Operating and Reclamation Plan
Venture Stone, LLC
795 Ulm Vaughn Road
Great Falls, MT 59404

Venture Stone, LLC Corporate Information

Corporate Officer
Don M. Jacobs, President
3953 Parkwood Dr.
Billings, MT 59106

I. Operating Sites

This plan covers operations at a total of six sites, including five mining sites and a milling site. The site locations and details are shown in Appendix A. Figure A-1 shows the locations of Sites 1 through 5, and Figure A-2 shows the location of Site 6. All of the sites are in Cascade County.

Site 1 is on properties owned by the Dean M. Jacobs Trust and by Dean Jacobs. This site covers a total of 954.55 acres, broken down as follows: Dean M. Jacobs Trust, 715.15 acres, and Dean Jacobs, 239.4 acres. Site 1 is located in Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29 of Township 18 N, Range 4 E.

Site 2 is on properties owned by Norman J. Lorang, by John Dennis and Beverly Jean Kohut, and by Thomas E. and Dorothy M. Lorang. The total area covered by this site is 5114.78 acres, broken down as follows: Norman J. Lorang, 3646.33 acres; John Dennis and Beverly Jean Kohut, 1108.45 acres; and Thomas E. and Dorothy M. Lorang, 360 acres. Site 2 is located in Sections 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 of Township 18 N, Range 3 E.

Site 3 is owned by Thomas E. Lorang and covers 962.56 acres. Site 3 is located in Sections 20, 28, 29, 30, and 32 of Township 18 N, Range 4 E.

Site 4 is on land owned by Thomas E. Lorang and jointly by Thomas E. and Carol J. Lorang. The total area of this site is 755.82 acres, broken down as follows: Thomas E. Lorang, 598.24 acres; Thomas E. and Carol J. Lorang, 157.58 acres. Site 4 is located in Sections 33 and 34 of Township 18 N, Range 4 E, and Sections 3 and 4 of Township 17 N, Range 4 E.

Figure A-3 is a map of Sites 1 through 4, showing ownership of the various parcels. Figure A-4 is a USGS topographic map of Sites 1, 3, and 4, and Figure A-5 is a USGS topographic map of Site 2.

Site 5 is owned by John C. and Julia McCafferty. This site's total area is 2185.09 acres. Site 5 is located in Section 32 of Township 18 N, Range 6 E, and Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, and 19 of

Township 17 N, Range 6 E. Figure A-6 is a map of Site 5 showing property ownership, and Figure A-7 is a USGS topographic map of the site.

Site 6 (the mill site) is an industrial site on Lots 1 and 2 of the Phillips Subdivision located at 795 Ulm Vaughn Road, Great Falls. This site was previously the truck and equipment parking, shop, and office site of Phillips Construction Company of Great Falls. The total area of Site 6 is 38.96 acres. Site 6 is shown in Figures A-8 (aerial photo) and A-9 (USGS Topographic map).

On sites 1, 2, 3, and 5, mining is excluded within a 1000 ft radius of any dwelling on those sites or on neighboring land. (There are no dwellings on or near Site 4.) Table 1 shows the area of each site, the excluded areas, and the net areas to be permitted for disturbance. Figures A-10 and A-11 show the excluded areas where the 1000 ft circles intersect the mine sites.

There is no excluded area on Site 6, which is an industrial site. No mining will conducted on this site, but rock cutting and palleting will be performed there. Facilities on Site 6 include a shop building to be used for rock cutting operations, an office building, and a gravel-surfaced parking lot. There is also a small shed on the site. Pallets of rock products will be stored outdoors at the site.

Table 1. Total permit acreages of Sites 1 through 6 and the net areas to be permitted for disturbance.

Site No.	Total Area (ac)	Excluded Area (ac)	Area to be Permitted for Disturbance (ac)
1	954.55	72	882.55
2	5114.78	215	4899.78
3	962.56	67	895.56
4	755.82	0	755.82
5	2185.09	108	2077.09
6	38.96	0	38.96*
Totals	10011.76	462	9549.76

* Site 6 is a pre-existing industrial site and as such will not be reclaimed to an undisturbed condition. The existing buildings and parking area will remain after mining is finished.

