

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**PROPONENT:** Creston Topsoil  
**LOCATION:** NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 34, T29N, R20W

**SITE NAME:** Lorentzen  
**COUNTY:** Flathead

**TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:**

**The applicant proposes to mine and haul 16,000 cubic yards of soil from this agricultural site located 10 miles east of Kalispell. The site is a flat lying river terrace with deep, rich soils several hundred feet west of Blaine Creek at approximately 2990 feet, MSL, in an area where groundwater lies well below the ground surface. The site would be stripped six inches deep in an area where the soil averages 36" deep. The soil is a black silty loam. The site will be reclaimed to alfalfa by December 2015.**

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
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		<b>Mining would not permanently alter the topography, and reclamation would level and return the site to alfalfa.</b>
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability						<b>No effect on Geology.</b>
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	<b>Soils would be stripped to a depth of six inches and sold as a product. An adequate amount of soil would be left for growing hay (approximately 30").</b>
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality, Quantity; Distribution			X		X	<b>The operation would not affect ground or surface waters including Blaine Creek, which flows south, several hundred feet east of the site.</b>
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			X		X	<b>Some deterioration of air quality could occur, but this is a soil site which would be stripped quickly and reclaimed immediately after.</b>
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources						<b>No unique, endangered, fragile or limited species or habitats are known at this site.</b>
<b>BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			X		X	<b>Wildlife displaced during active mining would return following reclamation.</b>
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; Quantity, quality, species			X		X	<b>Existing hayfield would be replanted into alfalfa immediately and no hiatus in farming should occur.</b>
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops, production			X		X	<b>There would be no observable impact on farming.</b>
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>SOCIAL</u> , structures and mores						<b>No Social impacts are anticipated.</b>
2. <u>CULTURAL</u> ; Uniqueness, diversity						<b>No unique or diversified cultural values exist.</b>
3. <u>POPULATION</u> ; quantity and diversity						<b>No effect on the population would be anticipated.</b>

4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity and distribution					No effects are anticipated on housing.
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u>			X	X	Some dust and additional traffic could be generated at the site but the operator must comply with existing traffic and air quality laws.
6. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME</u>			X	X	The landowner may benefit from additional income from this operation.
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity and distribution			X	X	No additional employees would be hired to assist in daily operations.
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; local and state tax revenue			X	X	Additional taxes may be generated for the state and county as soil is hauled and sold.
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand			X	X	The site would be monitored through its permit life along with other sites in the area.
10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL and AGRICULTURAL</u> activities			X	X	The site would be used commercially until reclamation when it would be returned to hayfield.
11. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>					No historical, cultural or archaeological values are present.
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X	X	The site would be located along a county road off of Hwy 206 and would be visible to the general public.
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS and GOALS</u> ; local and regional					There are no known land use plans for this site.
14. <u>DEMANDS on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> of land, water, air and energy					There would be no unusual demands on environmental resources.
15. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> ; networks and traffic flows			X	X	There would be some additional traffic added as this soil site is accessed from the highway.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: **The Department would deny an incomplete application or one that does not comply with the Act or Rules. The proponent could then submit a modified application or submit an application for another site.**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: **Agencies and individuals involved in the process included the Montana Natural Heritage Program, State Historic Preservation Office, local zoning authorities, county weed control board, and the landowner.**

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: **MSHA and OSHA regarding mine safety.**

REGULATORY IMPACT ON THE APPLICANT'S 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.**

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA: **None**

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: **No further analysis is required.**

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Prepared by: Rod Samdahl

CRESTON TOPSOIL  
LORENTZEN SITE  
NW4 NW4 SECTION 34  
T29N, R20W  
FLATHEAD COUNTY  
DECEMBER 20, 2004  
PERMIT AREA, 20 ACRES

