

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Divide Cold Millings Stockpile
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2024
Proponent:	Jeffery Contracting, Inc.
Location:	T1S-R9W-Sections 17 (Common Schools Trust)
County:	Silver Bow

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Jeffery Contracting, Inc. henceforth referred to as the proponent, has applied for a Land Use License, LUL, on State Trust Lands within the above-referenced tract in Silver Bow County. This project area can be seen in attachment A on page 16.

If approved, the proponent would be granted an LUL to use the area as a point to stockpile cold millings, also known as stripped asphalt, from the Wise River-East Montana Department of Transportation project. It would be expected that approximately 4,000 cubic yards of material would be stockpiled, in a timeframe beginning in early July for two to three months.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The proponent has submitted a DS-401 Land Use License application with the Montana DNRC, Minerals Management Bureau.

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

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: The LUL application to stockpile cold millings would be denied.

Action Alternative: The LUL application to stockpile cold millings within the above referenced Montana State Trust Lands would be approved.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The impacts analysis identifies and evaluates direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts.

- **Direct impacts:** impacts that occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact
- **Secondary impacts:** further impacts to the human environment that may be stimulated, or induced by, or otherwise result from a direct impact of the action.
- **Cumulative impacts:** collective impacts on the human environment of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past and present actions related to the proposed action by location or generic type. Related future actions must also be considered when these actions are under concurrent consideration by any

state agency through pre-impact statement studies, separate impact study evaluation, or permit processing procedures.

Where impacts are expected to occur, the impacts analysis estimates the duration and severity of the impact.

The duration of an impact is quantified as follows:

- **Short-term:** impacts that would not last longer than the proposed operation of the site, including reclamation of the site.
- **Long-term:** impacts that would remain or occur following reclamation of the proposed site.

The severity of an impact is measured using the following:

- **No impact:** There would be no change from current conditions.
- **Negligible:** An adverse or beneficial effect would occur but would be at the lowest levels of detection.
- **Minor:** The effect would be noticeable but would be relatively small and would not affect the function or integrity of the resource.
- **Moderate:** The effect would be easily identifiable and would change the function or integrity of the resource.
- **Major:** The effect would alter the resource.

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.

Current Conditions:

Geology: Site geology consists of alluvium and colluvium, that overlie the Renova Formation made up of tuffaceous sandstone and siltstone containing subordinate interbeds of limestone and lenses of cobbles and pebbles.

Soils: According to the USDA's Web Soil Survey, the project area is comprised of sandy-loam in an area that has been disturbed by past projects that have been similar in detail, i.e. stockpiling material.

These soils exhibit the following properties:

Soil compactibility risk – Soils found in the project area exhibit a medium risk to soil compactibility.

Soil restoration potential – Soils found in the project area exhibit a moderate potential for soil restoration.

Soil rutting hazard – Soils found in the project area exhibit a moderate soil rutting hazard.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impacts to the geology and soil quality, stability and moisture.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The proponent would stockpile cold millings in an area that has already been disturbed and stripped of soil. Stockpiling would take place in an area with flat topography and under mostly dry conditions. This should mitigate the risk of displacing, compacting, or otherwise impacting the soils beyond the direct areas

of stockpiling. Negligible, short-term impacts to geology and soil quality and moisture would be expected from the selection of the action alternative.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture from the selection of the action alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture from the selection of the action alternative.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to last the duration of the permit, until final reclamation.

Mitigations

The potential selection of action alternative would include the following stipulation in the permit to test for aggregate:

- If any rutting occurs during stockpiling the proponent will grade tire ruts surrounding topography.

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.

Current Conditions

Surface Water: There is an ephemeral drainage that begins in the NE4 of section 16 and at times flows through the N2 of section 16 and 17. In Sections 8 and 9 an ephemeral stream is also present that flows from the N2 of the SE4 and exits section 8 at the SENE4.

Ground Water: A search of the Montana Ground Water Information Center's website yields 18 water wells within 0.5 miles of the project area. Each well is summarized below in Table 1. Inaccurate reporting, less refined legal descriptions and poor mapping accuracy may lead to inconsistencies between the reported and physical location of groundwater wells.

