Section 17.24.306

ATTACHMENT A

Prime Farmland Designation

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
747 Third Street West
Hardin, MT 59034
(406) 665-3442

April 6, 2006

Spring Creek Mine
Attn: John Lucas
PO Box 67
Lakeshore Drive
Decker, MT 59025

Dear John,

I have attached a map showing farmland classification based on the mine ownership. I included a list of the soils you typically find in this part of Big Horn County. Specifically, the list of soils is those found in your project area.

The soils list also includes whether the land is considered prime farmland or not. The map is dominated by land that is not prime farmland. If irrigation could occur on some of the soils types, it would then be considered prime farmland. Since irrigation is not likely to occur your project area has no prime farmland.

I hope this is the type of information you were looking for. Call me if you have any questions.

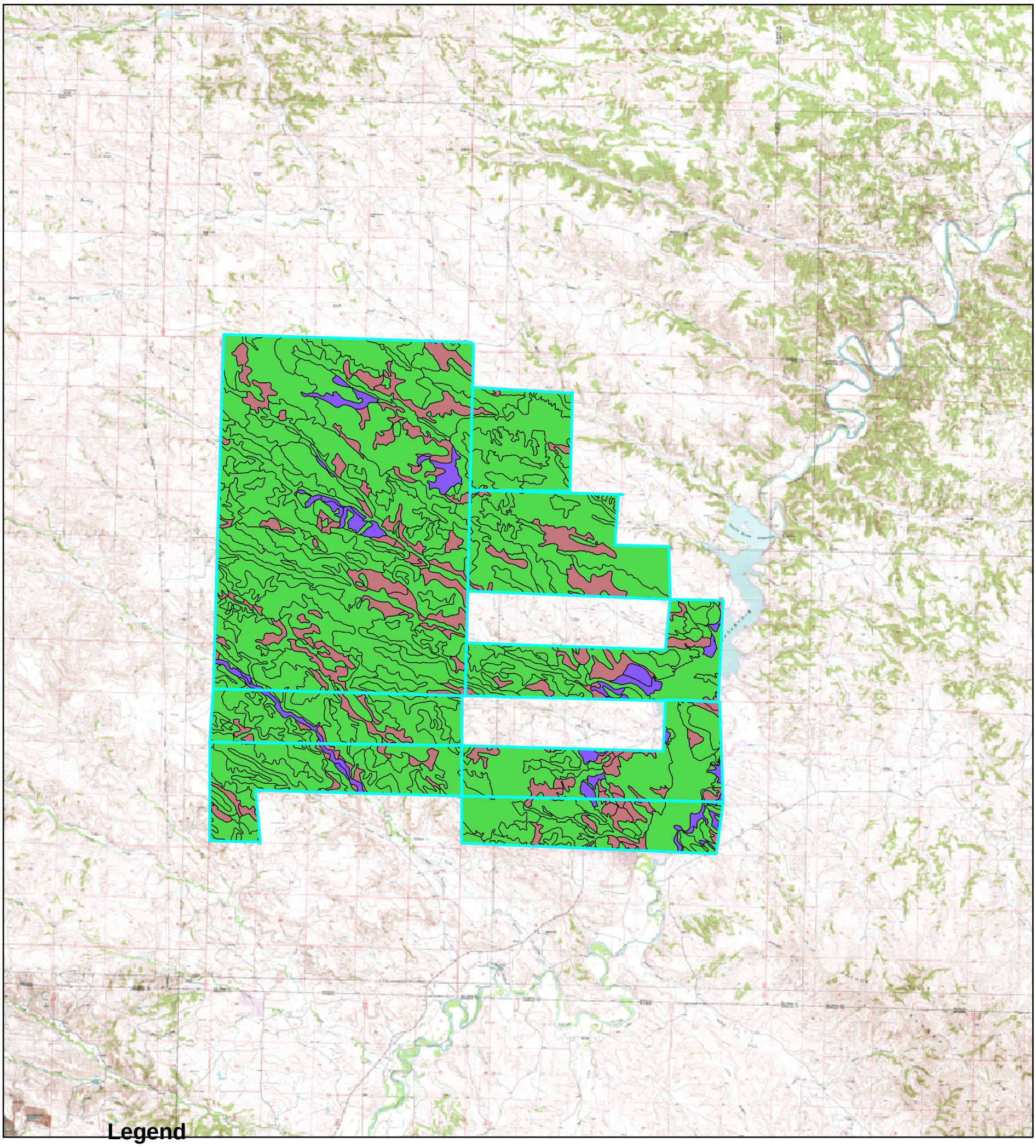
Jodi

JODI HASTINGS
District Conservationist

cc: Garth French

Farmland Classification

Field Office: HARDIN SERVICE CENTER
Agency: NRCS



Legend

Farmland Classification

{NAN, <}

- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Not rated or not available
- Consplan3

Image: DRG_MT003.SID

8,900 0 8,900 17,800 26,700 35,600 Feet

N

Farmland Classification

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary
Tie-break Rule: Lower

Big Horn County Area, Montana
Survey Area Version and Date: 2 - 10/13/2004

Map symbol	Map unit name	Rating
Ce	CHERRY SILTY CLAY LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Cf	CHUGTER LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
CG	CHUGTER COMPLEX, 2 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
CH	CLAPPER-HARVEY COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
CK	CLAPPER-MIDWAY COMPLEX, HILLY	Not prime farmland
Cz	CUSHMAN LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
Fk	FORT COLLINS LOAM, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Fm	FORT COLLINS LOAM, 4 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Gh	GLENBERG FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Hfa	HAVERSON LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Hfb	HAVERSON LOAM, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
