

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE



STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 265-5236 Telephone
(406) 265-5236 FAX

RECEIVED

HAVRE UNIT OFFICE
PO BOX 868
210 SIXTH AVENUE
HAVRE, MONTANA 59501-0868

November 4, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clive Rooney, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Julie David, Mineral Leasing Section, Minerals Management Bureau

FR: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office *Dan Dobler*

RE: Riverside Contracting, Inc.
Application for Permit to Take & Remove Gravel from State Land
Township 34 North, Range 16 East
Section 16: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Hill County

RECEIVED
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE
NOV 15 2004

D.N.R.C.

I have reviewed the above referenced gravel permit application and outlined my concerns within the stipulations listed at the end of this memorandum. I concluded in the Environmental Assessment Checklist that no large-scale or negative impacts to the environment are expected as a result of this project, as long as Riverside Contracting, Inc. follows the stipulations that I have set in place for this project.

Riverside Contracting, Inc. would like to use approximately 28.3 acres in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, Township 34.0 North, Range 16.0 East to remove gravel for an upcoming road construction project on State Highway #233 north of Havre, MT. Riverside Contracting, Inc. plans to remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from the above referenced tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will be responsible for reshaping and re-sloping all the disturbed areas. Riverside Contracting, Inc. shall reclaim the disturbed areas with 8:1 slopes, so that the state's surface lessee will be able to irrigate this portion of hayland with a wheel line as he has in the past

Enclosed you will find an application for permit to take and remove gravel from state land. The application was submitted by Loren Brandt of Riverside Contracting, Inc. Riverside Contracting, Inc has submitted this application to use the gravel from the state land for surfacing State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County. Loren is the Vice President for Riverside Contracting, Inc. and his telephone number is (406) 721-9267. Enclosed you will find an Environmental Assessment Checklist, a copy of the application to take and remove gravel from state land, a topographic map showing the approximate location for the application submitted, a copy of the transaction set, a copy of the check for the application fee, a deposit record, a deposit receipt, a signed notice for settlement of damages form, a copy of the Landowner Consent for Reclamation forms (DEQ), a copy of the Application for Mined Land Reclamation Permit (DEQ), and a copy of the Surety Bond for Opencut Mining. The receipt number is listed at the top of the application for permit to take and remove gravel from state lands. Please review the EA Checklist, sign and date it, and return an executed copy to the Havre Unit Office. Please forward a copy of the executed EA Checklist to Connie Daruk in Helena, so that she may forward it to the Environmental Quality Council.

I recommend that the royalty rate be set at \$1.00 per cubic yard of gravel removed from the state land and that the Department receive an advance royalty of \$2,500.00, prior to the issuance of the gravel permit. I am recommending that the Department issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to remove gravel from the above referenced tract of state land. I have attached a GIS map of the proposed gravel pit perimeter for your convenience. The following is a list of stipulations that need to be incorporated into the permit.

STIPULATIONS

1. Permittee shall contact the surface lessee and the Havre Unit Office, 48 hours prior to commencing any mining activities.
2. The permittee shall be responsible for controlling all annual and noxious weeds introduced by the permittee's activity on the state land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto deeded land adjoining the premises.
3. Gravel mining activities shall only be permitted in the designated area (highlighted in yellow) shown on the attached GIS map.
4. The permittee must receive written permission from the Department for any other mining or road construction activities outside of the designated area. Unauthorized expansions will result in a minimum fine of \$2,500.00 or \$2,500.00 per acre, whichever is greater.
5. The topsoil shall be stripped and stockpiled upslope of the project, prior to removing any gravel.
6. No vehicle oil changes or petroleum disposal shall occur on the state land.
7. All trash, debris, or refuse generated by the mining activities shall be disposed of and removed from the state land.
8. Permittee must notify the Havre Unit Office for an on-site inspection of the proposed reclamation plan, prior to initiating any reclamation activity. When the site reclamation is completed, the permittee must notify the Havre Unit Office for a final on-site inspection and approval.
9. In order to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds on state land, all equipment used on this project must be initially power washed prior to use.
10. Motorized vehicle use may only occur on dry or frozen ground only. No activities will be allowed during muddy conditions.
11. All gates will be left as they are found and all fences that are taken down will be restored to their original condition as soon as possible.
12. Permittee shall make satisfactory adjustment for any damages sustained by the owner or lessee of the surface on this tract of land in conjunction with the operations by the permittee.

Enclosures

{PRIVATE } CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Riverside Contracting, Inc.
Permit to take and remove approximately
95,000 cubic yards of gravel from a tract
of state land.

