver Lead Company. High-grade ore from the mine ran 95% gold and the rest silver. Estimated total production up to 1915 was mostly from gold found in a vein of limestone, and totaled \$2,500,000. (Pardee and Schrader 1933; Sahinen 1935; Wolle 1963).
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] The site is in a remote, rural setting and will be blocked by trees that were not burned in the Granite Butte fire of 2010.
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]

## IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] Up to 5 people may be on site at peak activity levels and a few temporary jobs may be created for the duration of the project.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] If hauling occurs, there may be a need to improve the county road accessing the site. Hauling will not occur during times of busy public traffic and signs warning of heavy truck traffic will be installed
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N]
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF	[N]

<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we regulating the use of private property under a regulatory statute adopted pursuant to the police power of the state? (Property management, grants of financial assistance, and the exercise of the power of eminent domain are not within this category.) If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
22. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the proposed regulatory action restrict the use of the regulated person's private property? If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
23. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the agency have legal discretion to impose or not impose the proposed restriction or discretion as to how the restriction will be imposed? If not, no further analysis is required. If so, the agency must determine if there are alternatives that would reduce, minimize or eliminate the restriction on the use of private property, and analyze such alternatives.	[N/A]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

25. Alternatives Considered:

No Action: If no action were taken American Innovative Minerals would have to drop their plans to ship ore from this site.

Approval: It is recommended that this phase of the project be approved.

Approval with modification: None.

26. Public Involvement: None.

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: None

28. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: There would be no significant impacts associated with this proposal and in the long run it would be a net benefit to remove this material.

29. Cumulative Effects: None

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:**

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist Prepared By:** Robert Cronholm

Program Supervisor

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Signature

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Date