I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Andoria Resources US Corp. hereafter mentioned as the proponent, has applied to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for a non-mechanized Land Use License (LUL) in the area noted above (Figure 1) for mineral exploration. They plan to gather rock samples for geochemical testing to begin their dataset for lithium-bearing and/or tantalum-bearing pegmatites in this area. The proposal notes that pegmatite-hosted lithium mineralization tends not to have a distinct geophysical signature. The proponents’ mineral exploration plan indicates their focus to be geological reconnaissance and sampling of previously mapped pegmatites. The proposed work seeks to further characterize the geology, mineralogy, structure, and potential zonation of the pegmatites, confirm rock units, stratigraphy, faults, alteration, orientation and dimensions of the pegmatites and other rocks in this area. Exploration goals include identification of possible lode metal deposit targets containing lithium and tantalum. These elements have been classified as critical elements by the USGS.

For State land and minerals in Section 36, non-mechanized field work is expected to include geologic mapping, rock chip sampling of outcrops, subcrops, and historic prospect areas, and possible collection of soil samples. Sampling of rock and soil material would be done with hand tools, such as rock hammers, trowels, and shovels. If permission to access this Section is granted by private landowners, sample sites will be reached on foot from the two track trails/roads in Section 36.

This tract does not have legal access. It is the responsibility of the proponent to obtain permission from the private landowners for access to the tract. Obtaining access will be a condition on the LUL (see proposed stipulation, Item 2 on page 11 of this EA checklist).

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

State of Montana DNRC: TLMD Staff re: Land Use License for non-mechanized mineral exploration
State of Montana DEQ, Mining Bureau; Eric Dahlgren, Supervisor, Hard Rock Section
Private Landowner: Rebish/Konen Livestock LP (access for TLMD site visit)
Private Landowner: Barretts Minerals Inc. (access for TLMD site visit)
DNRC grazing lessee – Lease #556- Rebish/Konen Livestock LP; C/O Jon Konen

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

Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Program hosted by Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: The proposed Land Use License (LUL) would not be granted. Grazing licensing/leasing would continue.

Action Alternative: The Land Use License with stipulations and requirements would be granted with to Andoria Resources US Corp. for exploration via non-mechanized methods for lode deposits of lithium and tantalum. Grazing activities would continue.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.
- Enter “NONE” if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Section 36, T7N, R7W, occurs northeast of Barretts Minerals Inc’s Regal Talc Mine. Precambrian metamorphic rocks, including marble and gneiss and intruded pegmatites, particularly in the northwest quarter, extend into this Section. Some Tertiary volcanic rocks have also been mapped in Section 36.

According to the USDA Web Soil Survey, soils on Section 36 range from loam, and channery loam, an eroded metamorphic material, to gravelly loam. Some B horizons have sand and clay with the gravelly loams. The USDA information indicates the soils have a severe rutting hazard with low to moderate resistance to compaction. However, the soils have high to moderate restoration potential.

This project would have minimal impacts on soil quality and stability. The project would include foot traffic and hand tools for sampling. Vehicles will be restricted to existing roads/trails and to times when soil moisture content is below 20 percent. The proponent would be required to stockpile topsoil separately while digging. When pits or sample holes are refilled, the proponent would replace the subsoil first then all topsoil and sod. The exploration plan indicates more rock chip sampling rather than soil sampling. With minimal soil disturbance, the Dillon Unit anticipates natural seeding to occur.

No action alternative: The current geology and soils in the project area would remain undisturbed, as they currently exist.
**Action alternative:** The proponent would be granted a non-mechanized mineral exploration LUL and explore for lithium- and tantalum-bearing minerals through geological mapping, rock sampling, and possibly soil sampling. Any disturbances for soil-sample collection in the area would be reclaimed immediately. Restrictions for vehicles remaining on existing trails/roads and at times of soil moisture content less than 20 percent will be applied to the LUL.

**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Intermittent streams flow down from either side of the ridge located approximately in the central part of Section 36. Hoffman Creek flows through a small part of the Section near its southern border. Trust Lands field evaluation files describe this creek as intermittent and perennial. The Montana State Library’s GIS Hydrography data maps it as perennial in this area. The proponent has indicated areas of interest in the north half of the Section.

According to Montana’s Ground Water Information Center two water wells locate within one mile of the project area. Barretts Minerals Inc. owns these wells that have a static water level at about 120 feet below ground surface.