GWIC ID	Latitude	Longitude	Surface Elevation	Total Depth	Static Water Level	Calculated Water Table Elevation
107113	45.7513	-112.7485	5390	33	8	5382
107119	45.7511	-112.7425	5570	69	20	5550
161779	45.7536	-112.7349	5590	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
107106	45.773122	-112.734075	5460	60	30	5430
107107	45.77046	-112.73517	5482	51	36	5446
107108	45.767757	-112.739101	5430	40	10	5420
107110	45.750665	-112.743031	5425	32	17	5408
107111	45.754288	-112.748271	5413	78	60	5353
107112	45.754288	-112.748271	5413	78	60	5353
107116	45.747043	-112.748271	5398	38	Unknown	Unknown
107117	45.747043	-112.748271	5398	32	3	5395
122789	45.746137	-112.746961	5395	21	15	5380
131967	45.769126	-112.7373619	5470	55	16	5454
231212	45.77046	-112.73517	5482	143	95	5387
263209	45.770643	-112.7301575	5558	243	160	5398
289581	45.770643	-112.7301575	5558	183	90	5468
311382	45.7698	-112.7374	5450	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
297885	45.759722	-112.749167	5455	80	47.5	5407.5

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The average calculated groundwater elevation from nearby water wells is approximately 5415 feet above sea level. The current project area is approximately 5590 feet above sea level, which is approximately 175 feet greater than the average calculated groundwater elevation.

Groundwater would not be expected to be encountered during activities.

Overall, direct impacts to groundwater or surface water in the project area are not expected.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to surface or ground water quality or quantity, resulting from the selection of the action alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to surface or ground water quality or quantity, resulting from the selection of the action alternative.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

Mitigations

The potential selection of action alternative would include the following stipulation in the permit to test for aggregate:

- All equipment utilized in testing activities must be regularly maintained and inspected to ensure it is not leaking fluids, spreading noxious weeds or creating an undue fire hazard.

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.

Current Conditions

Currently, emission sources in the project area include vehicles travelling on Interstate 15, Montana Highway 43, and other adjacent roads. As well as emissions from heating homes and other buildings in the greater Divide area. Fugitive dust from vehicle travel on other adjacent gravel roads contributes small amounts of airborne particulate matter in the area. Farming activity including plowing may also create seasonal fugitive dust in the area.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to air quality.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: Fugitive dust may be generated from stockpiling activities such as travelling to the site, dumping material, and reclaiming. Air quality could be temporarily affected during activities. Some dust particulates from these activities may affect air quality temporarily during stockpiling operations. It is expected that 4,000 cubic yards of material will be stockpiled. The anticipated diesel fuel consumption to complete the stockpiling would be

400 gallons. The combustion of diesel fuel would release greenhouse gases. The primary component would be carbon dioxide (CO₂). Utilizing the US Energy Information Administration coefficient, it is anticipated that approximately 40.84 metric tons of CO₂ would be produced by the project. The impacts to air quality are expected to be negligible and short-term.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to surface or ground water quality or quantity resulting from the selection of the action alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to surface or ground water quality or quantity from the selection of the action alternative.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

Mitigations

The potential selection of action alternative would include the following stipulation in the permit to test for aggregate:

- A water truck shall be used to minimize fugitive dust blowing from the site.

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.

Current Conditions

The proposed stockpile would be in area that is already disturbed and has limited vegetation.

An inventory of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's Species of Concern database was conducted for the project area. The search yielded no vegetative species of concern.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to vegetation.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The stockpiling area has limited vegetation due to previous activities. The use of trucks driving and dumping material may temporarily disturb some areas of the plant community. This would occur from the vegetation being compacted by equipment. Per the stipulations of the permit, the proponent would be responsible for the management and mitigation of invasive weeds at the site. The proponent will also be responsible for reseeding the affected areas with a native range mixture as suggested by the Anaconda Unit office.

Secondary Impacts: Secondary impacts may occur in the form of noxious weed propagation from the site. Weed impacts can be mitigated to negligible with proper efforts.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to vegetation cover, quantity and quality from the selection of the action alternative.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

Mitigations

The potential selection of action alternative would include the following stipulation in the permit to test for aggregate:

- The Proponent will be responsible for the management and mitigation of invasive weeds at the site.

- If vegetation is disturbed by stockpiling activities, it will be the responsibility of the proponent to seed the impacted areas with the following seed mixture:

Species	Full stand Seed rate (lbs/ac)	% of Mix	lbs/ac PLS for Drill Seeding	Drill Seeding Depth	Broadcast Seeding Rate
Slender Wheatgrass	7	30	2.1	0.5	4.2
Little Bluestem	4	30	1.2	0.5	2.4
Prairie Sandreed	4	10	0.4	0.75	0.8
Needle and thread	9	20	1.8	0.75	3.6
Purple Prairie Clover	3.5	5	0.2	0.25	0.4
Blue flax	3.5	5	0.2	0.25	0.4
Total PLS Lbs/ac			5.9		11.7

Notes: 1. Seed mix based on seed available at Circle S seeds in Three Forks, MT. Any licensed seed vendor or certified weed seed is allowable. 2. This seed mix follows the reclamation guidelines for both the Sage Grouse Executive order 12-2015 and the MSU Extension/ NRCS Revegetation guidelines (November 2022). 3. For varying seed depths use the middle value in the case of three depth recommendations or the shallower value in the case of only two depth recommendations. 4. Alternative species may be requested due to lack of availability or prohibitive expense but must be approved by the field office.

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.

Current Conditions

The proposed project area serves as habitat for a variety of big game, large and small mammals, raptors, and a variety of other birds.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The action alternative would create minor audible and visual disturbances within a short time frame to any animals that may occupy the project area or its surroundings. Similar habitat and forage can be found throughout the surrounding area and could sustain the impacted wildlife species temporarily. Grazing by domestic animals would continue. Impacts to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats are expected to be short-term and minor.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

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.

Current Conditions

An inventory of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's Species of Concern was completed for the project area. There was one point observation of a Bald Eagle within a half mile of the project area over the past decade. Golden Eagles have been observed within one mile of the project area with one observation being a nest.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The action alternative would create small temporary disturbances within a short time frame to species of concern in the area. Negligible changes to existing vegetation would occur, thus no changes in available habitats would occur. Some limited, short-duration disturbance to individuals of any of these species may occur if they are in the vicinity. Due to the minimal length and disturbance The impacts to these species is expected to be negligible.

The Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan is an interagency plan that includes recommendations to limit disturbances to nesting Eagles. The Management plan recommends limiting disturbing human activities within 0.5 miles of an active nest during nesting season if visual screening is inadequate.

There are no active nests within 0.5 miles of the proposed project, therefore the impacts of the project to both Bald and Golden Eagles are expected to be negligible.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats.

Cumulative Impacts: There are existing human disturbances near the project area. This includes HWY 43, Interstate 15, businesses, and ranches. All of these factors are disturbances that have been present for long periods of time. The proposed activity would add to the disturbance, in a negligible and short-term manner.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to historical or archaeological sites.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: Because the project area has already been disturbed from previous activities, there are no anticipated impacts to historical, archeological or paleontological resources.

Secondary Impacts: There are no secondary impacts expected to historical and archaeological sites.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to historical and archaeological sites.

Duration: No impacts expected.

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.

Current Conditions

Located approximately 25.5 miles south of Butte on Interstate 15. Project activities may be visible from the community of Divide, the scattered residences, and vehicles traveling on I-15.

Alternatives**No Action Alternative:**

The selection of the no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to aesthetics.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: Recreationists, residents, and motorists in the area would see trucks in the project area along with a pile of cold millings being left in place for a duration of two to three months. Minimal disturbances to aesthetics are expected during operations. However, there are no long-term effects on aesthetics anticipated if the action alternative is selected. Increased noise levels will also occur from the proposed action. Noise levels from activities are expected to be like those produced from motorists travelling on Interstate 15 or Highway 43. Increases in noise levels are expected to be minor and short-term.

Secondary Impacts: Noise and visual impacts will occur outside of the project area. However, these impacts are expected to be minimal and short-term.

Cumulative Impacts: There are no cumulative impacts expected to aesthetics.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

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.

Current Conditions

There are no limited resources in the area that would be utilized for this project.

Alternatives**No Action Alternative:**

The no action alternative is not expected to have impacts to the demands of environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The area is currently vacant, but has been used in the past for stockpiling a variety of different materials. The stockpiling would have no known effects on environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy in this area.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

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.

Current Conditions

The entirety of the project area has an overlying grazing lease held by Margaret M Noyce Trust, however, the proposed stockpile area is outside of the fenced past. There is also an MDT stockyard just west of the stockpiling area within section 17. An application for an aggregate take and remove permit has been submitted for the land just south of the proposed stockpiling area.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to have impacts to other environmental documents or projects pertinent to the area.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The grazing lessee does not utilize the proposed stockpile area for grazing. The disturbance to the surface lessee would be limited to the additional truck traffic present in the area for the short-term. The proposed project would have a temporary, negligible impact to the surface lease agreement. The proposed project would not be expected to have any impact on the MDT yard or the proposed gravel development. Any future development in the area would likely be restricted to utility or mineral development.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

<p style="text-align: center;">IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i> |
|--|

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Current Conditions

The current condition of the site poses no risk to human health or safety.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to have impact to human health or safety.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The proposed action is expected to have no impacts to human health or safety, other than those typically associated with road construction/hauling activities. The project area is in a rural area away from residences.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: No Impacts expected.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Current Conditions

The testing area is in a rural area where agricultural is the most prominent industry.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative would not be expected to have any impact to industrial, commercial, and agriculture activities and production.