HGa	HAVERSON AND GLENBERG SOILS	Prime farmland if irrigated
HGb	HAVERSON AND LOHMILLER SOILS, CHANNELED	Not prime farmland
Hla	HELDT SILTY CLAY LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Hlb	HELDT SILTY CLAY LOAM, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Hlc	HELDT SILTY CLAY LOAM, 4 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Hld	HELDT SILTY CLAY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
Hlg	HELDT-HYSHAM SILTY CLAY LOAMS, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
Hna	HYDRO LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
Hnf	HYDRO SILTY CLAY LOAM, 2 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
Hng	HYDRO-ALLENTINE COMPLEX, 1 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
KR	KORCHEA AND FRAZER SOILS, WATER TABLE	Prime farmland if irrigated
LD	LAVINA-TRAVESSILLA LOAMS, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
Lo	LOHMILLER SILTY CLAY LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
LV	LOHMILLER-MIDWAY SILTY CLAY LOAMS, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
Mp	MCRAE LOAM, 0 TO 1 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Mr	MCRAE LOAM, 1 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Ms	MCRAE LOAM, 4 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Mu	MIDWAY SILTY CLAY LOAM, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
MVa	MIDWAY SILTY CLAY LOAM, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
MVb	MIDWAY SILTY CLAY LOAM, HILLY	Not prime farmland
MVc	MIDWAY-LISMAS COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
MVe	MIDWAY-THEDALUND COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
MVf	MIDWAY-THEDALUND COMPLEX, HILLY	Not prime farmland
Nd	NELSON FINE SANDY LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
Ne	NELSON-ALICE FINE SANDY LOAMS, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
NF	NELSON-GLENBERG SANDY LOAMS, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
On	OLNEY FINE SANDY LOAM, 4 TO 12 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
Ph	PIERRE CLAY, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
PN	PIERRE-LISMAS CLAYS, HILLY	Not prime farmland