The Land Use License will include the following special stipulation that covers springs, wetlands, and streams:

Soil disturbance within 10 feet of springs, wetlands, and/or the ordinary high-water mark of streams is not permitted without prior written approval by DNRC Minerals Management Bureau.

If soil disturbance with 10 feet of these features is proposed in exploration plans, MMB would review and require appropriate mitigation measures as warranted. No effects to water resources are anticipated.

**No action alternative:** The current ground and surface water in the area will not change in abundance or quality.

**Action alternative:** Due to the apparent lower elevation of the surface-water and groundwater levels in the surrounding area and the proposed scope of the project, there is no anticipated long-term impacts to the quality of the surface or groundwater by implementing the action alternative.

**6. AIR QUALITY:**

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

A short duration increase in airborne pollutants and particulates could occur from hand digging and vehicular traffic to and from the site on the existing two-track road/trail. Minimal short-term impacts to air quality are expected.

**No action alternative:** No impacts expected.
Action alternative: The proponent would be granted a LUL to map the geology of the area and collect samples. There is a short-term minimal impact to the air quality expected.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The proposed exploration site on Section 36 is covered by Rocky Mountain Lower Foothill and Valley Grassland that thrives in loam to silt soils. Vegetation also includes shrubland containing sagebrush, and forest and woodland systems containing Mountain Mahogany and Limber Pine.

DNRC personnel conducted a field visit to Section 36 on August 8, 2022. Personnel noted native vegetation on the site includes native grassland, Black Sage, Mountain Mahogany, and Limber Pine.

An inventory of the Montana Natural Heritage Program’s Species of Concern database was conducted for the project area. The search yielded one invasive weed species identified in the area, Dalmatian Toadflax. As part of Land Use License, the operator is responsible for the management and mitigation of invasive weeds in the project area.

No action alternative: The current vegetation would remain unchanged.

Action alternative: The vegetation in the project area would experience limited disturbance from the proposed action, including possible minor clearing of vegetation by hand tools. Vehicle use would be restricted to established roads/trails and to times when the soil moisture content is below 20 percent. No impacts are expected to occur from the proposed activity that would not be addressed by mitigation measures. Mitigation of any impacts on vegetation are as follows: The proponent would be expected to repair any soil damage. Spread of noxious weeds is a concern and the proponent would be required to monitor exploration sample sites and control noxious weeds during the license period. DNRC will require washing of vehicles prior to entry onto the tract to help reduce the spread of noxious weeds. DNRC would require vehicles to have adequate fire suppression equipment available and follow guidance from the Dillon Unit, CLO. Water and hand tools will be required to be on hand during activities on the licensed area. The proponent will be advised to call 911 if a fire starts.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

These areas provide habitat for a variety of big game, large and small mammals, raptors, greater sage grouse and a variety of other birds.

Wildlife activities, if present on the tract, may experience temporary disruption due to the proposed project, but no more than what is currently occurring from human activity in the area. Minimal impacts are anticipated from non-mechanized exploration. Montana Natural Heritage Program information did not show any Species of Concern (SOC) sites on Section 36 or within 1 mile of it. The closest Greater Sage Grouse site is about 1.9 miles from the tract’s closest point. Information on this site indicated the observation date as 2009, with no evidence of breeding noted. The second closest...
Greater Sage Grouse site is about 2.6 miles away from the tract’s closest point. Information on this second site indicated the observation date as 1993, with no evidence of breeding noted. A stipulation regarding sage grouse will be used on the LUL, (see Stipulation number 11 on page 12 of this EA checklist).

Due to minimal water on this tract and the limited activity proposed, fish, if present, would not be affected.

**No action alternative:** The project area would continue to have grazing by domestic animals.

**Action alternative:** The proponent would be granted a LUL and impacts to habitats would be negligible. The size of the project area and length of the action alternative are not substantiative enough to permanently disrupt wildlife in the area. Similar habitat and forage can be found throughout the area and could sustain the wildlife species present. Grazing by domestic animals would continue. Impacts to Greater Sage Grouse are not anticipated. Requirements of the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy will be followed.

9. **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

   Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Section 36, T7S, R7W occurs within both the Executive Order Greater Sage Grouse Core and General Habitat areas. The SE¼, most of the SW¼, and about ½ of the NE¼ of the Section locate inside the boundary of the core habitat polygon. The remainder of the Section falls within general habitat. The LUL will include a stipulation regarding sage grouse (see Stipulation number 11 on page 12 of this EA checklist).

