

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

COMPANY NAME: Montana State Gold

Project: Ophir Creek

PERMIT OR LICENSE: EX: 00749

LOCATION: UTM Grid T11N, 27W, Sec 30 & 31 **County:** Powell

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: Federal State Private

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Montana State Gold Company has proposed to dig 56 trenches 15'x5' in length. They will only have three trenches open at once and will back fill as they go. A wash plant will be set up to process the material. They will using an existing pond, that will be left after they are finished sampling the site.

Reclamation Plan: Topsoil will be stockpiled for later use in reclamation, and will be spread over the re-contoured test pits/trench. The topsoil placed over the re-contoured ground will be seeded with an agency-approved native seed mix and the area monitored for the presence of noxious weeds for 3 growing seasons. A reclamation bond of \$3,950 has been deemed sufficient to cover the work he is proposing.

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
<p>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?</p>	<p>Limestone, shale and quartzite of lower Paleozoic age are the dominant geologic materials in the area. In the Avon Valley there are also deposits of clay, sand and volcanic ash belonging to the group known as the Tertiary "lake beds". Along the principal streams carved in the Tertiary beds are gravels of varying thickness derived from the adjacent mountains; these gravels contain the placer deposits. The lodes which contain gold and gold-silver ore occur primarily in the limestone. The ore bodies are irregular and some can be described as cylinders or pipes. They contain chiefly pyrite or chalcopyrite or their oxidized forms in a gangue of quartz or metamorphic silicates. (Pardee 1933)</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] No surface water is present at the site.</p>
<p>3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>428 species of concern were identified by an National Resource Information Center search of the area. 66 potential species of concern were also identified. Reclaimed areas will be seeded with a native seed mixture.</p>

<p>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>22. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS:</p>	<p>[N/A]</p>