

# Friends of the Jocko



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FriendsoftheJocko.org

## Basic Facts

Proposed Asphalt Pit & Gravel Pit  
Arlee, MT. Sept. 2, 2022

- **Where would the project be located, and who is proposing it?**
  - The Marvin Rehbein Pit (permit #3415) is located just over a mile North of Arlee in western Montana.
  - Riverside Contracting, Inc. is proposing it on the Rehbein Ranch, on the east end of White Coyote Road.
- **Who is overseeing this proposal?**
  - The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the lead agency for the permitting process: [deqopencut@mt.gov](mailto:deqopencut@mt.gov)
- **What is being proposed?**
  - The permit would allow a million cubic yards of gravel to be mined, crushed and removed, and an asphalt plant.
- **What is the scope of the operation?**
  - The permit is for 157 acres -- almost a quarter section of land, 1/2 mile on a side. for a period of 20 years.
- **How would the gravel and/or asphalt be transported?**
  - The operation could haul up to 80,000 gravel truck loads down White Coyote Road to get to US-93.
  - White Coyote is a narrow, sub-standard Lake County road over a mile long that is not designed for heavy truck traffic.
  - The road is a school bus route and is also used to move farm machinery. Bicyclists, pedestrians and horse traffic also use White Coyote Road. Shoulders are inadequate to safely accommodate existing uses and heavy truck traffic.
  - The route abuts the Garden of 1,000 Buddhas, 1/2 mile west of the project site. The Garden will suffer from dust, noise, and traffic congestion. Ewam members and visitors' ability to enjoy the Garden will be diminished.
- **What sort of impacts are expected?**
  - The project would negatively affect the environmental, social and cultural values of the surrounding area.
  - Surface and subsurface water would be adversely affected. A major aquifer underneath the site drains into the Jocko River, and Pellew Creek runs through the location. Adjoining wells could be polluted and dewatered and contamination from fuel spills could easily reach the Jocko River.
  - There are many springs within a mile that may be impacted. Those springs feed the headwaters of Spring Creek and the Fish Hatchery, which is less than a mile away on the Jocko River.
- **Who will be impacted?**
  - This proposal, if permitted, will impact not just people who live nearby, but also native wildlife like deer, elk, bear, mountain lions, wolf, coyote, bald eagles, raptors, sandhill cranes, and many other migratory birds and animals.
  - Fish and other aquatic life in the Jocko River and Spring Creek could be impacted if the pit's water impoundments fail, or overland flooding were to breach the location.
  - This proposal is a mile from Arlee Public Schools, and the students there will be impacted from air and noise pollution.
  - The whole Jocko Valley will be impacted by air pollution, increased traffic congestion and safety issues.
  - The Jocko Valley could be subject to increased industrial development pressure if the Montana DEQ approves this permit. It is a foot-in-the-door to further industrial developments.
  - Folks who live closest to the pit will suffer a taking of their property values and reduced health. Agriculture, rural lifestyles and tribal culture will be harmed by pollution, noise and light.
- **What about my rights?**
  - We all have the Constitutional Right in Montana to a clean and healthful environment.
  - We have the Constitutional Right to meaningful participation, which has been impeded by the State.
  - There are Tribal Treaty Rights under the Hellgate Treaty of 1855.
- **What can I do?**
  - You can help Friends of the Jocko by donating to our cause. We already are incurring extensive legal fees.
  - Visit our website to find information about this proposal and how to file comments against it.