

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Fertterer

Proposed Implementation Date: September 98

Proponent: MK Weeden

Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent proposes to mine, crush, stockpile and transport 150,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 12-acre site to rebuild and overlay with asphalt a section of US Highway 89. The proponent would salvage soils, mine sand and gravel, recontour, resoil and reseed the site with alfalfa. The reclaimed use would be grazing. An asphalt plant would be set up at the site. Final reclamation on the site would be completed in August 1999.

Location: N½SW¼, Sec.1, T17N, R6E **County:** Cascade

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 fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>[Y] The proposed site lays approximately 10 miles southeast of Belt along a terrace of Quaternary age alluvial sand and gravel in the Belt Creek Valley.</p> <p>The soil varies from a rocky silty loam to a silty loam texture, and varies in depth from 12 inches to 27 inches. The rock fragments are 6 inches plus or minus in diameter. The soils are not fragile, compactible or unstable. There is no overburden to salvage. The soil would be salvaged prior to mining and replaced on the mine site, crusher site, hardstand areas, road, and mineral stockpile sites following recontouring. The site would be mined to a depth of 10 feet and be resloped to have 5:1 or flatter slopes. Microorganisms should reinvade the site.</p> <p>There are no unusual geologic features and no special reclamation considerations.</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] There are no water wells within 1,000 feet of the proposed operation. The applicant would mine the site to a depth of approximately 10 feet, and the water table is at 15 feet and varies approximately 2 feet in either direction in the course of a year.</p> <p>Belt Creek is approximately 100 feet north of the proposed operation and Goodman Coulee is approximately 500 feet west.</p> <p>The applicant would berm and line any fuel and fuel storage areas to contain any petroleum-based products spills. Any storm water would be contained within the pit area. The Department of Environmental Quality Water Protection Bureau has been contacted concerning the need for a Stormwater Discharge Permit. There should be no impact to surface water or groundwater sources.</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] There would be an increase in airborne particulates while the soil is being salvaged, the gravel being crushed and hauled, asphalt plant operating and soil replaced. The applicant would need to secure an Air Quality Permit from the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality prior to crushing activities and asphalt plant use and must abide with all applicable air quality guidelines. Spray bars will be placed on the crusher to suppress dust. The hard stand areas, soil stockpiles and haul roads would be watered as necessary.</p>

<p>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] A portion of the site has been plowed and the remainder has introduced grass species. The applicant would seed all affected land to alfalfa. A literature search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program , BLM, and a ground search found no threatened or endangered plants present.</p>
<p>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] The location of the proposed operation precludes the significant use of wildlife, although it would be expected to receive transient use by various avian species, deer and rodents.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The Montana Natural Heritage Program, BLM, and a ground search did not identify any threatened or endangered plant or animal species present on this site. There are no wetlands present on the site.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] Steve Platt, archaeologist for Montana Dept. of Transportation, has been contacted and no cultural survey was required due to the fact that the site has been impacted by modern man. Should a significant archaeological or historical value be found, the operation would be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made. The State Historic Preservation Office would be promptly notified.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The site would be visible from people traveling US Highway 89, but the proposed operation is of a temporary nature.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>[N] Zoning clearance has been obtained.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">RESOURCE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[Y] The use of heavy mining and hauling equipment will increase the risk of accidents. However, the applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations and it is expected that safety considerations will be given the utmost attention.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N] 12 acres would be temporarily removed from agricultural production (grazing) until such time as the site is fully reclaimed.</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] The site would require periodic site evaluations by DEQ staff, however they would generally be conducted in conjunction with other regional sites.</p>