1. The following are the names and addresses of owners of record as listed by the Montana Cadastral Database.

   Site 1

   Dean M. Jacobs Trust
   273 Calvert Road
   Stockett, MT 59480-9724

Dean Jacobs
273 Calvert Road
Stockett, MT 59480-9724

Site 2

Norman J. Lorang
337 West Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8411

John Dennis and Beverly Jean Kohut
799 West Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8328

Thomas E. and Dorothy M. Lorang
1350 Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8354

Site 3

Thomas E. Lorang
1350 Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8354

Site 4

Thomas E. Lorang
1350 Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8354

Thomas E. and Carol J. Lorang
1350 Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8354

Site 5

John C. and Julia McCafferty
1386 Tiger Butte Road
Belt, MT 59412-8204

Site 6

Venture Stone, LLC
1391 Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-8321

2. The names and addresses of owners of record of all land within ½ mile of any part of the Permit Area, as listed by the Montana Cadastral Database, are in Appendix B.

3. Owners of Mineral Rights

   Mineral rights on all properties within these Sites are vested in the landowners.

4. Applicant's Legal Right to Mine

   Venture Stone LLC has lease agreements with the landowners on all mining Sites. Copies of these agreements may be found in Appendix C.

5. Certification of Compliance

   Venture Stone LLC is a corporation solely owned by Don M. Jacobs, the corporation's President. Mr. Jacobs is not currently in violation in this state of any law, rule, or regulation of this state or of the United States pertaining to air quality, water quality, or quarried land reclamation.

II. Pre-quarry Baseline

1. Location and Topography

   The locations and topography of the sites are shown in Appendix A, as explained in detail in Section I above.

2. Present Land Use and Past Quarrying Disturbance

   The land in Sites 1 through 5 is ranch land, primarily used for pasture and crops. Several farmsteads (residences and other buildings) are also on these sites. (Mining will not be conducted within 1000 ft of any residence.)

   Site 6 is an industrial site that formerly was the headquarters, shop, and truck and equipment parking area for Phillips Construction Company before being purchased by Venture Stone, LLC.

   There is no significant past quarrying or other mining disturbance on any of the sites.

3. The locations, total depths, and uses of water wells in and within 1000 ft of the mining sites are listed in Appendix D.

4. Water Table

   The estimated depths of the water tables for the mining sites, as obtained from Montana's Ground Water Information Center (GWIC) well logs, are listed in Ta-

ble 2. The maximum depth of quarrying will be one foot. Quarrying activities will not intercept the water table at any time.

Note that GWIC lists developed springs on and near Site 2. No mining will be performed within 100 ft of any spring.

Quarrying will be performed primarily on and near ridgelines, since the surface sandstone occurs in those areas. There may be wetlands near the local streams, but no mining will occur in those areas.

Table 2. Estimated depths to water table on mining sites based on well logs.

Site	Estimated Depth to Water Table (ft)
1	630
2	42 to >580
3	60 to 354
4	87
5	207
6	18

5. Surface Water

Site 1: There are only ephemeral drainages on this site.

Site 2: Ming Coulee flows through Sections 27 and 28 in Site 2. The Smith River is slightly more than two miles west of the western boundary of Site 2.

Site 3: Site 3 contains only ephemeral drainages. Ming Coulee is ¼ mile south of the southern boundary of Site 3.

Site 4: Site 4 contains two unnamed ephemeral drainages. Ming Coulee is 1/8 mile from the southernmost boundary of Site 4.

Site 5: Box Elder Creek and the Eastern Fork of Sand Coulee Creek flow through this site. Neil Creek approaches within ¼ mile of the eastern boundary of Site 5.

Site 6: The northeast corner of Site 6 is about 800 ft from the Sun River. An ephemeral drainage crosses the northwest corner of the site.

6. Soil material

Appendix E contains the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) maps for the areas of the permit sites.

All of the sites are dominated by silty clays, silty loams, silty clay loams, and/or stony loams.

Sites 1, 3, and 4 are considered together along with their immediate surroundings because considering them individually would require zooming the map area in to a closer scale than 1:24000. For accuracy the Soil Survey maps must include a significant land area for accurate calculation of soil percentages.