Farmland Classification

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary
Tie-break Rule: Lower

Big Horn County Area, Montana
Survey Area Version and Date: 2 - 10/13/2004

Map symbol	Map unit name	Rating
Re	RENOHILL SILTY CLAY LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
REb	REEDER-RENTSAC COMPLEX, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
Rfc	REGENT SILTY CLAY LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
Sef	SAVAGE-WAYDEN SILTY CLAY LOAMS, 4 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES	Not prime farmland
Sg	SEARING LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
SOc	SHALE OUTCROP-MIDWAY COMPLEX, STEEP	Not prime farmland
Sp	SHONKIN CLAY LOAM	Not prime farmland
St	SPEARMAN LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
SU	SPEARMAN-WIBAUX COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
TCa	TERRACE ESCARPMENTS, GRAVELLY	Not prime farmland
TCb	TERRACE ESCARPMENTS, LOAMY	Not prime farmland
Td	TERRY FINE SANDY LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
Tg	THEDALUND LOAM, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
THb	THEDALUND-CUSHMAN LOAMS, UNDULATING	Farmland of statewide importance
THc	THEDALUND-FORT COLLINS COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
THd	THEDALUND-MCRAE LOAMS, DISSECTED	Not prime farmland
THe	THEDALUND-MIDWAY COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
THg	THEDALUND-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, HILLY	Not prime farmland
THk	THEDALUND-TRAVESSILLA LOAMS, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
THl	THEDALUND-WIBAUX LOAMS, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland
THm	THEDALUND-WIBAUX COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
THn	THEDALUND-WIBAUX STONY LOAMS, HILLY	Not prime farmland
THo	THEDALUND-WIBAUX COMPLEX, VERY STEEP	Not prime farmland
Tk	THURLOW SILTY CLAY LOAM, 0 TO 1 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Tm	THURLOW SILTY CLAY LOAM, 1 TO 4 PERCENT SLOPES	Prime farmland if irrigated
Tn	THURLOW SILTY CLAY LOAM, 4 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES	Farmland of statewide importance
To	THURLOW-MIDWAY SILTY CLAY LOAMS	Not prime farmland
Tp	TOLUCA-HARVEY COMPLEX, UNDULATING	Prime farmland if irrigated
TS	TRAVESSILLA-THEDALUND LOAMS, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
Tu	TULLOCK LOAMY FINE SAND, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
W	WATER	Not prime farmland
WI	WAYDEN-REGENT SILTY CLAY LOAMS, HILLY	Not prime farmland
Wp	WIBAUX LOAM, HILLY	Not prime farmland
Wr	WIBAUX-SPEARMAN COMPLEX, ROLLING	Not prime farmland
Wy	WINNETT COMPLEX, UNDULATING	Not prime farmland

Farmland Classification

Rating Options

Attribute Name: Farmland Classification

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Aggregation is the process by which a set of component attribute values is reduced to a single value to represent the map unit as a whole.

A map unit is typically composed of one or more "components". A component is either some type of soil or some nonsoil entity, e.g., rock outcrop. The components in the map unit name represent the major soils within a map unit delineation. Minor components make up the balance of the map unit. Great differences in soil properties can occur between map unit components and within short distances. Minor components may be very different from the major components. Such differences could significantly affect use and management of the map unit. Minor components may or may not be documented in the database. The results of aggregation do not reflect the presence or absence of limitations of the components which are not listed in the database. An on-site investigation is required to identify the location of individual map unit components.

For each of a map unit's components, a corresponding percent composition is recorded. A percent composition of 60 indicates that the corresponding component typically makes up approximately 60% of the map unit. Percent composition is a critical factor in some, but not all, aggregation methods.

For the attribute being aggregated, the first step of the aggregation process is to derive one attribute value for each of a map unit's components. From this set of component attributes, the next step of the aggregation process derives a single value that represents the map unit as a whole. Once a single value for each map unit is derived, a thematic map for soil map units can be generated. Aggregation must be done because, on any soil map, map units are delineated but components are not.The majority of soil attributes are associated with a component of a map unit, and such an attribute has to be aggregated to the map unit level before a thematic map can be rendered. Map units, however, also have their own attributes. An attribute of a map unit does not have to be aggregated in order to render a corresponding thematic map. Therefore, the "aggregation method" for any attribute of a map unit is referred to as "No Aggregation Necessary".

Tie-break Rule: Lower

The tie-break rule indicates which value should be selected from a set of multiple candidate values, or which value should be selected in the event of a percent composition tie.