

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SITE NAME: Deveny APPLICANT: Prince, Inc.

LOCATION: NWSW & SWSW of Sec 14, T6N R37E COUNTY: Treasure

PROPOSED ACTION: Prince proposes to mine and crush gravel from a 21.2-acre site at Milepost 75 on Interstate 94. The site is on the north side of the highway with direct access from the highway. The product would be used for an MDT project and possibly other jobs. Reclamation would be completed to rangeland by July 2007. The bond would be \$63,362.

A: Significant Unavoidable Impacts B: Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation C: Insignificant as proposed

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		Flat top of high terrace about 1½ miles south of the Yellowstone River. It is the third major terrace above the river. Site is bounded by two coulees on the east, west and north.
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability			X	X		Alluvial gravel.
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	The main soil series is the Wanetta loam. This is good rangeland soil overlying gravel. Average annual precipitation is about 11 inches with 70 percent coming between April and September, during the best growing season. Good soil salvage would result in no adverse impacts to this soil.
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity; Distribution			X		X	There are no wells in this vicinity. Nearby fields, separated from the permit site by coulees are irrigated. About 20 feet below the land surface in the general vicinity seems to be an impervious layer that can create a perched water table. The opposite side of the surrounding coulees show shrub growth at this level. The landowner has developed several springs for stock water on the other side of the coulees. The springs' main source is probably irrigation waste water. The permit area is not irrigated and is on an isolated ridge that is not connected to the irrigated fields. It does not have the same shrub growth, signs of springs, or have any spring development. Mining on this ridge would not impact any of the surrounding springs or surrounding perched aquifers. There would be no impact to water quality or

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
						quantity from mining.
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			X		X	The crusher and asphalt plants would have air quality permits. Fugitive dust would be controlled with the use of water trucks. Air quality reduction would be minimal.
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources						None. This site's elevation is above the designated Yellowstone River Corridor.
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			X		X	Mining would have minimal impact because of the small area that would be disturbed and the relatively short timeframe for disturbance.
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species			X		X	The site is rangeland with mainly wheat grasses, some sage and yucca. Mining would have minimal impact because of the short duration of the project and reclamation to a rangeland seed mix.
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops Production			X		X	Mining would result in a minimal short term reduction of grazing production.
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>SOCIAL</u> ; structures and mores			X		X	
2. <u>CULTURAL</u> uniqueness/diversity			X		X	
3. <u>POPULATION</u> ; quantity/diversity			X		X	The nearest home, the landowner's, is about 2 miles to the north on the lower terrace.
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity/distribution			X		X	
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY</u>			X		X	With control of air emissions, mining would not affect any residences.
6. <u>COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME</u>			X		X	
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity, distribution			X		X	This highway project would result in temporary employment in the area.
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; state/local tax revenue			X		X	
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand			X		X	
10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL</u> and <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> activities			X		X	
11. <u>HISTORICAL</u> and <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>			X		X	A walkover of the area did not reveal any artifacts or signs of occupation. If during operations resources were to be discovered, activities would be halted and temporarily moved to another area

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
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						until SHPO was contacted and the importance of the site was determined.
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X		X	
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS</u> and <u>GOALS</u> ; local and regional			X		X	
14. <u>DEMANDS</u> on <u>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> of land, water, air and energy			X		X	
15. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> ; networks and traffic flows			X		X	This material is for construction of Interstate 94 and possibly some other local jobs.

REGULATORY IMPACT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY: The analysis done in response to the Private Property Assessment Act indicates no impact. The Department does not plan to deny the application or impose conditions that would restrict the use of private property so as to constitute a taking.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Landowner, Natural Heritage Program, State Historic Preservation Office

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: Air Resources Management Bureau, Mining Safety and Health, MT Dept. of Transportation, Treasure County Commissioners, Treasure County Weed Board

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Denial

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS: Unnecessary, No Significant Impacts

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Prepared by Jo Stephen,