A search was conducted using the Natural Heritage Map Viewer on the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MT-NHP) Internet site, retrieved on 8/15/2022 from [http://mtnhp.org/MapViewer/](http://mtnhp.org/MapViewer/). This database can identify whether or not point observations of species of concern are located within the section(s) of a proposed activity. The closest Species of Concern (SOC) sites near the proposed LUL area include Grizzly Bear, Greater Sage Grouse, Thick-billed Longspur, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. As noted above, MT-NHP data does not show a SOC site on the tract or within 1 mile of it. This tract does not locate in a grizzly bear area. The closest MT-NHP site for grizzly bears locates about 4 miles from the tract’s nearest point, where Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MT-FWP) personnel observed a juvenile grizzly in 1998. Item 8 of this EA checklist also provides information on the closest MT-NHP site for sage grouse.

The closest MT-NHP thick-billed longspur site locates about 4 miles from the tract’s closest point. This 2017 observation did not include evidence of breeding. The closest Westslope Cutthroat trout site in Stone Creek is about 2.3 miles away from the tract’s closest point. This waterway does not connect with Hoffman Creek.

**No action alternative:** The project area would not be disturbed, and the species of concern would see little to no change to the current environment.
Action alternative: The proponent would be granted a Land Use License to map the geology in Section 36, T7S, R7W, collect rock samples, and possibly soil samples. This activity may create a temporary disruption to any species of concern, if present. Rangelands are abundant in the project vicinity and animals would utilize surrounding areas during the temporary disturbance with the ability to return to the site upon completion of activities, including reclamation. This Section does not occur in grizzly bear habitat within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The tract’s closest point locates about 18 miles from a non-recovery, occupied grizzly bear area. The scope of this project should not interfere with any grizzly bears as the project area does not contain their primary habitat, i.e., meadows, seeps, riparian zones, mixed shrub fields, closed timber, open timber, sidehill parks, snow chutes, and alpine slab rock habitats. Requirements of the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy will be followed.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

The DNRC staff archaeologist conducted a Class I (literature review) level review for the area of potential effect (APE) on State surface located in Section 36, T7S, R7W. This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project-related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

The Land Use License will require the licensee to stop work and contact DNRC if they encounter cultural or paleontological resources.

DNRC’s information notes buildings associated with a historic homestead/farmstead in the SW ¼ of Section 36. A stipulation will be used on the LUL that covers avoidance of these buildings.

No action alternative: The project area would remain undisturbed, and the existing ground would remain unchanged.

Action alternative: The proponent would be allowed to map the geology of the area and collect rock samples. No effects to cultural, archeological, or paleontological resources are anticipated resulting from the action alternative. However, if any of these resources are encountered during exploration activities it is the operator’s responsibility to cease action and call the area office per provision 18 of the permit LUL-522-22. The historic homestead/farmstead building(s) on the tract will be avoided.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Impacts to aesthetics would be minimal during the project. A vehicle on existing trails/roads and people walking on the tract would be the anticipated extent of what may be visible from the Sweetwater Road or the Regal talc mine. Noise and traffic on the tract would remain at a minimal level for the proposed activity.
No action alternative: Aesthetics would remain in their current state.

Action alternative: The proponent would map the geology of the area and collect rock samples and possibly soil samples on foot after travelling to site via established roads/trails. Minimal disturbance planned for this exploration would not change the area’s aesthetics.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

The proposed project would have minor, temporary impact on any environmental resources. Small sampling holes may be had dug in various locations in Section 36 and rock or soil samples collected. The proponent would reclaim all sampling hole sites and any disturbance created by this project. DNRC’s non-mechanized Land Use License will limit the maximum size of the hand-dug sample holes/pits to 2 square feet in size unless approved by MMB, DNRC in writing. The LUL will require that the sampling holes be properly filled with subsoil and topsoil after completion of sampling.

No action alternative: The area would not be impacted by non-mechanized mineral exploration.

Action alternative: The proponent would be allowed to use non-mechanized mineral exploration techniques i.e., geological mapping, geochemical, geophysical, and rock and possibly soil sampling for the following minerals: lithium-bearing minerals, such as spodumene and/or lepidolite, and tantalum-bearing minerals, such as tantalite. The proposed project would not affect water quality or quantity and no water is required for the test holes or other samples. Air quality may be temporarily affected by airborne dust particles generated by short-term vehicle use on existing two-track roads/trails, and by foot traffic and small hand-held equipment used in this project.