Proposed Implementation Date:
November 15, 2004

Proponent: Riverside Contracting, Inc., 5571 Alloy South, Missoula, MT 59808

Type and Purpose of Action: Riverside Contracting, Inc. has applied for a gravel permit to remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from a tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will be using the gravel for a surfacing project on State Highway #233. The proposed project is located on irrigated agricultural land and would disturb approximately 22.7 acres on this tract of state land.

Location:
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ TW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
Sec. 16, Twp. 34N, Rge. 16E

County: Hill County, Montana

{PRIVATE } PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation/ Trust Land Management Division (DNRC/TLMD) has been petitioned by Riverside Contracting, Inc. to remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from a tract of state land in northern Hill County. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has the bid for the reconstruction of State Highway #233, north of Havre, Montana. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has notified the state's surface lessees, Russel and Julie Verploegen regarding the proposed project. Damages are anticipated and arrangements have been made for compensation. The Montana Department of Transportation has obtained a right-of-way easement from the Montana DNRC for the construction of this portion of State Hwy. #233.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The Montana Department Of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) are the only governmental agencies with jurisdiction for this type of project. The Montana DNRC has signed landowner consent for reclamation form with the MT DEQ for this tract of state land that is being impacted by this project. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has obtained the bid for the road construction project on behalf of the MT DOT. The MT DOT will be responsible for the construction project on Montana State Hwy. #233. Riverside Contracting, Inc. needs to obtain a permit from the Montana DRNC to take and remove gravel from the above referenced tract of state land for this project.

<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Riverside Contracting, Inc. has applied for a permit from the Montana DNRC to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from a tract of state land. The purpose of this project is for a highway surfacing project north of Havre, MT. The Montana DRNC will issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a gravel permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel for a highway reconstruction project north of Havre, MT. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a gravel permit for this project. There will be no disturbances to this tract of state land.</p>
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{PRIVATE } IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The soils located in the area of the proposed disturbance are mostly sandy loams. These soils contain a large amount of aggregate below the topsoil. The aggregate is suitable to use as gravel for surfacing the new highway. The topography in this area consists of gently rolling plains. There are no unusual geological features present within the area of the proposed disturbance. The proponent will be required to stockpile the topsoil upslope from the project, so that it may be used for reclaiming the disturbed areas. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will use the aggregate within the subsoil for surfacing on the highway construction project. All disturbed areas shall be reshaped and resloped. The proponent will be required to reclaim the site back to its pre-gravel pit status so that it can be used as irrigated agricultural land for the production of hay and forage.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The soils on this tract of state land will not be disturbed. There will be no need to issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a reclamation plan for this project. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to find gravel for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE } IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. 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?

Action Alternative: Riverside Contracting, Inc. will not impact the water resources that exist in this area. The location of the proposed project area does not contain any surface or groundwater resources. There are no wetlands located within 300 feet of the proposed disturbance. There is no potential to contaminate drinking water in this area. This project will not violate any ambient water quality standards. The water quality will not be degraded in this area with this type of project.

No Action Alternative: There will no be adverse ecological impacts on the quality, quantity, or distribution of water resources in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.

6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulates be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?

Action Alternative: Traffic will be substantial in this area throughout the entire length of time it takes to complete the road construction project. Heavy equipment will produce a fair amount of dust particles on this tract of state land, throughout the entire construction phase of this project. However, no pollutants will be produced on this tract of state land or adjacent lands by removing gravel from the subsoil. There are no air quality regulations or zones for this project. The project is located approximately 10 miles north of Havre, MT.

No Action Alternative: The air quality found on this tract of state land will not be altered. No dust particulates will be produced from the heavy equipment removing gravel from this tract of state land. However, traffic will continue to be substantial on the existing roadway until the construction of State Hwy. #233 has been completed. No pollutants will be produced in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove gravel for surfacing the highway.

{PRIVATE }IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?

Action Alternative: The area of the proposed disturbance is currently being used as irrigated agricultural land for the production of hay and feed for livestock. This tract of state land is administered through a surface lease issued by the Montana DNRC. The vegetative communities that currently exist in the area of the proposed disturbance will be permanently altered with this type of activity. The total area of disturbance on the irrigated agricultural land will be approximately 22.7 acres. There are no rare plants or cover types present in the immediate area of the proposed disturbance. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stock piled upslope from the project area and used last to cover the disturbed areas for reclaiming this site. The proponent will be required to reclaim the area of disturbance with 8:1 slopes, so that the lessee will be able to continue to use his wheel line to irrigate this acreage for the production of hay for livestock. Reclamation efforts will ensure that the irrigated agricultural land will be back to normal production in three years. The reclamation plan will provide erosion control, so that the lessee will be able to use his wheel line to irrigate this acreage to produce hay for this livestock.