Sites 1, 3, and 4 contain a variety of soils. The most common are the Absarokee Clay Loam (29.3% of the area), the Darret-Castner Complex (silty clays and silty clay loams — 19%), the Bitton and Roy Soils (stony loams — 18.5%), and the Timberg-Big Timber Complex (silty clays — 11.7%).

Site 2 is dominated by the Bitton and Roy Soils (35.9%) and the Absarokee Clay Loam (30.3%).

On Site 5 the most common soil is the Loggert Extremely Stony Loam (26.3%), followed by the Work Clay Loam (15.9%) and the Monad Loam (10.9%).

Site 6 is mostly in the Kobar Silty Clay Loam (~ 70%). Most of the rest of the site is covered by the Marias Silty Clay (~ 24%). The Site 6 map does not cover a wide enough area for the most desirable accuracy, but the uncomplicated nature of the soils near the Sun River makes the close-in map desirable.

7. Vegetation

The following vegetation data are taken from the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP), a service of the Montana State Library

Site 1

Vegetation ecosystems on Site 1 consist primarily of

- Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie,
- Cultivated Crops, and
- Pasture/Hay.

There are also minor acreages of

- Introduced Vegetation — Upland Annual and Biennial Forbland, and
- Great Plains Shrubland.

The *Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie* is common in the eastern two thirds of Montana. It has an average growing season of 115 days. Climate is typical of mid-continent regions. Grasses make up most of the canopy cover, and western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is dominant. Other species include thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), green needlegrass (*Masella viridula*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comate*). In north-central Montana near the Canadian border, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoen-*

sis) and rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*) become more dominant. Forb diversity is typically high. In areas where this ecosystem grades into Big Sagebrush Steppe, plant associations may include Wyoming big sagebrush-western wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentate* ssp. *wyomingensis/Pascopyrum smithii*).

Great Plains Shrubland is found from southern Alberta through northern Montana, typically at elevations from 4000 to 5000 ft. It is commonly found on mesic sites with moderately shallow or deep, fine to sandy loam soils. It is commonly found on slopes near breaklands on the edges of coulees or on upper stream terraces. It differs from the Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie in having shrub cover more than 10%. Shrubs include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* species), silver buffaloberry (*Sheperdia argentia*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa* ssp. *floribunda*), silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutate*), and horizontal rug juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*). Silver sage (*Artemisia cana* ssp. *cana*) shrublands may occur may occur on flat alluvial deposits on floodplains, terraces, or benches and on alluvial fans.

Introduced Species — Upland Annual or Biennial Forbland is a disturbed system where land cover is significantly altered by introduced annual or biennial forbs. Dominant species may be noxious weeds (knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, etc.) or other introduced species such as yellow sweetclover, pepperweed or other non-noxious forbs.

Pasture/Hay includes grazing land and hayfields but not irrigated alfalfa or other farm crops, which are classified as *Cultivated Crops*.

Site 2

Site 2 consists mostly of

- Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie,
- Great Plains Shrubland,
- Cultivated Crops,
- Pasture/Hay, and
- Very minor acreages of Introduced Vegetation — Upland Annual and Biennial Forbland.

These plant communities are described under Site 1 above.

Site 3

Site 3 consists mostly of

- Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie,
- Great Plains Shrubland.
- It also contains minor Human Land Use — Low Intensity Residential.

Human Land Use — Low Intensity Residential includes areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation, such as rural residential locations. Impervious surfaces account for 20-50% of total cover. Paved roadways may be classified into this category.

Site 4

Site 4 consists mostly of

- Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie and
- Pasture/Hay.

It also contains very small acreages of

- Great Plains Shrubland and
- Introduced Vegetation — Upland Annual and Biennial Forbland.

Site 5

Site 5 *consists* primarily of

- Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland,
- Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie, and
- Pasture/Hay.

There are also minor acreages of

- Big Sagebrush Steppe,
- Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, and
- Great Plains Shrubland.

Three of these ecosystems have been discussed above. The others are defined here.

Big Sagebrush Steppe occurs in central Montana in locations with typically deep, non-saline soils, commonly with a microphytic crust. Overall shrub cover may be as low as 10% or as high as 25%. This system is dominated by perennial grasses and forbs with greater than 25% cover. Most (50% to 90%) of these occurrences in central Montana are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush and western wheatgrass. If Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicas*) or cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) are present, they are indicators of disturbance. The natural fire regime of this ecosystem maintains a patchy distribution of shrubs. Shrubs may increase as a result of overgrazing or fire suppression. Prairie dog towns are common in this ecosystem.

Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland is found at lower montane to foothill elevations (1800 to 5400 ft). They are similar to Big Sagebrush Steppe but are characterized by shorter summers, colder winters, and young soils derived from recent glacial and alluvial material. In the lower montane zone they occur as small meadows to large parklands surrounded

by conifers. In foothill and valley environments they occur as more extensive grasslands. Soils tend to be deep, fine-textured with or without coarse fragments, and non-saline. Microphytic crusts may be present. Cool-season bunchgrasses and forbs (> 25% cover) are typical, with sparse shrub cover (< 10%). Rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*) and/or Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) are generally dominant or co-dominant. Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoegneria spicata*) also occurs commonly as a co-dominant species, especially on xeric sites. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is present, commonly with >10% coverage at lower elevations. Species diversity is high except on xeric or disturbed sites. Most occurrences of this ecosystem have at least 25 species of vascular plants present.

Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland is an ecosystem that occurs at elevations between 2000 ft and 5500 ft in Montana east of the Divide. It is a system dominated by trees with a diverse shrub component. It depends on a hydrologic regime with at least episodic, if not annual flooding, so it is primarily found in riparian locales. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) is the key indicator species. Other dominant trees may include boxelder maple (*Acer negundo*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), or Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Dominant shrubs include Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), river birch (*Betula occidentalis*), redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus* species), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), willows (*Salix* species), rose (*Rosa* species), silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), or snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* species).

Site 6

Site 6 has been mapped by the Montana Natural Heritage Program as a mixture of Cultivated Crops on its upper, more level portion and Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie along the ephemeral drainage in its northwest corner. This mapping is somewhat out of date, since the shop building was built in 1998. The Mixedgrass Prairie designation for the northwest corner is still valid, but the rest of the site is developed ground and might best be termed "former cropland."

Noxious Weeds

Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4 have infestations of whitetop (*Cardaria draba*) in the pastures and leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) especially on higher ground. Sites 5 and 6 do not have significant weed infestations.

8. Wildlife

The following information was gathered from the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP), a service of the Montana State Library.

Sites 1 through 5 are in rural areas and tend to harbor large mammals as well as small ones. Elk, moose, and badger are examples. Site 5 is also in an area that may be frequented by gray wolves, mountain goats and wolverines, although no sightings of these animals have been reported on that specific site. (The MNHP map for the habitats of these species has a resolution of 1° of latitude or longitude, i.e., roughly ± 50 miles.)

Other large mammals that are more tolerant of human presence are reported at or near these sites and also near Site 6, which is in a suburban area. These animals include coyotes, bobcats, black bears, mountain lions, mule deer, and whitetail deer.

The Great Falls area is home to several species of bats, which may frequent or inhabit all six sites. These include the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), the fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*); the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), the long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), the long-legged myotis (*Myotis Volans*), the spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum* — summer only), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), and the western small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*). The silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) has a year-round range that includes Sites 1 through 5.)

Endangered Species

The five mining sites and the processing site do not contain habitat for any of the five listed endangered species in Montana (black-footed ferrets, least terns, pallid sturgeons, white sturgeons, or whooping cranes).

Threatened Species

Neither the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) nor the grizzly bear (*Ursus* arctos) has been reported in Cascade County, according to the MNHP. The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) only has habitat in eastern Montana. The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) has no habitat in north central Montana; its northernmost known habitat is in Gallatin County. The bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentis*) has no known occurrences in Cascade County.

Sage Grouse

The greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is the focus of a state conservation program promulgated under Executive Order 12-2015 aiming to protect the species and to obviate any need for listing as a Threatened or Endangered Species. Certain protective restrictions would apply to any mining activities proposed for locations in Sage Grouse Core Habitat, General Habitat, or in a Con-

nectivity Area. None of these habitats occur in Cascade County. Figure A-12 in Appendix A is the map of sage grouse habitat developed under EO 12-2015.

9. Geology

The rock to be mined at all five sites is sandstone from the Cretaceous Kootenai Formation. On Sites 1 through 4 the rock is from the Upper Kootenai, and at Site 5 the rock is from the Lower Kootenai. Both of these bodies of rock are non-reactive and free of significant amounts of sulfide. The rock shows no sign of iron staining or other effects of chemical weathering. The rock is not capable of producing acid, toxic, or other pollutive effluents.

As detailed below in the Operating Plan section, only surface rock-picking will be performed on the five mining sites. The maximum depth (i.e., the maximum thickness of the surface rocks that will be harvested) will be about ten inches. There will be no pit or highwall produced. No crushing or blasting will be done at the sites.

10. Archaeological and Historic Values

The Montana State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) has done file searches on all private lands included in this Amendment application and has reported no cultural resources listed on these sites other than roads from the 1930's and later. Those roads are on private land and are still in use by the ranchers. Copies of the SHPO file search report, the Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography, and the Cultural Resource Information System list are attached in Appendix F.

If, in the course of mining, unlisted archaeological or historical resources are found, the Operator will

- provide appropriate protection for archeological and historic values found in the permit area, and
- route operations around a site of discovery, promptly notify SHPO (406-444-7715), and leave the site undisturbed until proper evaluation is made.

Personnel Informed

The operator will inform all necessary on-site personnel, including subcontractors, of the commitments made herein.

11. Additional Information

The Kootenai Formation sandstone to be taken is located on and near ridgelines in Sites 1 through 5. There will be no mining operations in riparian areas or elsewhere in stream valleys.

III. Operating Plan

1. Quarrying, Road Construction, and Soil Material Handling

Mining on sites 1 through 5 will consist of harvesting surface sandstone rocks, mostly lichen-encrusted ("moss rocks") of the Cretaceous Kootenai Formation. As stated above, these rocks do not produce any acidic, toxic, or other pollutive effluents. The rocks to be harvested are flat, with a thickness of eight to ten inches (8-10 in). The depressions left by rock removal will be less than 1 ft deep.

Surface rock will be removed using hand tools or with an excavator or backhoe and transported to a palleting/staging area using a skid-steer loader. The palleted rock will then be loaded onto trucks for shipping offsite. Truck traffic will be confined to existing ranch roads, which will remain after mining is completed. No new roads will be constructed.

Because only surface rock will be collected and no soil will be removed, and because there will be no roads to be reclaimed, there will be no soil stockpiling. Only light-weight equipment will be used in off-road areas.

Also because only small surface rocks will be collected, no highwall or open pit will be produced.

No mining will be done on Site 6, which is a processing facility. Site 6 will be the site of rock cutting, re-palleting, and shipping.

2. Rock Collecting Sites

The locations of Sites 1 through 5 are shown in Appendix A. Most rock removal will take place on or near ridges, since the Kootenai Formation sandstone only occurs on higher ground on Sites 1 through 5.

3. Expected Starting Date of Operations

Venture Stone wishes to start operations as soon as possible, but in any case by August 1, 2016.

4. Water Management

Little or no water will be used in operations. The main potential use of water would be for dust control during reclamation. Any water that is needed will be hauled in from off-site or obtained from the landowners.

5. Water Protection

- Operator will inspect and maintain all fuel storage tanks parked or set on-site (if any) to prevent spillage; immediately retrieve and properly dispose of any spilled fuel, lubricants, or hydraulic fluid or contaminated materials; and report any spill that reaches State waters or exceeds 25 gallons to the Department.
- Accumulation of stagnant water to the extent that it would serve as a host or breeding ground for mosquitos or other disease-bearing or noxious insect life in the mining area will be prevented.
- No mining will be done within 100 ft of any spring or the typical seasonal high-water mark of any perennial stream.
- Incidental runoff from disturbed areas will not be allowed to reach any stream.

6. Dust Management

   Dust is not expected to become a problem during mining, since no road construction, blasting, stripping, or crushing will be performed at the mining sites, and because rock collection will be kept remote from residences. During reclamation there will be plowing or scarification of the soil surface and possibly a small amount of regrading. If dust becomes a nuisance under these circumstances, the surface will be wetted to suppress dust.

   Furthermore, since there will be no incinerator or generator, there will not be any sources of chemical air pollution on the mining sites.

7. Weed Control

   The Cascade County Weed Control Plan will be complied with and will be used to manage noxious weeds on Sites 1 through 6.

8. Rock Stockpiles

   Rock will be palleted for shipment. No cutting, splitting, or other processing will be performed at the mining sites (Sites 1 through 5). There will be little or no waste rock. Quarried rock that is not suitable for sale as decorative rock will be used on-site by the landowners, for example as fill, or will be hauled off and sold for use as aggregate, clean fill, or other use.

9. Solid Waste Disposal

   The operator will prohibit on-site disposal of solid wastes. Trash and garbage will be hauled off-site for proper disposal.

10. Public Safety

    Public Safety: All normal access points will be signed to prohibit public entry. Note that, since there will be no open pits, highwalls, or other ground hazard, the

purpose of the access control is to keep the public away from trucks and other machinery.

11. Socioeconomics

The numbers of employees will vary seasonally, especially at the mining sites. The numbers of full-time equivalent workers (FTE's), averaged over the year, will be four at the mining sites and three at the mill site.

12. Fire Protection

Fire protection will be typical of construction sites, primarily relying on fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers are to be located in support and load-out facilities, where they are to be mounted on posts in obvious locations as per MSHA requirements. Fire extinguishers are also carried on all trucks and mounted on all mobile equipment.

Venture Stone requires all employees, contractors, and subcontractors to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations and all local fire ordinances and shall take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires within the areas of operations. In the event of a fire, whether or not it has started in a mining area, the landowner and local fire department will be notified.

IV. Reclamation

1. Land Use After Quarrying

On Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 the land will continue to be used as pasture after quarrying is finished. The roads are already in use by the ranchers, and they will remain. As stated above, no new mine roads will be built. Note that there will be no highwalls and no open pit.

Site 6 is to remain an industrial site. The plan is to sell it to a trucking or construction company. The office building and shop will remain.

An alternate plan would be to sell Site 6 as horse property. The shop could easily be converted to a horse barn, there are about thirty acres suitable for pasture, and there is a domestic well on site. The office building could serve as a residence until the buyer built a permanent residence.

2. Grading and Revegetation

The maximum depth of disturbance will be a foot or less. Where needed, the disturbed ground will be restored to grade. Only local soil will be used. (Given the small amount of surface disturbance, there is no reason to import any fill material of any kind.) The ground will then be scarified and planted with the vege-

tation mix listed in Table 3 or an alternate mixture specified by the landowner and approved by DEQ.

Table 3. Reclamation Soil Mix

Seeds per square foot	*Species*	*lb/acre*
40	Critana thickspike wheatgrass	11
20	Secar bluebunch wheatgrass	6
20	Lodorn green needlegrass	5
10	Sandberg bluegrass	0.5
10	Annual ryegrass	2
	Total	24.5

Since reclamation will be concurrent, seeding will take place in a season that allows for planting as soon as possible after quarrying is complete. This could be spring or fall, as long as sufficient moisture is available.

3. Road Reclamation

There will be no roads to reclaim. Pre-existing ranch roads will be left in place.

4. Site Protection and Management

Disturbances will be discontinuous, i.e., ground will generally only be disturbed where rocks are removed. Livestock will be kept away from reclaimed ground until reclamation is achieved.

5. Concurrent and Final Reclamation

Operator will

- Keep reclamation as concurrent with quarrying operations as possible.
- Grade, scarify, and seed or plant an area no longer needed for quarrying activities within one year of the cessation of such activities on that area.
- Complete final reclamation by the date given in the application form or apply for an amendment to complete reclamation by a later date.
- Give a reasonable estimate of the month and year by which final reclamation will be completed.

V. Other

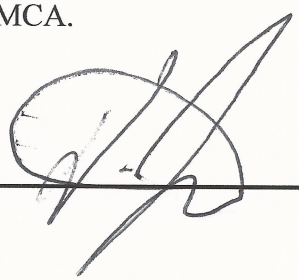
1. Archaeological and Historical Values

See II.10 on page 11.

2. FAQ

Answers to frequently asked questions may be found in Appendix G.

I certify that the statements and information given apply to the Venture Stone Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and that this plan will be followed unless modified by revision or amendment as provided for in 82-4-337, MCA.



Signature 7/1/16 Date