

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
KENDALL WARD  
FINK TOPSOIL SITE  
LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA**

**PROPONENT:** Kendall Ward  
**LOCATION:** W1/2W1/2 Sec 33, T31N, R31W

**SITE NAME:** George Fink  
**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** The applicant proposes to mine and haul 16,000 cubic yards of soil material from a site located 1.5 miles west of Libby just off of Three Corner Road and adjacent to the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks. The site is a river terrace above the Kootenai River at approximately 1300 feet, MSL, where groundwater lies 8 to 10 feet below the ground surface. The site would be mined only 6 to 8 inches deep, in an area where the soils average 12", mainly silty loam with 1 to 2 feet of silt and clay underneath. There would not be any slopes left and the site would be graded fairly flat, and planted into alfalfa. The site would be reclaimed by October 2010.

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

				<b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS</b>		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		<b>Mining would not alter the topography. The site would be graded smooth and planted to alfalfa.</b>
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability						<b>No effect on Geology.</b>
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	<b>The upper soils would be stripped and removed leaving some upper and sub-soils in-place after mining is finished.</b>
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality, Quantity; Distribution			X		X	<b>The operation would not affect ground or surface waters including the nearby Parmenter Creek.</b>
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			X		X	<b>Some deterioration of air quality would occur but episodes would be infrequent. Dust would be controlled around the site with a water truck.</b>
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources						<b>No unique, endangered, fragile or limited species or habitat 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.</b>
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops, production			X		X	<b>The site has been used as a hayfield and would be temporarily taken out of production. It would be replanted with alfalfa.</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 is anticipated.</b>

4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity and distribution					No effects are anticipated on the quantity or distribution of housing due to this soil source.
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u>			X	X	Some dust and additional traffic may 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 revenue or value added by 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 soils are hauled and used to improve other land.
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 removed from hayfield use, and used commercially until reclamation when it would be reclaimed to alfalfa.
11. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>					No historical, cultural or archaeological values are present.
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X	X	The site sits adjacent to a small private road and the railroad tracks, and back a thousand feet from Highway 2. It is somewhat visible to the general public.
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS and GOALS</u> ; local and regional					None.
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 accesses the county roads.

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

KENDALL WARD  
FINK SITE  
W2 W2 SECTION 33  
T31N, R31W  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
MARCH 1, 2006  
PERMIT AREA = 13.5 ACRES

KOOTENAI RIVER

PARMENTER CREEK

culvert

GATE

railroad

soil