No Action Alternative: The irrigated hayland that currently exists on this tract of state land will not be altered. The topsoil will not be disturbed on this tract of state land and there will be no need for a reclamation plan. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove gravel for a surfacing project for the reconstruction on State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?

Action Alternative: The habitat found within the immediate area of the proposed project will be impacted with the removal of gravel from large construction equipment. The area of disturbance shall be reclaimed with the terms and conditions outlined in the reclamation plan from the Montana DNRC and/or Montana DEQ. The disturbed areas will be reclaimed at 8:1 slopes in order for the lessee to continue to use this portion of land as irrigated hayland with a wheel line. The topsoil will be stockpiled upslope from the project so that it may be used last to cover the subsoil of the disturbed areas. The location of the proposed project is best described as irrigated hayland. Many different types of wildlife species use this area for habitat. Those species include; whitetail deer, mule deer, antelope, badger, skunk, the Columbian ground squirrel, red fox, coyote, as well as many different types of songbirds, upland game birds, and waterfowl. Wildlife species may be temporarily displaced across this tract of state land, until the desired amount of gravel has been removed and the area has been reclaimed. However, no wildlife species will be permanently relocated as a result of this project. The proposed project will not have any long-term impacts on the wildlife species or their habitat that currently exists on this tract of state land.

No Action Alternative: The terrestrial and avian life and their associated habitats will not be disturbed on this tract of state land. Wildlife species will continue to use this tract of state land as they have in the past. Wildlife species will not be permanently relocated in this area. Wildlife habitat will not be temporarily altered on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a gravel permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of aggregate from this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove gravel for the surfacing of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed action is not expected to cause adverse ecological impacts on threatened or endangered species. There is no confirmed use of threatened or endangered species using this area, but the potential of occasional use does exist. There are no species of special concern, nor are there any sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area. There are no wetlands located in the immediate areas of disturbance. Reclamation efforts will ensure that the areas of disturbance are reclaimed within the terms and conditions outlined within the landowner consent form for reclamation signed by Riverside Contracting, Inc., Montana DNRC, and Montana DEQ.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The unique, endangered, fragile, and/or limited environmental resources that exist on this tract of state land will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The area of the proposed disturbance is located on irrigated agricultural land that has been disturbed many times over. No historical or archaeological sites exist in this area. No surface features or cultural artifacts were discovered during past field reviews of this tract. The area proposed for removing aggregate does not contain any known cultural resources. Unknown or buried cultural resources may be discovered during the construction process and at that time Riverside Contracting, Inc. shall cease all activity and contact the Havre Unit Office. The DNRC reserves the right to remain in compliance with the State of Montana Antiquities Act.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological resources present in the area of the proposed disturbance on this tract of state land. Unknown historical and archaeological resources will not be disturbed. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of aggregate from this tract of state land.</p>

<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not be visible to the public since it is located in a rural area. Removing aggregate from this tract will lower the aesthetic value that currently exists on this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will reclaim the disturbed areas with 8:1 slopes so that the state's surface lessee will be able to use this land as irrigated hayland. The proposed project will produce some excessive noise, throughout the entire construction phase of this project. Traffic will continue to be substantial on this tract of state land, until the project has been completed and the area of the proposed disturbance has been reclaimed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The aesthetic character of the land will remain the same on this tract of state land. No excessive noise will be produced in this area from gravel excavation activities. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENGERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed project will demand the environmental resource of land for removing aggregate from the subsoil on this tract of state land. The project will not use any environmental resources that are limited in this area. There are no other known activities in this area that will impact this tract of state land or this project. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land for surfacing State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no additional demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, and/or energy on this tract of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>