Action Alternative:

Gravel testing would not be expected to have any significant impacts upon the industrial, commercial, or agriculture activities.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until final reclamation.

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.

Current Conditions

The closest town and employment center is Divide, Montana. The workforce consists mainly of fly-fishing guides and ranchers.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to impact the quantity and distribution of employment.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No direct impacts are expected to quantity and distribution of employment.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: No impacts expected.

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.

Current Conditions

Trust land is exempt from local property tax. Operators and lessees conducting business on Trust Lands must pay business taxes.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to have any impact on local and state tax bases or tax revenues.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No direct impacts to local and state tax base and tax revenue are expected from the selection of the action alternative.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: 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

Current Conditions

The traffic sources in the area are on Highway 43 and Interstate 15. Emergency services would likely come from Butte, MT.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to have any impact on the demand for government services.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The proposed action is not anticipated to have any impact on demand for government services.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: 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.

Current Conditions

There are no known environmental plans or goals for this tract or in the project vicinity.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The no action alternative is not expected to have any impact on locally adopted environmental plans or goals.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No impacts expected, there are no known zoning or management plans.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until final reclamation.

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.

Current Conditions

The project area is not designated as wilderness, nor does it provide access to wilderness. Sections 9 and 16 border BLM managed Hamburg Spires Wilderness Study Area. Montana State Trust Lands are accessible for public use by purchasing the necessary conservation license through the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to have any impact on the access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: The project area does not attract much public use. Direct impacts to recreationists would be temporary while testing activities occur. An increase in noise and visual effects would occur for species in the area that sportsman may be targeting.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

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.

Current Conditions

The closest major population center to the project area is Butte, Montana.

Alternatives**No Action Alternative:**

Direct Impacts: The no action alternative is not expected to impact the density and distribution of population and housing.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No direct impacts expected to the density and distribution of population and housing.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Current Conditions

There are no known native or traditional lifestyles near the project area.

Alternatives**No Action Alternative:**

The no action alternative is not expected to impact social structures, native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No direct impacts expected to native or traditional lifestyles.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Current Conditions

There are no known unique qualities of the area.

Alternatives

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative is not expected to impact cultural uniqueness or diversity.

Action Alternative:

Direct Impacts: No direct impacts expected.

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts expected.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts expected.

Duration: Any impacts would be expected to be short term, until the end of the license.

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.

The return to the trust would be a one-time application fee of \$25.00 and a one-time rental fee of \$3,000 for the Common Schools Trust. The stockpiling activities should not impede the existing utilization of State Lease No. 6400 or the MDT stockyard.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Thomas Palin	Date: June 5, 2024
	Title: Mineral Resource Specialist	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

The Action Alternative is selected.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The granting of the requested LUL on this tract of State Trust Lands is not expected to result in, nor cause significant environmental impacts. The proposed action satisfies the Trust's fiduciary mandate and accounts for the long-term productivity of the land. An environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

I conclude that all identified potential impacts will be mitigated by utilizing permit requirements, including the stipulations listed below.

1. The proponent will contact the DNRC at least 48 hours before project activities commence.
2. If any rutting occurs during stockpiling the proponent will grade tire ruts surrounding topography.
3. All equipment utilized in testing activities must be regularly maintained and inspected to ensure it is not leaking fluids, spreading noxious weeds or creating an undue fire hazard.
4. A water truck shall be used to minimize fugitive dust blowing from the site.

5. The Proponent will be responsible for the management and mitigation of invasive weeds at the site.
6. If vegetation is disturbed by stockpiling activities, it will be the responsibility of the proponent to seed the impacted areas with the following seed mixture:

Species	Full stand Seed rate (lbs/ac)	% of Mix	lbs/ac PLS for Drill Seeding	Drill Seeding Depth	Broadcast Seeding Rate
Slender Wheatgrass	7	30	2.1	0.5	4.2
Little Bluestem	4	30	1.2	0.5	2.4
Prairie Sandreed	4	10	0.4	0.75	0.8
Needle and thread	9	20	1.8	0.75	3.6
Purple Prairie Clover	3.5	5	0.2	0.25	0.4
Blue flax	3.5	5	0.2	0.25	0.4
Total PLS lbs/ac			5.9		11.7

Notes: 1. Seed mix based on seed available at Circle 5 seeds in Three Forks, MT. Any licensed seed vendor or certified weed seed is allowable.
 2. This seed mix follows the reclamation guidelines for both the Sage Grouse Executive order 12-2015 and the MSU Extension/NRCS Revegetation guidelines (November 2022).
 3. For varying seed depths use the middle value in the case of three depth recommendations or the shallower value in the case of only two depth recommendations.
 4. Alternative species may be requested due to lack of availability or prohibitive expense but must be approved by the field office.

7. If any damage to fences is incurred the proponent will fix damages.

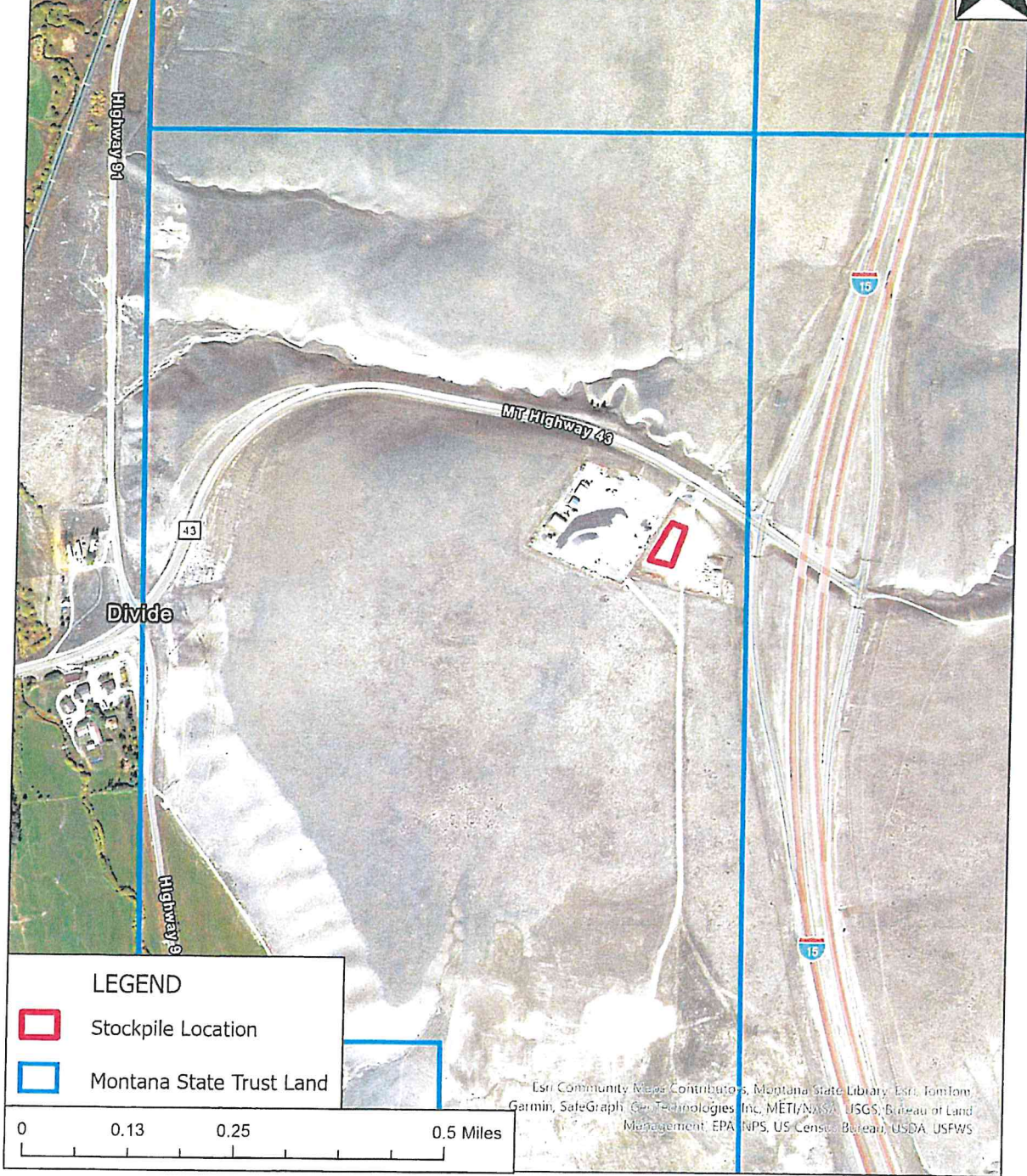
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS
 More Detailed EA
 No Further Analysis



EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Craig Hansen
	Title: Anaconda Unit Manager
Signature: <i>Craig Hansen</i>	Date: <i>6-5-2024</i>



Jeffery Contracting Cold Millings Stockpile Location LUL-531-24



LEGEND

-  Stockpile Location
-  Montana State Trust Land

Esri, Community Maps Contributors, Montana State Library, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS