

DECISION RECORD AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

(EA Number OR-134-07-EA-002)

(Mineral Material Free Use Permit FU-W-484)

(WAOR 63576)

A. Recommendation

It is my recommendation that Alternative 1 (BLM & Irrigation District compromise alternative) as described, including mitigation and stipulations, in the attached environmental assessment (OR-134-07-EA-2) be adopted. This action allows BLM to make available, for both Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) and Roza Irrigation District (RID), a mineral material borrow site northern expansion area for mining of additional basalt resources. This action would support the extra basalt rip-rap material needed for the proposed water reservoir and continued maintenance of irrigation canal infrastructure for the eastern Yakima Valley. The permit should be subject to interim and final mine/ reclamation plans submitted by SVID and RID, relative to mitigation listed and described in EA Number OR-134-07-EA-002, and associated permit stipulations/conditions of approval (COA's).

B. Rational

Pursuant to the Act of July 31, 1947 as amended (Mineral Material Act) which provides for the disposal of mineral materials from public lands managed by BLM. The Secretary of the Interior has discretion to permit the free use of mineral materials to government entities, such as Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District. Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage public lands under the principles of multiple uses. The proposed northern expansion area adjoins existing active mining operations currently being conducted by the SVID and RID. Several free use permits issued to both SVID and RID are currently authorized by BLM.

No archaeological, cultural, or paleontological sites were documented during field inventories of the area covered by Alternative 1 (northern expansion area). No sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species were inventoried or are known to occur on or nearby the site where the proposed borrow site expansion operations would disturb them.

SVID proposes to conduct interim reclamation of the site as possible or as directed by BLM. Mining will incorporate reclamation suitable pit slopes and mine surfaces. After mining of the borrow site is complete, reclamation of the site will consist of re-contouring slopes, reapplying topsoil to the un-reclaimed hillsides and planting native grass species to provide soil stabilization and food and cover for wildlife.

/S/ Brent Cunderla
Wenatchee Field Office Geologist

12/08/06
Date

C. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Through this environmental assessment, the Bureau of Land Management, Wenatchee Field Office, has analyzed the alternatives for the subject mineral material free use permit (FU-W-484) expansion area north of the currently active SVID and RID Free Use Permits (FU-W-471 & FU-W-472). Based on the following considerations, no significant impacts to the quality of human environment are anticipated.

- The analysis did not reveal any significant adverse impacts to society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality.
- Public health or safety will not be affected.
- The selected alternative does not violate federal, state, or local law requirement regarding flood plains, wild and scenic rivers, prime or unique farmlands, or known paleontological resources.
- The selected alternative will not result in cumulative significant adverse impacts to the important and relevant resource values of the area.
- There will be no adverse impacts to cultural or historical resources.
- The selected alternative will not significantly affect endangered or threatened species or critical habitat as determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

I have reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) and have determined that the selected alternative and stipulations are adequate. Consideration has been given to all applicable resource values and the alternative chosen will not have any significant effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required to further analyze the environmental effects of Alternative 1 (Northern Expansion Area).

D. Decision

The above recommendations are approved as the decision of the Bureau of Land Management.

E. Appeals

As specified in 43 CFR 300.4 (Appeals) and 43 CFR 4.411, any party that feels they are adversely affected by this decision has 30 days from the date this decision is made available at the Wenatchee Field Office and the Spokane District Office to file an appeal. The document will also be available on the District internet site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/index.htm>. This decision is effective upon expiration of this appeals period.

/S/ Sally Sovey
Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area,
Spokane District

12/08/06
Date

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SPOKANE DISTRICT, WASHINGTON STATE**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TITLE PAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NUMBER OR-134-07-EA-002	SERIAL NUMBER WAOR 63576	DATE OF REPORT December 7, 2006
BLM RESOURCE AREA Wenatchee		COUNTY Yakima

TYPE OF ACTION

Issue a free use permit to allow expansion of an existing site primarily for rock needed in a re-regulating reservoir for water storage for fish mitigation and future canal maintenance.

APPLICANT'S NAME Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID)	ADDRESS (Include zip code) 120 South 11 th Street Sunnyside, WA 98944
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DATE(S) OF FIELD EXAMINATION

Numerous over a five year period and continuing (Latest Field Inspection 9-21-2006)

LANDS INVOLVED

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	Subdivision	Acres
T. 11 N.	R. 21 E.	Willamette	24	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	~6

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To determine the feasibility of an expansion area for rip-rap material for a SVID re-regulating reservoir project to conserve irrigation water and used in routine maintenance of SVID canals, laterals, drains, and roadways.

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I. Introduction

A. Background Information

On January 19, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wenatchee Field Office, received a phone call from Don Schramm, Assistant Manager-Operations, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) located in Sunnyside, Washington, requesting expansion of a BLM authorized borrow site. A follow-up written request (E-mail from Don Schramm dated March 22, 2006) was sent by SVID requesting expansion of their authorized existing basalt mining operations to the west of their current approved permit (FU-W-272, WAOR 57069). The primary reason for the borrow site expansion request was because the amount requested (80,000 cubic yards) was more than that authorized by BLM previously (50,000 cubic yards) so a second mineral material permit needed to be authorized by BLM for the 80,000 cubic yards of additional basalt blasted rip-rap needed for the proposed equalizing reservoir. Thus SVID is requesting an additional free use permit authorization for removal of another approximately 80,000 cubic yards of basalt from the site located in T. 11 N., R. 21 E., Section 24, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Attachment 1). See Attachments 2-5 which show vicinity, topographic, and maps of the western and northern expansion areas. Resource specialists reviewed the initial proposal and there were no wildlife or botany concerns. Native American consultation letters were sent to the Yakama Indian Nation and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for review of the project. An archaeological survey (inventory) of the proposed expansion area was conducted on August 30, 2006. Cultural resources were identified during the initial inventory (8-30-2006) that would be affected by mining, thus an alternative mining site was needed. Representatives from Roza Irrigation District (RID), SVID, and BLM met onsite on September 19, 2006 to discuss alternative mining locations. An expansion area to the north was agreed upon and a cultural resources inventory was conducted later that day of the newly proposed northern expansion area. No cultural resources were identified in the northern expansion area. A cultural resources inventory report of the Houghton Pit Expansion was finalized in October 25, 2006.

B. Need for the Proposal

The primary reason for borrow pit expansion is to provide basalt rip-rap for a proposed 23.7 Re-regulation Reservoir. The 23.7 Re-regulation Reservoir is one component of the Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project (SCIP) designed to improve irrigation water supplies and benefit Yakima Basin fish and wildlife. SCIP is supported by the Yakama Indian Nation, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Washington Department of Ecology (WADOE), and the Sunnyside Division Board of Control (SDBC), with funding provided by USBR, WADOE and Sunnyside Division (SVID is the operating agent).

C. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan

The proposed action is in conformance with the mineral materials direction in the Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1987). Page 28 of this document states: “Salable minerals, including common varieties of sand, gravel, and stone, will continue to be made available for local governments and the general public.” It further states “New material sites may be developed as needed if they are consistent with the protection of other resource values.”

D. Relationship to Existing Statutes and Regulations

Mineral material disposal is authorized by the Act of July 31, 1947 (Mineral Material Act) as amended and administered by BLM under the Federal Code of Regulations 43 CFR 3600.

II. Applicant Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Applicant Proposed Action (Western Expansion Area)

The proposed action is to issue a free use permit (FU-W-484) for a period of ten years to allow SVID to mine blasted basalt from a 300' x 600' (approximately four acres) expansion area at their Houghton Pit. All topsoil/overburden would be removed and stockpiled for final reclamation/revegetation. Operations would be to mine blasted basalt to the west (Attachment 4) of the existing authorized BLM mineral material site by first having a contractor drill and blast the basalt bedrock then rip the rock as needed with a bulldozer. The broken rock would then be loaded into SVID dump trucks with a front-end loader and hauled offsite to the reservoir site. Additional blasted basalt (rip-rap) material needed for armoring reservoir slopes is estimated at 80,000 cubic yards. SVID amended their long term mine/reclamation plan to include the proposed expansion area.

B. Alternatives Considered and Analyzed

1) BLM/SVID/RID Alternative: (Northern Expansion Area):

BLM would issue a free use permit for a period of 10 years to allow SVID to obtain mineral materials from a 500' x 500' (approximately 6 acres) northern expansion area (see Attachment 5) where no cultural resource values were inventoried. This alternative disturbs a slightly larger footprint (2 acres larger) but would also allow for additional future mineral material resources to be used by both SVID and RID for canal maintenance.

2) Purchase Blasted Basalt (rip-rap) from Commercial Sources Alternative:

SVID could obtain mineral materials from local commercial rock sources and haul to the proposed water reservoir site. SVID would need to pay a royalty for the mineral materials.

3) Mining of basalt rip-rap from another parcel (private lands, etc.):

SVID could purchase basalt rip-rap from private land owners within the vicinity. SVID would need to pay a royalty for the mineral materials.

4) No Action Alternative:

BLM would not issue a new free use permit. No material would be removed from the SVID western or northern expansion areas. SVID could continue to mine basalt rock from its existing mineral material free use permit area (FU-W-472) as authorized by BLM in 2001.

C. Other Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed

1) Roza Irrigation District Alternative:

Mine additional material from existing BLM authorized RID borrow site (FU-W-471) adjacent and to the east of SVID authorized mineral material permit site (FU-W-472).

The main reason for not considering this alternative was that SVID was trying to keep their production from the borrow site separate from basalt used by RID. SVID did not want to utilize rock or “commingle” material from RID’s portion of the existing borrow site. Also there probably was not sufficient sources in RID’s portion of the site without expanding easterly into the drainage where cultural sites may be present. Therefore this alternative was not analyzed.

2) Mine area east of the RID (FU-W-471) permit site:

Mine additional mineral materials from an area east of the existing disturbance associated with RID’s authorized permit (FU-W-471).

The main reason for not considering this alternative was that mining to the east would also intersect an ephemeral drainage similar to the situation in the applicant’s proposal (western expansion) and the likelihood of encountering additional archaeological sites was possible. Therefore this alternative was not analyzed.

III. Affected Environment

This section describes the proposed area of disturbance associated with the mineral material borrow site as current conditions exist. The affected environment is described by resource value below.

A. Physical Environment

General Setting: The subject mineral material site is located approximately 7 miles

northwest of Sunnyside, Washington (see Attachments 2-5), located in the north-central portion of section 24 in T. 11 N., R. 21 E. The mineral material site is accessible by a gravel road that heads north then northeast from Houghton Road. SVID and RID have been extracting basalt rock from this site for over twenty years. The site lies on the broad southern aspect of the Rattlesnake Hills with the Yakima River valley to the south.