If legal access is obtained, the action alternative would allow the proponent to explore for the lithium- and tantalum-bearing minerals listed above. The U.S. Geological Survey includes these elements in their 2022 list of critical minerals for the United States.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

MT DEQ issued their Record of Decision on April 20, 2020 for the EIS on the expansion of the Regal Talc Mine (Amendment 006 to Operating Permit No. 00013). The closest portion of the mine locates about 0.4 of a mile from the tract’s closest point. Cumulative impacts are not anticipated for non-mechanized mineral exploration of Section 36. The project area is currently leased for grazing activities through the Montana DNRC’s Trust Lands Management Division.

No action alternative: The project area would not be explored for lithium- and tantalum-bearing minerals, and current grazing operations would continue.

Action alternative: Should the proponent acquire permission from private landowners to access the tract, the project area would be explored by non-mechanized methods for lithium- and tantalum-
bearing minerals. Grazing operations would continue. Any sampling holes dug with hand tools would be backfilled with the disturbed soil (see Stipulation number 6 on page 11).

### IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

#### 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

No human and health safety risks were identified because of the proposed project other than the typical occupational hazards that coincide with non-mechanized mineral exploration operations.

**No action alternative:** Negligible effects.

**Action alternative:** Negligible effects. If Barrett’s Minerals, Inc. grants the proponent permission to cross their land for access to the tract, there may be requirements by Barretts to address safety for their road area used for access.

#### 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The proposed project may have a short-term, minor effect on ranching activities. The LUL will include a stipulation for coordination with DNRC’s grazing lessee. No change in activities is anticipated regarding current or future industrial or commercial operations at the Regal talc mine.

**No action alternative:** No impact.

**Action alternative:** The proposed project would likely have a short-term, minor effect on ranching activities and no effect on current or future industrial or commercial production activities. The non-mechanized LUL will include stipulations regarding access and on coordination of activities with DNRC’s grazing lessee.

The action alternative has potential to contribute to a small increase in industrial or commercial activities for the area, depending on the results of the non-mechanized mineral exploration. The proposed non-mechanized exploration would increase the knowledge base for critical elements/minerals in Montana and may point to currently unknown essential mineral resources.

#### 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The proposed project would not create, move, or eliminate jobs.

**No action alternative:** No Impact.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services.

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

The BLM Dillon Field Office has undertaken a 15-year Resource Management Plan Evaluation. They expect to have the Evaluation Report finalized sometime in the summer of 2022. A small area of BLM land is adjacent to the SE4SE4 of Section 36. There are no other known zoning or management plans in the area.

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No wilderness areas exist on or near Section 36, T7N, R7W. Given that the tract does not have public access, the non-mechanized nature of the proposed exploration, the small amount of disturbance, and the short time-frame indicated for the proposed activities, no impacts on recreational activities are anticipated.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:  
*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:  
*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

No action alternative: No Impact.

Action alternative: No Impacts expected.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:  
*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

No action alternative: Currently the project area is being utilized for grazing activities. The no action alternative could limit future exploration of lithium- and tantalum-bearing minerals on Trust Lands.

Action alternative: The proponent provided a $25 payment for the Land Use License application fee and would provide an annual rental fee of $1,920 for the Sec. 36 non-mechanized, mineral exploration land use license ($3 x 640 = $1920). The 3-year term of this LUL would generate $5,760 in rental for the Common Schools Trust.

No cumulative economic and social effects from this non-mechanized exploration are expected.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EA Checklist</th>
<th>Name: Teresa Kinley and Thomas Palin</th>
<th>Date: 9/9/2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared By:</td>
<td>Geologist/Hydrologist Mineral Resource Specialist</td>
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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

By constructing this Environmental Assessment, the Department has identified impacts to the environment based on two potential alternatives. The Department has selected the action alternative and will authorize Andoria Resources US Corp. to conduct non-mechanized mineral exploration such as geological mapping, geochemical, geophysical, and rock sampling after the company provides DNRC with written proof of access to the tract from adjacent landowners. The Department believes this alternative can be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the long term sustainable natural resource management of the area and generate revenue for the common school trust.
I conclude all identified potential impacts will be mitigated by utilizing license requirements, including the stipulations listed below and no significant impacts will occur as a result of implementing the selected alternative.

1. Licensee shall follow all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to those concerning safety, environmental protection, reclamation, drone flight requirements for photography and topographic mapping over the site, and sage grouse requirements.

Licensee shall submit copies of required permits or pertinent exemptions to the Department’s Minerals Management Bureau (MMB).

2. It is the responsibility of the licensee to acquire permission for access to the licensed state lands/mineral estate. Prior to entry on Section 36, T7S, R7W, the licensee will provide to MMB written documentation with signatures of private landowners indicating they have given permission to the company and personnel/specific contractors to cross their property to access the State Section noted above, or a copy of the State’s access permission form or similar acknowledgement signed by the adjoining landowner(s) who is/are providing access.

3. All vehicle traffic must stay on established roads/trails and will be limited to time periods or conditions when use of the roads/trails will not create ruts, i.e. periods when the soil moisture content is below 20 percent.

All vehicles must be washed, particularly the undercarriage, to assure removal of dirt, plant material, and seeds prior to entering the tract.

All vehicles must be equipped with adequate fire suppression equipment including a minimum of a shovel and a fire extinguisher. In addition, call 911 if a wildfire should get started.

4. The Licensee has the responsibility to keep themselves, staff, and contractors and their staff apprised of the boundaries of the non-mechanized LUL to keep mineral exploration activities within the licensed area. The attached Vicinity Map (Figure 1) and 2021 aerial photo Site Map (Figure 2) provide an approximate location for the area covered by this non-mechanized LUL.

5. Soil disturbance within 10 feet of wetlands, and/or the ordinary high-water mark of streams is not allowed without prior written approval by Minerals Management Bureau, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT-DNRC). Soil disturbance within 10 feet of springs is prohibited. Panning of sediments is prohibited in streams or springs.

6. The size of hand-dug disturbance is limited to a maximum 2 feet by 2 feet opening, outside the 10-foot buffer zone of streams, springs, wetlands, unless licensee receives prior written approval by MMB, MT-DNRC. Topsoil/sod will be stockpiled separately from subsoil for reclamation. Licensee shall fill holes with subsoil before covering with topsoil and sod. All holes must be filled and reclaimed immediately prior to moving on to the next hole.
7. The licensee shall contact the Department’s Trust Land Management Division, Minerals Management Bureau if any talc, gold, silver, and/or associated minerals are encountered on the licensed premises.

8. Geologic, geochemical/geophysical information (including but not limited to: detailed sample site locations, areas disturbed by non-mechanized mineral exploration, and sample results for each corresponding sample site) if collected for the tract will be provided to Minerals Management Bureau, TLMD MT-DNRC annually with a report on exploration activities. The lessee shall also concurrently provide GPS, GIS, or other data, detailed maps and/or aerial photos associated with the non-mechanized exploration to MMB. Licensee should advise the department if they consider this information confidential.

9. The Licensee, and employees, including contractors, and/or operators shall comply with any requirements of fire restriction stages unless they obtain an exemption that may be issued by the Dillon Unit Office Manager after field review. Access on the tract may be temporarily denied should the fire restrictions rise to the level of closure.

10. Licensee must contact and coordinate with DNRC’s surface lessee and any future licensee/lessee to mitigate management conflicts.

11. This license is located within designated sage grouse general and core habitat. Proposed activities are subject to, and shall comply with, all provisions, stipulations, and mitigation requirements of the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, as implemented by Governor’s Executive Orders 10-2014, 12-2015, and amendments thereto. Contact the TLMD prior to preparing a project proposal.

12. The Licensee will provide MMB with an annual exploration plan covering the licensed area for review and approval prior to beginning non-mechanized exploration each year. The plan should include type of non-mechanized exploration proposed within the licensed area and planned locations of sample sites and potential disturbance areas. Reclamation plans for disturbances should also be included.

13. The licensee agrees to avoid and not disturb historic former buildings, foundations or other cultural features on this tract.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

- EIS
- More Detailed EA
- X No Further Analysis

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<tr>
<th>EA Checklist Approved By</th>
<th>Name: Trevor Taylor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Trevor Taylor</td>
<td>Title: MMB Bureau Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td>Date: 01/12/22</td>
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See attached Fig. 1: Vicinity Map; Fig. 2: 2021 aerial photo of Section 36, T7S, R7W, providing a more-detailed site map for proposed non-mechanized LUL 522-22.
Figure 1: Vicinity Map for State of Montana LUL #522-22 for non-mechanized mineral exploration. Prepared by T. Palin: 8/16/2022
Figure 2: LUL #522-22 Area with vicinity to the Regal Talc Mine. Prepared by T. Palin 8/16/22