

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Van Der Hagen

Proposed Implementation Date: Ongoing

Proponent: Fisher Sand And Gravel

Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent proposes to assume the Mined Land Reclamation Permit currently held by Lee Janetski and expand the permitted acreage by 65 acres to a total of 85 acres. The proponent would mine, crush and transport up to 400,000 cubic yards of sand & gravel from the site for the reconstruction of Highway 200. There would be an asphalt plant connected with the operation. The site would be reclaimed by recontouring, respreading the topsoil and reseeding the site with grasses. The reclaimed use would be rangeland. Reclamation would be completed by May of 2003.

Location: NE1/4, Sec. 19, T21N, R1E

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
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?	[N] The proposed operation is located on a ridge in sands and gravels deposited during the Tertiary era. The area has an average of 6 to 9 inches of gravelly loam textured topsoil which would be salvaged and respread after recontouring. There is no overburden. There are no fragile, compactible or unstable soils present, unusual geologic features, or special reclamation considerations.
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] There are no water wells or surface water within 1,000 feet of the site. The water table is estimated to be greater than 200 feet below the elevation of the pit floor. The site would be mined to a depth of 15 feet. Any leaks or spills of petroleum-based products would be immediately cleaned up and properly disposed of. The design of the proposed operation is such that any runoff would drain inward on the site thus avoiding any off site sedimentation or erosion. Water would be pumped from an unnamed creek approximately 1,800 feet to the west to supply water to the pug mill and for dust suppression for the crusher. Approximately 30 gallons per minute would be used. The water would be stored in a temporary pond lined with clay or plastic or stored in a tank. The proper permit would be obtained from the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources for water rights.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[Y] Air quality would be degraded. Air Quality Permits would be required from the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality for the crusher and asphalt plants. A water truck would be onsite to control any dust on the access road and mine, stockpile and facility areas.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] The vegetation in the area of the proposed operation contains big sage, various wheatgrasses, prairie junegrass, Yucca and prickly pear cactus, green needle grass and fescue. Native and non-native grass species would be seeded upon recontouring and retopsoiling but will be different than what is currently growing on the site. A literature search was done by the Montana National Heritage Program and no rare plants or cover types were identified and none were identified during a ground search.
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] Ground and literature searches were conducted and no threatened or endangered species or identified habitat were found on the site. There are no wetlands present.

<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] A ground survey was conducted and no cultural resources were found. If the operator of the proposed operation discovers any cultural resources the operation must be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable amount of time until salvage can be made. The State Historical Preservation Office must 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 proposed operation is located on a ridge, but is a considerable distance from Highway 200, and the topsoil stockpiles would be oriented to provide a sight barrier.</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]</p>

<p align="center">IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>	
<p align="center">RESOURCE</p>	<p 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] There will be increased hazards because of equipment activity and hauling of the sand and gravel. The applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations however, and proper precautions will be taken to avoid accidents.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N]</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 will require periodic site evaluations, but these will be done in conjunction with other operations in the area.</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] County Zoning clearance has been obtained. The area of the proposed operation is not zoned.</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>