Land: The basalt borrow site will be expanded into Miocene Columbia River Basalt flows. Locally the basalt is overlain by a thin (less than one foot) veneer of loess (wind blown silts). The site is relatively flat, but slopes gently up in a northerly direction.

Soils: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly SCS: Soil Conservation Service) soil survey (1985) of Yakima County indicate soils in this area consist of the Willis-Moxee Series. The specific soil type is the Willis silt loam, 8-15% slopes. It is moderately deep soil found over a hardpan, is well drained and is located in the uplands. Under the hardpan are basalts.

Air: Air quality is generally good within the vicinity of the borrow site. Some minor blowing dirt/sand from the existing borrow site (SVID & RID permits) previously disturbed areas may occur during storms (windy). There are orchard operations to the south of the area where periodic engine emissions from vehicles and spray drift from farm equipment may have minor effects on air quality. Large dairy feed operations are also located within the vicinity and depending on the wind direction may affect air quality.

Water: There is no permanent water in the vicinity of the mineral material site/proposed expansion areas, though ephemeral drainages are located to the east, west and south of the existing mineral material site. The western expansion area included the western ephemeral drainage. Water typically only flows in these ephemeral drainages during storm events or early spring snow melt runoff. Groundwater occurs at some depth at the site.

Vegetation: Vegetation in this area is generally shrub-steppe although vegetation is much degraded within the vicinity. Native species of bluebunch wheatgrass, big sagebrush and stiff sage have been replaced dominantly by noxious weeds, principally cheatgrass and Russian thistle. This area is currently grazed under a BLM lease. Repeated fire and disturbance associated with grazing in the area have reduced the vegetation community to primary cheatgrass, mustard tumbleweed, and Russian thistle.

Washington Natural Heritage location data and Sensitive Species lists were used in preparation for field evaluations. Three separate botanical field inventories were conducted for special status plants, high quality plant communities and ethnobotanical values. Those surveys were conducted in 1986 (early flowering Season), August 3, 1993 and August 23, 2001. No sensitive, threatened or endangered plant species were found or are known to occur, within the existing/proposed disturbed area associated with mineral material development.

Wildlife: Wildlife present within the vicinity may include mule deer, coyote, small mammals, chukar, grey partridge, raven, magpie, red-tailed hawk, northern harrier, kestrel, and Neotropical migrant birds such as western meadowlark, horned lark, and mountain bluebird. BLM records, the Washington Priority and Habitats and Species (PHS) database and GIS maps were reviewed and found no sensitive species record for the area. There are no records of federally listed wildlife and no suitable habitat for listed species. The disturbed nature of the surrounding plant community would support little shrub-steppe obligate wildlife because it lacks sagebrush and native plant diversity. Burrowing owls and long-billed curlews could occupy low quality habitat such as this but they have not been recently recorded in the area.

Borrow pit expansion will provide rip-rap for a proposed re-regulation reservoir, which is principally designed to improve irrigation water supplies and benefit Yakima River Basin fish and wildlife during low water flows (late summer/early fall).

Environmental Health (Hazardous Materials/Chemicals): There is currently no storage of fuels, hazardous materials or chemicals. Trucks and excavation equipment utilized by SVID and RID are kept in good working order. There has been no evidence of hydraulic fluid leaks or petroleum spills noted during routine yearly inspections of the active borrow site area.

Noise: Typical noise at the site is sounds of nature and periodic orchard traffic on agricultural lands to the south. During active mineral-related operations at the existing borrow site there would be noise from dump trucks, front-end loader and bulldozer.

Recreation: Recreation includes occasional hunting for uplands game birds and deer in the fall, although the road into the site is private and there is limited access to the BLM managed lands surrounding the mineral material site. Some off road vehicle (ORV) use was also noted during site visits.

Visual/Aesthetics: The proposed mineral material site sits on the southern aspect of the Rattlesnake Hills. From the site, principal views are to the south of the Yakima River Valley and agricultural lands. The current mineral material site is not readably visible from Houghton Road so activity at the site is currently screened.

Historic and Cultural Preservation: An onsite cultural resource inventory of the western expansion area where SVID is proposing basalt rock excavation was conducted by Anne Boyd, BLM Archaeologist on August 30, 2006. An additional cultural resources survey of the northern expansion area was conducted by Boyd on September 21, 2006. Cultural resources were identified during the inventory of the western expansion area, thus the reason for the second cultural survey of the northern expansion area. No cultural resources were identified during the onsite inventory of the northern expansion.

B. Land Status

The BLM's master title plats indicate that the surface and mineral estate are owned by the United States. There are no mining claims of record. There is no other encumbrances (i.e. rights or ways, leases, etc.) known to affect the subject property.

Primary Use of Subject Public Land: The principle land uses on the BLM parcel are open space, past removal of mineral materials for SVID and RID canal maintenance infrastructure projects, wildlife habitat and grazing. There are scattered private residences on private agricultural lands to the south of which the closest residence is about one mile southwest of the site.

- C. Social and Economic (Environmental Justice): U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census 2005) estimates that 16.9% of the families in Yakima County are living below the poverty level. This is higher than the national average of 10.2%. The Census Bureau also estimates that 39.9% of the county population is Hispanic or Latino. Most of the Yakima Indian Reservation is located within this county, and the Census Bureau estimates that 4.3% of the county population is American Indian.

IV. Environmental Consequences

A. Environmental Effects of the Applicants Proposed Action

Land: Approval of the proposed action would mean removal of additional basalt from an expansion area west of the current mineral material site (up to approximately 80,000 yards over a ten year period).

Soils: Development will most likely mean some increase in soil erosion. The sparse vegetative cover and topsoil/overburden will be removed prior to mining. During stripping and stockpiling, some soil erosion will likely occur.

Air: Dust will be generated during topsoil/overburden stripping and times of active equipment operation. There will be exhaust emissions from the drilling and excavation equipment, and haul trucks.

Water: No diversions of surface waters will be required for the proposal and there will be no surface water discharges of any kind at the site. No groundwater is proposed to be withdrawn and no waste of any kind will be discharged at the site. There are no permanent surface water resources with in the vicinity of the site.

Vegetation: Vegetation will be removed during the mining operation when shallow soils are stripped to be utilized for future reclamation. This adverse impact will be temporary depending on the reclamation plan. Although there will be a temporary loss of forage for wildlife during the duration of the permit (10 yrs plus 2 yrs revegetation), due to the small size of the current operations and proposed expansion area forage and vegetative cover loss

to wildlife will be negligible. Recent fire burned through this area, thus there is little shrub component remaining within the vicinity. Weeds such as cheatgrass and tumble mustard are prominent which provide little wildlife forage benefit.

Wildlife: Wildlife will be temporally displaced during mining. Most reptiles, birds and mammals that occur at the site now are transitory in nature so mining operations will have little impact on them during the permit period.

Borrow pit expansion will provide rip-rap for a proposed re-regulation reservoir, which is principally designed to improve irrigation water supplies and benefit Yakima River Basin fish and wildlife during low water flows (late summer/early fall).

Environmental Health (Hazardous Materials/Chemicals): Potential contaminants could be small spills of diesel fuel associated with refueling or lubricants associated with routine maintenance when equipment is on site.

Noise: There will be elevated noise levels associated with drilling and blasting, ancillary equipment, such as front-end loaders and bulldozers, and haul trucks traveling to and from the site. The closest residence to the borrow pit is about one mile to the southwest thus noise impacts from the mining operations will not likely be heard at the residence. The majority of mining activity will occur in a pit below the present ground surface, so this will somewhat buffer noise from mining and operations.

Land Use: During active operations public access will not be allowed in the borrow site for safety reasons, although the access road to the site is private so there currently is no public access to this particular BLM parcel. BLM lands surrounding the active mining operations can be accessed from access roads in the Rattlesnake Hills to the west and north of this particular parcel. After reclamation and vegetation has been re-established grazing will again be allowed. Wildlife will be able to utilize the reestablished vegetative cover for forage and cover.

Recreation: The small size of the current mineral material site (3 acres) and proposed expansion area (5 acres) will have little, if any, effect on recreational uses, which would be predominately hunting. Hunting would not be allowed during times of active mining due to safety concerns, otherwise the site would be available for hunting in the fall. Numerous other tracts of BLM lands within the Rattlesnake Hills would be open for public access and hunting.

Visual/Aesthetics: The active mining and removal of vegetation and gravel from the parcel will change the aesthetics of the area, although a majority of the mineral material site is not visible.

Historic and Cultural Preservation: An archaeological site potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Register was identified during a survey on August 30, 2006.

Expansion of the pit to the west would have an adverse effect as it would destroy the site.

Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Action (Applicants Proposal):

As part of the permit approval process BLM will require the permittee to comply to “Stipulations” as a conditions of approval or COA’s related to site operations, reclamation, and revegetation of the borrow site. Attachment 6 lists the permit stipulations.

Land and Soils: Sediment erosion (either by wind or water erosion) may occur, but sediment will be contained on site through the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) such as berms, contouring, and limiting the area of disturbed ground. Upon completion of mining operations borrow site walls would be re-sloped, topsoil applied and re-seeded. As the borrow site is depleted and grading to ultimate contours is complete, topsoil will be redistributed over disturbed areas and native seed blends applied to re-establish vegetation. Stipulation three and four (Attachment 6) address site reclamation and revegetation.

Water: Given the nature of the surrounding soils and the average rainfall in the area most storm water runoff is expected to either infiltrate directly into the soil or be contained in a low area within the borrow site. There is no surface water in the vicinity of Houghton Pit and groundwater is at some depth. Stipulation nine (Attachment 6) addresses potential hydrocarbon spills that potentially may have an effect on water resources, but given the small amounts of petroleum products used onsite this effect would be negligible.

Vegetation: After reclamation of the site (re-sloping) soils/overburden will be placed back on the reclaimed site and planted with native (grass) plant species. Reclamation may improve the condition of the site depending on the reclamation species used and weed control. Without weed control, Russian thistle, knapweed and cheatgrass may re-occur in greater abundance. Stipulations five through eight (Attachment 6) will provide successful revegetation by reseeding the site and controlling noxious weeds.

Environmental Health (Hazardous Materials/Chemicals): Stipulation 9 requires that the permittee/operator clean up any onsite accidental petroleum product spills (hazardous materials).

Noise: Construction equipment will be properly maintained and work hours will be limited to daytime hours to control noise impacts.

Visual/Aesthetics: The excavated area will be re-sloped to a final 2:1 slope. Disturbed areas will have topsoil re-applied, seeded, and mulched to promote the growth of vegetation. The permittees reclamation plan and BLM permit stipulations (3-8 & 10) require reclamation/ revegetation of the site to blend in with the surrounding landscape after mining is complete.

Historic and Cultural Preservation: A National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

eligibility determination would be made for the archaeological sites identified during the August 2006 inventory. This would be done in consultation with the Yakama Tribe of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If found ineligible for the NRHP and interested parties agree with the finding, the project would proceed as planned. If the site were found eligible to the NRHP, further consultation would take place and a mitigation plan would be developed with the affected tribes, the SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Stipulation 2 addresses the protocol for notifying BLM if any additional archaeological site(s) are discovered during operations.

Safety: The site is in a remote location. During times when no mining activity is occurring at the site a locked gate controls access to the site. The main access route to the borrow site is through private lands, so the public can not visit the area without trespassing. The permittee/operator must comply with any local, state, and federal laws/regulations related to safety onsite (Attachment 6-Stipulation 1).

B. Alternatives

1) Northern Expansion Area (BLM/SVID/RID) Compromise Alternative

This alternative is very similar to the applicant's proposed action except the expansion area would be to the north (Attachment 5) rather than to the west of the existing borrow site. The applicant's proposed action (western expansion) covers an area approximately 300' x 600' (180,000 ft² or ~ 4 acres) while this alternative (northern expansion) covers a slightly larger area 500' x 500' (250,000 ft² or ~ 6 acres). This alternative also considers mining additional rock for future canal maintenance by both SVID and RID. This alternative would include implementation of all mitigation measures and stipulations (see Attachment 6) described above for the proposed action.

A class III cultural inventory on the northern expansion was conducted on September 21, 2006. No cultural resources were located as a result of the onsite survey. The BLM has assessed the impacts of the proposed northern pit expansion project and anticipates no impacts to cultural resources as a result of this alternative (northern expansion). Permit Stipulation two (Attachment 6) describes the protocol for notifying BLM if any additional archaeological site(s) are discovered during operations.

All other impacts described for the proposed action would also occur under Alternative 1, with slight increases due to the larger area (two additional acres) of disturbance.

2) Purchase Additional Basalt Rip-Rap from Commercial Sources:

SVID could obtain mineral materials from local commercial rock sources and haul to the proposed water reservoir site. Although additional material would be taken from

the current SVID and RID Free Use Mineral Material Permit sites (FU-W-471 &FU-W-472) for annual canal maintenance operations, the additional 80,000 cubic yards of basalt rip-rap would need to be mined from another mineral material site and would have additional associated disturbance.

Within the Yakima valley area market it would likely cost several dollars per cubic yard for basalt rip-rap used for the proposed reservoir project. While SVID would use its own trucks under the proposed action and Alternative 1, acquiring material from commercial sources may require use of commercial dump truck operators. Typically commercial dump truck operators charge between \$75-\$100/hourly rate, but may be lower in this rural area. An average dump truck and pup (trailer) or belly dump truck can legally haul only 20-30 tons. Using the 30 ton haul rate, the project (80,000cy * 1.5cy/ton ~ 50,000 tons) would require approximately 1,700 truck trips, a substantial undertaking. Another option would be to utilize SVID dump trucks to haul the rip-rap from the private source. Depending on the commercial source location(s) it may be a longer haul distance (for either commercial to SVID dump trucks), since the proposed location on BLM is within five miles of the proposed reservoir site this could be a substantial savings in truck haul and fuel costs. Purchasing rip-rap from commercial sources would add a substantial cost to the SVID water reservoir project.

Regardless of mineral material site location there would still be land disturbance associated with mineral material pit development on private or other public managed lands (such as WA Dept. of Natural Resources-WADNR). There would be many of the same effects as the applicant's proposed action or the BLM/SVID/RID Alternative: such as 1) soil erosion; 2) dust; 3) emissions from mining equipment and haul trucks; 4) disturbance of vegetation; 5) displacement of wildlife; 6) noise; and 7) disruption of the landscape (visual effects).

Mitigation Measures (Purchase rip-rap from Commercial Sources):

Mining on private land (disturbance of 3 acres or more) is overseen by the WADNR. Since the rip-rap material would come from a private source BLM/SVID would not be involved with mitigation of that private site. WADNR would be responsible for any stipulations/mitigation required for mining on private lands.

3) Mining of Rip-Rap from another parcel (private lands, etc.):

SVID could purchase basalt rip-rap from private land owners within the vicinity and would likely need to pay a royalty for the mineral materials.

Regardless of mineral material site location there would still be land disturbance associated with mineral material pit development on private or other public managed

lands (WADNR) associated with commercial rock sources. There would be many of the same effects as the proposed action or BLM/SVID/RID alternative: such as 1) soil erosion; 2) dust; 3) emissions from mining equipment and haul trucks; 4) disturbance of vegetation; 5) displacement of wildlife; 6) noise; and 7) disruption of the landscape (visual effects).

Again purchasing basalt rip-rap from private or other another agency, such as the WADNR would add a substantial cost in royalties to the SVID water reservoir project.

Mitigation Measures (Mining of basalt rip-rap from another parcel):

Regardless of land ownership (public or private) SVID would utilize the same types of mitigation measures as outlined in the mitigation section of the applicants proposed action or the BLM/SVID/RID Alternative (as outlined above).

4) No Action Alternative:

If the no action alternative were selected, there would be no new additional disturbance or environmental impacts to the west or north of the existing SVID/RID borrow site. Both SVID and RID could continue to mine basalt from the authorized permitted areas on BLM managed lands for annual canal maintenance until their permits expire in 2011. Final reclamation of the existing mining operations would be performed as per mine/reclamation plans submitted previously and conditions of approval (COA's) appended to the BLM free use permit(s). Pit operations under SVID's existing permit would continue to have effects described in the "Affected Environment" Section. Other Resource Elements Analyzed

Environmental Justice: No disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations are expected to result from implementation of any of the alternatives in this EA.

C. Cumulative Effects

One other mineral borrow site is located about one-half mile west of Houghton Pit. The site is about three acres in size on private land and used intermittently by Yakima County for road maintenance. There are similar mining related impacts (i.e. noise, dust, visuals, etc.) at the Yakima County site as those at the Houghton Pit. About one mile south and west of the site are agricultural lands, predominately orchards and vineyards, which may contribute to soil erosion, dust, emissions, and noise impacts similar to those at Houghton Pit site. Agricultural operations are irrigated and dust is usually minimal. The Houghton Pit proposed expansion and agricultural lands within the vicinity may tend to displace wildlife species that previously utilized the shrub steppe habitat with wildlife more adaptable to these land uses.

V. Review, Consultation and Coordination

A. Agencies and Organizations Consulted:

On September 6, 2001, BLM Archaeologist, Steve Christy, conducted a Class III pedestrian cultural resource inventory (approx. 3 acres) of an expansion area around the existing SVID/RID authorized free use permit area (FU-W-471 & FU-W-472). No eligible historic sites or significant cultural resources were identified during the inventory (11-14-2001 Cultural Resources Survey).

On September 10, 2001, consultation and informational letters concerning the buffer areas for the original borrow site project were sent to the Yakama Indian Nation (YIN) and the State of Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). The OAHP concurred (letter dated 9-11-2001) with BLM's protocol to conduct an archaeological inventory of the proposed area of disturbance. No concerns were received regarding this particular project from the YIN and OAHP.

On June 9, 2006, consultation and informational letters concerning SVID proposed western expansion request was sent to the YIN and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP, renamed from OAHP in 2006). The DAHP concurred (letter dated 6-12-2006) with BLM's protocol to conduct an archaeological inventory of the proposed area of disturbance.

On August 30, 2006, BLM Archaeologist, Anne Boyd, conducted a Class III pedestrian cultural resource inventory (approx. 7 acres) of SVID's "western expansion" proposal. This cultural resource survey located a site, thus changing the expansion to the north (Alternative 1) to avoid impacts to the site. On September 21, 2006, BLM Archaeologist, Anne Boyd, conducted a second Class III pedestrian cultural resource inventory (approx. 8 acres) of the "northern expansion" area. A total area of 15 acres was surveyed. The Cultural Resources Survey report covering both the western and northern proposed borrow site expansion areas was completed on October 25, 2006. No eligible historic sites or significant cultural resources were identified in the northern expansion area (10-25-2006 Cultural Resources Survey). No comments were received from the YIN. A letter to OAHP with a copy of the cultural resources inventory report was sent on October 25, 2006. OAHP concurred with BLM's findings.

B. Databases Consulted:

The following databases were utilized to review for known cultural resources and threatened and endangered (T&E) plant and animal species for the proposed project area:

- State of Washington-Department of Fish & Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Database (Updated December 2002).

- State of Washington-Department of Natural Resources-Washington Natural Heritage Plant Database (Updated March 2003).
- State of Washington Dept. of Archaeology and Historical Preservation Site Database (Updated September 2003)

VI. Persons, Groups and Agencies Consulted

BLM Representatives

Rich Bailey	- Spokane District Archaeologist
Pam Camp	- Spokane District Botanist
Brent Cunderla	- Wenatchee Resource Area Geologist
Jim Fisher	- Wenatchee Resource Area Manager
Neal Hedges	- Wenatchee Resource Area Wildlife Biologist
Scott Pavey	- Spokane District Environmental Coordinator
Kevin Kane	- Wenatchee Resource Area Botanist
Joe Kelly	- Spokane District Fisheries Biologist
Anne Boyd	- Spokane District Archaeologist

Others Consulted

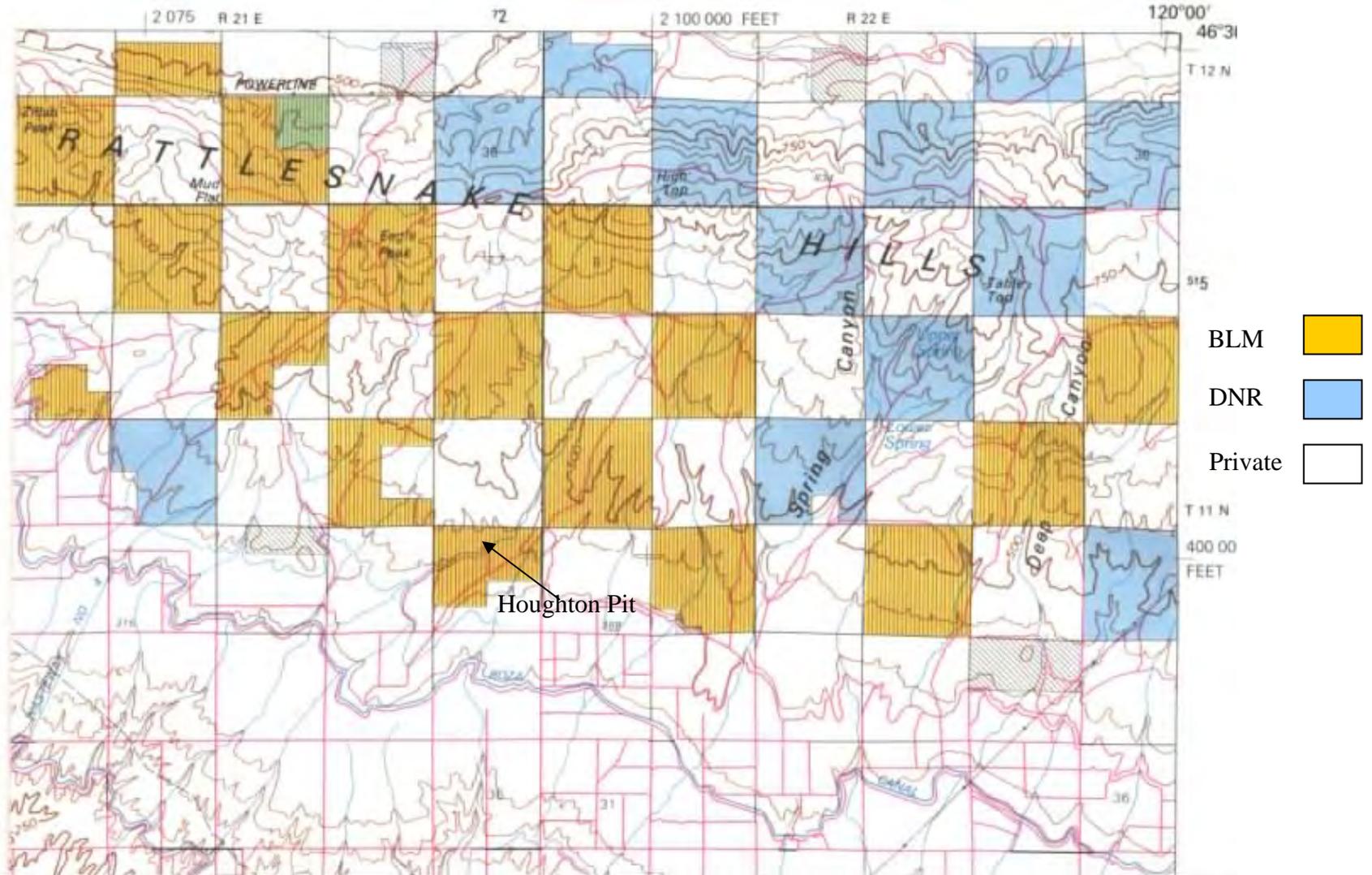
Lavina Washines	- Yakama Indian Nation
Johnson Meninick	- Yakama Indian Nation-Cultural Resources Program
Kate Valdez	- Yakama Indian Nation-Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Phil Rigdon	- Yakama Indian Nation-Director, Natural Resources
Dr. Allyson Brooks	- State of Washington-Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Robert Whitlam	- State of Washington-Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Don Schramm	- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
Ken Ott	- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
Tim Collett	- Roza Irrigation District

VII. References

Lenfesty, C.D., 1985, *Soil Survey of Yakima County Area, Washington*. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Washington State University Agricultural Research Center.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, *2005 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights: Yakima County, Washington*. U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau. Internet Web site: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSSAFFacts?_event=Search&_lang=en&_sse=on&geo_id=05000US53077&_county=Yakima%20County. Accessed on November 29, 2006.

Attachment 1



Map showing location of Houghton Pit (Borrow Site).

Attachment 2



T. 11 N.

R. 21 E.

Houghton Pit (Borrow Site)
Vicinity Map – USGS 7.5 Minute Series (1:24,000)
Map shows Current Operations noted as “Gravel Pit”.

Attachment 3



City Limits
Sections

WWW.YAKIMAP.COM
Yakima County GIS
128 N 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
(509)674-2990



One Inch = 5280 Feet

Feet 2500 5000 7500

11/8/06
Don [Signature]

SVID

MAP AND PARCEL DATA ARE BELIEVED TO BE ACCURATE, BUT ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED; THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A TITLE SEARCH, APPRAISAL SURVEY, FLOODPLAIN OR ZONING VERIFICATION

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Printed On: 11/8/2006 9:15:25 AM

Photo shows SVID/RID Current Operations (Houghton Pit) and Location of Proposed Re-regulation Reservoir Site (23⁷).

Attachment 4



Applicants Proposed Action
Photo shows Current Operations and SVID proposed western expansion area.

Attachment 5

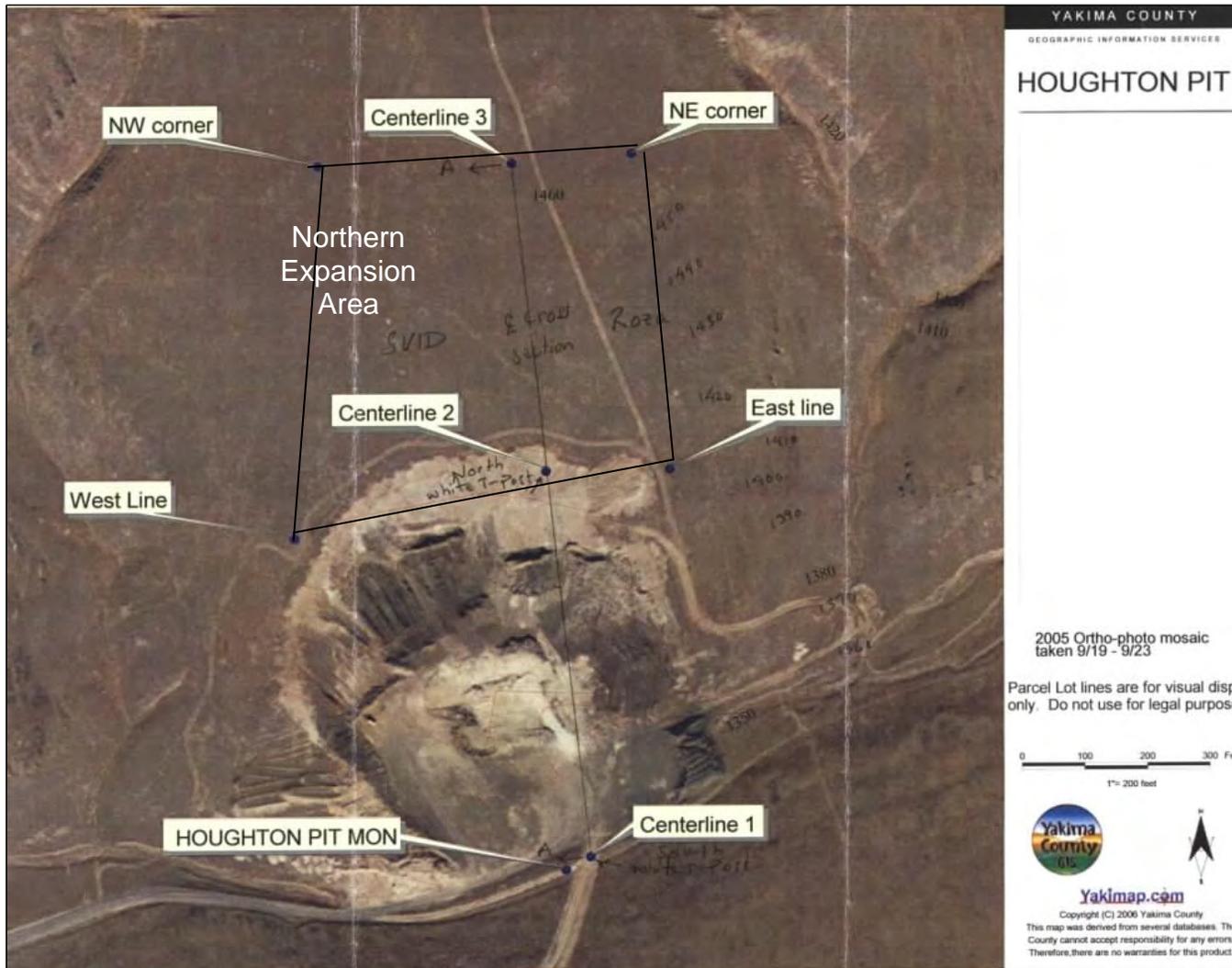


Photo showing Northern Expansion Area
Photo shows proposed borrow site expansion north of the existing Houghton Pit.
(EA Alternative 1)

Attachment 6

STIPULATIONS FOR FREE USE PERMIT FU-W-484

1. Permittee will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations with regard to fire, health and safety hazards.
2. The operator/permittee must halt work if any cultural/archaeological feature greater than fifty years in age is encountered during material removal. The BLM office must be notified immediately of any discovery, and work in the area may not commence until the Designated Officer from BLM provides approval.
3. Any topsoil encountered during mining operations needs to be stockpiled for final reclamation of site. After excavation, removal site(s) will be contoured to as close to natural topography as possible or as indicated in the Mine/Reclamation plan, backfilled partially if necessary, topsoil replaced and reseeded.
4. Prior to seeding, plow, disk, or disturb the soil in such a manner as to alleviate soil compaction caused by heavy equipment traffic. If broadcast seeding is utilized, seed must be evenly spread over the surface and raked or chained (incorporated) into the soil. All disturbed areas must be reseeded.
5. Seed mix recommendations for reclamation are as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Seeding Rate</u> (lbs *PLS/acre)
Secar bluebunch wheatgrass	10
Sherman Big Blue	4

*PLS - Pure Live Seed

To convert PLS to actual pounds of seed to be applied per acre, use the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{lbs of PLS required per acre}}{\% \text{ purity of seed} \times \% \text{ germination of seed}} = \text{Actual seeding rate in lbs.}$$

6. Seed use for reclamation shall be certified weed free.
7. If the first attempt at seeding does not prove successful, subsequent reseeding will be required until suitable revegetation is achieved.
8. The permittee will take appropriate action to prevent the infiltration and/or spread of noxious weeds.
9. In the event that any oils, petroleum products (hazardous materials) used during operations, are accidentally spilled onsite, they will be immediately cleaned up along with any contaminated soil and rock material and disposed of in an approved disposal site.
10. The permittee will contact the BLM Authorized Officer when reclamation has been completed and revegetation has been re-established on the site(s) to conduct onsite inspection(s).
11. Prior to the termination of the permit, permittee will leave the surface in a safe and stable condition to the satisfaction of the BLM, as per permit stipulations, mine/reclamation plan and applicable regulations in effect at that particular time.