

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Jarrett

Proposed Implementation Date: August 1, 2000

Proponent: Custer County

Type and Purpose of Action: Jarrett Construction proposes to mine and crush 20,000 yards of gravel from an 8.0 acre site located about 2 miles from Miles City just off Kinsey Road. Gravel has been extracted for many years from the site. The product would be used for local projects. The site would be reclaimed by November, 2009 for dry land pasture.

Location: SE¼ Sec 17 T8N R47E

County: Custer

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>[N] The site lies on a gentle to moderate slope in the head of a small coulee. It is part of the Sunday Creek drainage in the sedimentary plains portion of the state. The soils developed from sedimentary bedrock and alluvium washed from the surrounding plains; they are generally loams. Topsoil ranges from 1 inch to 6 inches deep but because of pre-law mining activity salvageable soil is not available over the whole site.</p> <p>The plan of operations states that the reject fines would be spread out as subsoil to augment existing soil materials.</p> <p>Annual precipitation averages 11 to 14 inches.</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] A small stock pond and dam lie just below the site. The area has naturally revegetated to cottonwoods, shrubs, grasses and cattails in the pond. Sunday Creek is about 1 mile to the north. One home with a well 700 feet deep is located ¼mile to the south.</p> <p>A small, seasonal seep flows into the northeast side of the headwall. This water is collected in a cistern and pumped uphill to the landowners' shop. Overflow is routed around the pit floor to the gully and stock pond below the site. At final reclamation the coulee would be regraded to approximate original contour and reestablish natural flow to the pond.</p> <p>No groundwater resources would be impacted.</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] A water truck would be available for dust control on-site and on the haul road if it became necessary. The proponent would need to obtain an Air Quality Permit from the Air and Waste Management Bureau of the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality.</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] The site is presently used as rangeland. No rare species or cover types were found during a field inspection.</p> <p>Because the operator would spread reject fines over the site to increase subsoil depths, vegetation should reestablish very well.</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] Deer and antelope occasionally roam across the site. Otherwise, the site is used by small mammals, songbirds, etc.</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>[Y] The Montana Natural Heritage Program no indications that species of special concern are present.</p> <p>The pond area is vegetated with species that require more water than the surrounding rangeland, but it is not seasonally inundated, and does not qualify as a wetlands. No other important habitat is present.</p>

7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] The State Historical Preservation Office has no listings for this area. A field inspection did not discover any resources or artifacts, either on the surface, or in ditches or other disturbed areas. However, if a resource were uncovered during operations, activity would be moved to a different area for a reasonable length of time to allow for assessment of the find.
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 located at the head of a small gully over 500 yards from Kinsey Road and the nearest house. The site has been used historically as a gravel pit. Visual or noise impacts would occur to a very small degree.
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 studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]
IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
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] Range land production from the site would be lost for the 9-year life of this project. Some of this area was already disturbed. After reclamation agricultural use of the site would be reestablished.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] The project would help maintain jobs in the area.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] The project would help maintain the current tax base.
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N] This is a small site with a long life span. The occasional truck traffic generated by this project would be totally insignificant.
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 POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
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. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