<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There are no other environmental documents pertinent to this area. The Montana DNRC will continue to administer all surface and subsurface activities on this tract of state land. Staff from the Montana DNRC will continue to evaluate grazing management activities and set stocking rates on the grazing portion of this tract and the agricultural commodities that are harvested of this tract will be split into a crop share that will provide the School Trust with 25% of the revenue generated from the sale of these commodities. The Montana DNRC will conduct a field inspection on this tract of state land every ten years in accordance with Montana State Statute. The Montana DNRC has received all the appropriate documents from the Montana DOT and the Montana DEQ for this project to go ahead.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no other environmental documents pertinent to this area. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenues for the trust beneficiaries, while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
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{PRIVATE } III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed action will not increase the human health and safety risks found in this area. Removing gravel from this tract of state land will provide Riverside Contracting, Inc. with enough aggregate to use for surfacing the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233. Riverside Contracting, Inc., its subcontractors, and their employees are well aware of the human health and safety risks associated with removing gravel from the ground. These risks are considered as an occupational hazard to whomever, is excavating the gravel from the state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The human health and safety risks found on this tract of state land will continue to remain the same. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove gravel from for the surfacing of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed action will alter the irrigated agricultural activities that are currently taking place on the area of the proposed disturbance. Forage and hay production will be substantially less on this tract of state land with the removal of gravel from the subsoil. The state's surface lessee will lose a minimum of an entire year's crop of hay with the approval of this project. However, after the gravel has been removed from the state land, the areas of disturbance will be reclaimed so that the lessee will be able to continue to use a wheel line to irrigate this hayland. This project will create industrial activity on this tract of state land where there hadn't been any before.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The agricultural activities that exist on this tract of state land will not be altered. The grazing land will not be disturbed and forage production on the hay land will not decrease on the irrigated agricultural land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The quantity and distribution of employment will be impacted with the proposed action. Removing gravel from this tract of state land will create jobs for Riverside Contracting, Inc.'s employees. These jobs will last until the highway construction project has been completed and the gravel pit has been reclaimed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The quantity and distribution of employment will not be impacted in this rural area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Removing gravel from this tract of state land will not create or eliminate tax revenue in Hill County. The local and state tax base will not change as a result from creating a gravel pit on this tract of state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The local and state tax base will remain the same in this area. Tax revenue from this tract of state land will not change in Hill County. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>

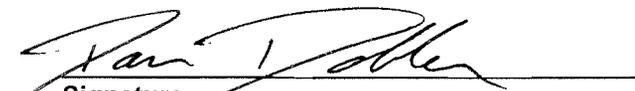
{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There will be a substantial increase in heavy equipment travel across this tract of state land during this entire project. No additional government services will be needed as a result of the proposed action. There will be no demand for other services such as police, fire protection, or schools for this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no additional demands for government services on this tract of state land. There will no substantial traffic across the state land from the heavy equipment removing gravel. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There are no other locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of state land at this time. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to evaluate state land resource issues from a logical, environmental, and economic point of view. There are no zoning or management plans in effect for this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the MT DNRC/TLMD has for this tract of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>20. 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>Action Alternative: This tract of state land does not have a perfected legal access for recreational purposes. This tract has moderate to high recreational value for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. No impacts on the recreational activities are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The recreational activities on this tract of state land will continue to be low to moderate, since this tract does not have legal access. This tract of state land will remain not legally accessible to the public for recreational purposes. Anyone with a State Lands Recreational Use License from the State of Montana will have to obtain landowner permission to cross deeded land in order to recreate on this tracts of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>

<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed action will not increase the density and distribution of the human population and housing in this rural area. The proposed project will not require additional housing. Removing gravel from this tract of state land will provide Riverside Contracting, Inc. with the surfacing material that it will need to complete the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The density and distribution of population and housing will not be altered in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed project may disrupt the traditional lifestyles found in this area. The surrounding community consists mainly of farming and ranching families. The proposed project may complicate livestock management decisions and hay production for a short period of time on this tract of state land. However, the disturbance will be small in scope and the proponent will settle all damages with the state's surface lessee(s) for all damages incurred from this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The native and traditional lifestyles that are found within this area will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity that is found within this area. Removing gravel from this tract of state land may temporarily impact the uniqueness of this area. However, once the area has been reclaimed within the terms and conditions outlined in the landowner consent for reclamation the uniqueness of this area will be restored to its previous status.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land and its people will remain the same. This area will continue to be used for livestock grazing, the production of irrigated agricultural commodities, and wildlife habitat. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land.</p>

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	<p>Action Alternative: There are no other social or economical circumstances associated with the proposed project on this tract of state land. As long as Riverside Contracting, Inc. follows the terms and conditions in the reclamation plan, this project will only impact the revenue from the hayland for a minimum of three years.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The social and economic circumstances will remain the same in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a permit to take and remove approximately 95,000 cubic yards of gravel from this tract of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to obtain gravel for this road construction project.</p>
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EA Checklist Prepared By: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature

Date: November 3, 2004

{PRIVATE } IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S.I
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved by: CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office



Signature

11-8-41

Date: