

**DEQ OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**APPLICANT:** Sanders County

**COUNTY:** Sanders

**SITE NAME:** Graves Creek

**DATE:** November 2010

**LOCATION:** Section 2, T22N, R30W  
Section 35, T23N, R30W

**APPROVED PERMIT #:** 1005

**Type and Purpose of Action:** The purpose of the amendment is to change the final reclamation date to November 2030, change the postmining land use to woodland and grassland, and update the Plan of Operation. The applicant is proposing to modify the grade of the reclaimed slopes to 2.5:1, as well as modify the date of reclamation for grading the slopes to May 2011. The operator proposes to leave a stockpile of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material until the new final reclamation date of November 2030. The slopes will be vegetated with trees and shrubs in accordance with the USFS recommendations. The pit floor will be seeded to grassland as proposed previously. The elevation of the pit floor will be lowered to provide enough material to backfill a 10-15 foot highwall. The area will be gated to prevent entry by others than those who have rights to the gravel materials.

**Site Description:** This site is located about 8 miles northwest of Thompson Falls – See original 1997 EA for more detail.

**Potential Impacts and Mitigation:** This site has a history of mining without the benefit of a reclamation or mining plan and as such it was mined into a steep hillside and very little soil was salvaged. By planting trees and shrubs rather than grass on the slopes, there is a greater chance of success. Because the original slope was steeper than 3:1, the reclaimed slopes will be 2.5:1; this was anticipated when the 1997 plan was approved. There will be one small portion on the up hill side that was naturally steeper than 2.5:1 and will not be redisturbed because it is regenerating with Ponderosa pine. Other impacts and mitigation will not be substantially different than those identified in the 1997 EA.

**Prepared By:** Steve Welch Opencut Mining Program Environmental Specialist  
Name Title

**Reviewed By:** Chris Cronin Opencut Mining Program Supervisor  
Name Title

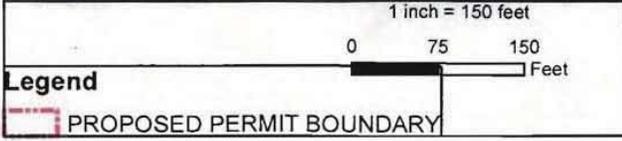
**PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT (PPAA) CHECKLIST**

DOES THE PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION HAVE TAKINGS IMPLICATIONS UNDER THE PPAA?

YES	NO	
X		1. Does the action pertain to land or water management or environmental regulation affecting private real property or water rights?
	X	2. Does the action result in either a permanent or indefinite physical occupation of private property?
	X	3. Does the action deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of the property?
	X	4. Does the action deny a fundamental attribute of ownership?
	X	5. Does the action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or to grant an easement? (If answer is NO, skip questions 5a and 5b and continue with question 6.)
		5a. Is there a reasonable, specific connection between the government requirement and legitimate state interests?
		5b. Is the government requirement roughly proportional to the impact of the proposed use of the property?
	X	6. Does the action have a severe impact on the value of the property?
	X	7. Does the action damage the property by causing some physical disturbance with respect to the property in excess of that sustained by the public generally? (If the answer is NO, skip questions 7a-7c)
		7a. Is the impact of government action direct, peculiar, and significant?
		7b. Has the government action resulted in the property becoming practically inaccessible, waterlogged, or flooded?
		7c. Has the government action diminished property values by more than 30% and necessitated the physical taking of adjacent property or property across a public way from the property in question?

Taking or damaging implications exist if YES is checked in response to question 1 and also to any one or more of the following questions: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 7c; or if NO is checked in response to questions 5a or 5b.

If taking or damaging implications exist, the agency must comply with § 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act, to include the preparation of a taking or damaging impact assessment. Normally, the preparation of an impact assessment will require consultation with agency legal staff.



Sanders County - Graves Site  
S35, T23N, R30W & S2, T22N, R30W  
J.J. Conner 10/04/2010  
Aerial Photo NRIS 2009

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