

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV284.96
March 21, 1996

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Health & Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Wildlife Division
Regional Supervisor
Legal Unit, Bridgett Erickson

Parks Division
Enforcement, Karen Zackhiem
Lands Section

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Montana Department of Livestock, Game Farm Applications, 301 Roberts, Helena 59620
Donald Kern, Program Director, Montana River Action Network, PO Box 383, 30 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, 59624
Flathead County Commissioners, Flathead County Courthouse, 800 S. Main, Kalispell, 59901
Dennis & Beverly Rasmussen, 210 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, 59901
Roger & Pat Allick, 2520 Farm to Mkt Rd., Kalispell, 59901
Mark S. Tracy, 2602 Borregas Dr., Aptos, CA 95003
Pete Viano, 255 Rosewood Dr., Kalispell, 59901
Derril Dern, 1390 Farm to Mkt Rd., Kalispell, 59901
Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, 59901-7215
Kevin Buettner, 285 Browns Rd., Kalispell, 59901
Tony Jewett, Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1174, Helena, 59624
Herb Johnson, 63 Hawthorne Ave. Apt. 2, Kalispell, 59901
Rep. William E. Boharski, 1433 Fifth Ave. W., Kalispell, 59901-5521
Sen. Bob Brown, 333 Cougar Trail, Whitefish, 59937
Flathead Co. Library, 247 First Ave. E., Kalispell, 59901

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Dennis & Beverly Rasmussen, Greenwood Corporation, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until Monday, April 22, 1996. Please direct you questions or comments to Game Warden Brian Sommers at the above address and phone number. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

/nb
Enclosure

EA-CVRGF.LTR
3/96

Flathead

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. GAME FARM LICENSE APPLICATION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park's authority to regulate game farms is contained in sections 87-4-406 through 87-4-424, MCA and ARM 12.6.1501 through 12.6.1519.

1. Name of Project: Greenwood Corporation

Application Date: 12/06/95

2. Name, Address and Phone Number of Applicant(s): Dennis & Beverly Rasmussen, 210 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 257-7719

3. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: March 1, 1996

Estimated Completion Date: May 1, 1996

Is this an application for expansion of existing facility or is a future expansion contemplated? Application for expansion of an existing game farm.

4. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township):

N½, SE¼, NW¼ and S½, SE¼, NW¼ Sec. 29, T29N, R22W, Flathead County

5. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential..... ___ acres
industrial..... ___ acres

(d) Floodplain... ___ acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Areas.... ___ acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland. ___ acres
dry cropland..... ___ acres
forestry..... ___ acres
rangeland..... 40 acres
other..... ___ acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas..... ___ acres

6. **Map/site plan:** attach a copy of the map submitted with the application (an 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map) showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

Site plan will comprise of the use of his existing holding and quarantine facilities. Applicant will only have to move his current exterior fence outward. Applicant would also like to develop this addition so that his pivot line can be used to irrigate this expansion.

7. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action:**

Applicant wishes to expand his game farm so that he will have a square 160 acres. This expansion will allow the applicant to utilize a 40 acre piece of rangeland/dry cropland that is unproductive at this time due to the lack of water. Operation purposes and benefits will remain the same.

8. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction:**

(a) **Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department of Livestock	Game Farm	

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
--------------------	-----------------------

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Department of Livestock	

9. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

1. State Historic Preservation Office
2. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			x			
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		x				
e. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

1.b. A slight increase in compaction may result due to increased grazing levels. However, runoff or erosion is not perceived to be a problem due to the gentle terrain. Irrigation of 25 of the 40 additional acres will actually increase productivity and soil moisture levels.

NO ACTION:

Nearly the same as the proposed action.

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?		x				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		x				2.b.
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
e. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

2.b. Applicants have no plans to increase herd size. Only want to increase available for grazing. No objectionable odors noted are noted at the present herd size. Increased area for bison and elk will decrease opportunity for objectionable odors to develop.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		x				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		x				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		x				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?			x			
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		x				
i. Violation of the Montana non-degradation statute?		x				
j. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
k. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		x				
l. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?	x					
m. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

3.g. The applicants plan to irrigate approximately 25 of the 40 additional acres from a center pivot located on their personal property. The amount of water used annually by the applicants for irrigation purposes will likely increase 20-25% from current rates of use.

3.l. It is assumed the increased use of groundwater will not violate any existing water allocations. Applicants are currently not limited by the amount of water they may pump from their well.

NO ACTION:

3.g,l. Not irrigating the additional acreage would result in a small savings of groundwater.

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species?			x			
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		x				4.6.
f. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

4.a. Irrigation will increase the abundance and productivity of existing grass species. Plant communities are not expected to change.

NO ACTION:

Range conditions would remain unchanged.

COMMENTS:

4.e. Applicants have a history of effectively controlling weeds on their own property. Weed control would be extended to the leased property. The abundance of weeds on the leased property would probably decrease from current levels.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?			x			
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?						
h. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

5.a. The proposed action will remove 40 acres of moderate density white-tailed deer winter range from available use. Elk and black bear use in the area occurs, but is considered infrequent. The removal of 40 acres within the larger area of remaining white-tailed deer habitat surrounding the game farm is considered minor.

NO ACTION:

The exclusion of white-tailed deer and other game animals from the project area would not occur.

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PROVIDE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Wildlife use of the area and potential for through-the-fence contact with game farm animals (consider year-around use, traditional seasonal habitat use, and location of travel routes and migration corridors).

The proposed expansion is in a moderate density white-tailed deer winter range. Elk and black bear use in the area is infrequent but does occur. Wild elk could be attracted to the site, especially when game farm cow elk are in estrous. Coyotes are common in the area and could potentially make contact with captive elk. Through-the-fence contact may be rare but could be expected between game farm animals and wild ungulates and/or predators.

Disease and parasite transmission can occur via nose-to-nose, nose-to-other body parts, nose-to-soil and vegetation along the fenceline. White-tailed deer, native elk, black bears and coyotes may move along the fence perimeter. They could come in contact with game farm elk food, feces, soil, or actual body parts.

The risk of through the fence contact can be reduced if: 1. salt hay and feed are kept to the interior of the game farm and game farm animals are not fed along the fence perimeter; 2. if game farm operators use commonly accepted sanitation measures and remove excess feed, dead animals or other wildlife attractants to an area not accessible to wildlife; and 3. the game farm operator regularly patrols fences to determine if any wild game animals are gaining access to the game farm. If fence integrity appears to be a problem, additional fence requirements may be necessary.

Potential for escape of game farm animals or ingress of wildlife (consider site-specific factors that could reduce the effectiveness of perimeter fences built to standards outlined in Rule 12.6.1503A, including steepness of terrain, winter snow depths/drifts, susceptibility of fences to flood damage, etc.).

The 40 acre addition falls on gentle 5-10% slopes in open habitat with few trees around the perimeter. The aspen and ponderosa pines that will be near the fenceline are of a fairly low height, reducing the chance of windthrow. However, because of the presence of trees within and around the pastures, windthrow of trees onto the fence is a possibility.

Snow levels are expected to be 1-2 feet in the proposed addition. Minimal drifting is expected due to the protected aspect.

Proportion (percent) of the total habitat area currently used by wildlife that will be enclosed or otherwise impacted.

Displacement of Game Animals: The proposed addition will displace white-tailed deer from 40 acres of existing year-round and winter range habitat. This is a very small proportion of existing white-tailed deer winter range or year-round habitat in the area. This impact may translate into removing winter habitat for 1-2 white-tailed deer and is considered minor. Similarly, the proposed project will effectively remove 40 acres of occasional habitat for elk. This impact is considered negligible. The proposed expansion will not block any significant migration corridors but may cause minor changes in local deer movements.

Displacement of Nongame Animals: The project area may see an increase in the abundance of species often associated with livestock or suburban developments such as house sparrows, cowbirds, starlings, magpies and Columbian ground squirrels. Many forest edge species such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, western bluebirds, robins, kestrels and tree swallows which may already use the project area will continue. These impacts would be similar under the No Action Alternative.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		x				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		x				
c. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects of Noise Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		x				
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				
d. Conflict with any existing land use that would be adversely affected by the proposed action?		x				7.d.
e. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				
f. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

7.d. Acreage that would be fenced and irrigated is currently of very low productivity. An attempt to grow cereal crops on a portion of the area several years ago was unsuccessful. Since then the area has been left fallow.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Risk of dispersal of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to chemicals, pathogens, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?				x	x	8.a.
b. Creation of any hazard or potential hazard to domestic livestock?		x				
c. Creation of any hazard or potential hazard to human health?		x				
d. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

The potential risk is that if the game farm animals were to carry or become infected with a debilitating wildlife disease such as tuberculosis or meningeal worm, that contact with wild animals (e.g. through-the-fence, nose-to-nose, nose-to-soil, escape, or ingress) could release this disease into wild animal populations.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION: The potentially significant impacts of the proposed action can be mitigated through the measures listed below (see comments). By taking these actions the potentially significant impacts then become minor.

NO ACTION:

These impacts would not occur on the area proposed for addition.

COMMENTS:

8.a. The following recommended game farm management practices will help to reduce ingress/egress or other contact with wild animals:

1. All fences must be constructed according to minimum standards prescribed in ARM 12.6.1503A and be inspected and approved by qualified FWP and DOL prior to their use or according to standards in place at the time of construction.
2. Storage of hay, feed and salt away from exterior fences and within enclosed containers and buildings. No feeding of game farm animals along the perimeter fence.
3. The use of generally accepted sanitation practices of removing dead animals, fecal material and waste feed to an area not used by humans, domestic animals or wild animals.
4. The consistent and frequent inspections of fence perimeter to insure its integrity with respect to trees, burrowing animals, predators, and other game animals.
5. The reporting of ingress of any wild game animals (within 5 days) or the escape of any game farm animals and the reason how or why the ingress or egress was achieved. This information will help both the applicant and FWP address such incidents and help insure that the contact between game farm and wild animals are eliminated or at least kept to a minimum.
6. If fence integrity or ingress becomes a problem, adjustments to fence requirements including double fencing, electrification, or increased height may become a necessary requirement.

7. Maintain regular testing for disease and inoculation of all game farm animals as required by Montana law.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Changes in historic or traditional recreational use of an area?		x				
f. Changes in existing public benefits provided by affected wildlife populations and wildlife habitats (educational, cultural or historic)?		x				
g. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		x				
h. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. A need for new or altered government services (specifically an increased regulatory role for FWP and Dept. of Livestock)?		x				
b. A change in the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		x				
d. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	Will the proposed action result in:	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		x				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				11.b.
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings?		x				
d. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

11.b. Neighbors and others appear to enjoy having bison and elk nearby. The fencing of additional acres will not expose new neighbors to the game farm operation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		x				12.a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		x				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
d. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

NO ACTION:

COMMENTS:

12.a. The State Historic Preservation Office has responded that no cultural, archeological or historical sites are known to occur on the proposed project area. The lack of water reduces the potential for unknown sites.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	POTENTIAL IMPACT				CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATED	COMMENT INDEX
	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?				x	x	13.b.
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements or any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?			x			
e. Other: _____						

PROPOSED ACTION:

One of the most controversial issues is that the fence will be breached and that game farm elk and wild game animals will interact, exposing wild game populations to disease. This can be mitigated through the recommended mitigation measures outlined below:

ALTERNATIVE ACTION: The potentially significant impacts of the proposed action can be mitigated through the measures listed below (see comments). By taking these actions the potentially significant impacts then become minor.

NO ACTION:

No change to the habitat is anticipated.

COMMENTS:

- 13.b.
- All fences must be constructed according to minimum standards prescribed in ARM 12.6.1503A and be inspected and approved by qualified FWP and DOL prior to their use or according to standards in place at the time of construction.
 - Storage of hay, feed and salt away from exterior fences and within enclosed containers and buildings. No feeding of game farm animals along the perimeter fence.

3. The use of generally accepted sanitation practices of removing dead animals, fecal material and waste feed to an area not used by humans, domestic animals or wild animals.
4. The consistent and frequent inspections of fence perimeter to insure its integrity with respect to trees, burrowing animals, predators, and other game animals.
5. The reporting of ingress of any wild game animals or the escape of any game farm animals and the reason how or why the ingress or egress was achieved. This information will help both the applicant and FWP address such incidents and help insure that the contact between game farm and wild animals are eliminated or at least kept to a minimum.
6. If fence integrity or ingress becomes a problem, adjustments to fence requirements including double fencing, electrification, or increased height may become a necessary requirement.
7. Maintain regular testing for disease and inoculation of all game farm animals as required by Montana law.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

2. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

a. Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)

No.

b. Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?

Yes. The potential risk is that if game farm animals were to carry a debilitating wildlife disease such as tuberculosis or meningeal worm and come into contact with wild animals, this could release the disease into wild animal populations.

3. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative Action: The potentially significant impacts of the proposed action can be mitigated through the measures listed below. By taking these actions the potentially significant impacts then become minor.

No Action: The No-Action Alternative would result in no changes to the habitat of the 40 acres of the proposed addition. The No-Action Alternative would also not result in the exclusion of game animals from the 40 acres of habitat.

4. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

These following measures should reduce risk of contact with game farm animals with wild animals and the risk of ingress/egress problems as well:

1. All fences must be constructed according to minimum standards prescribed in ARM 12.6.1503A and be inspected and approved by qualified FWP and DOL prior to their use or according to standards in place at the time of construction.
2. Storage of hay, feed and salt away from exterior fences and within enclosed containers and buildings. No feeding of game farm animals along the perimeter fence.
3. The use of generally accepted sanitation practices of removing dead animals, fecal material and waste feed to an area not used by humans, domestic animals or wild animals.
4. The consistent and frequent inspections of fence perimeter to insure its integrity with respect to trees, burrowing animals, predators, and other game animals.
5. The reporting of ingress of any wild game animals or the escape of any game farm animals and the reason how or why the ingress or egress was achieved. This information will help both the applicant and FWP address such incidents and help insure that the contact between game farm and wild animals are eliminated or at least kept to a minimum.
6. If fence integrity or ingress becomes a problem, adjustments to fence requirements including double fencing, electrification, or increased height may become a necessary requirement.
7. Maintain regular testing for disease and inoculation of all game farm animals as required by Montana law.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

A review of the license application and the elements of this environmental review indicate that the potential for conflict in the social and physical environments is extremely low.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

The proposed addition to an existing game farm is 40 acres. Given the relatively small size and FWP's belief that the threat of animals escaping, ingress and possible disease transmission can be reduced through suggested mitigation measures to a level below significant impacts, an EIS is not required for this application.

2. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances? (At a minimum, all EAs must be MADE available to the public through the State Bulletin Board System.)

Upon completion of the EA, a notice will be sent to adjoining landowners, the local newspapers, and other potentially affected interests, explaining the project and asking for input during a 21-day comment period.

3. Duration of comment period if any: 20 days

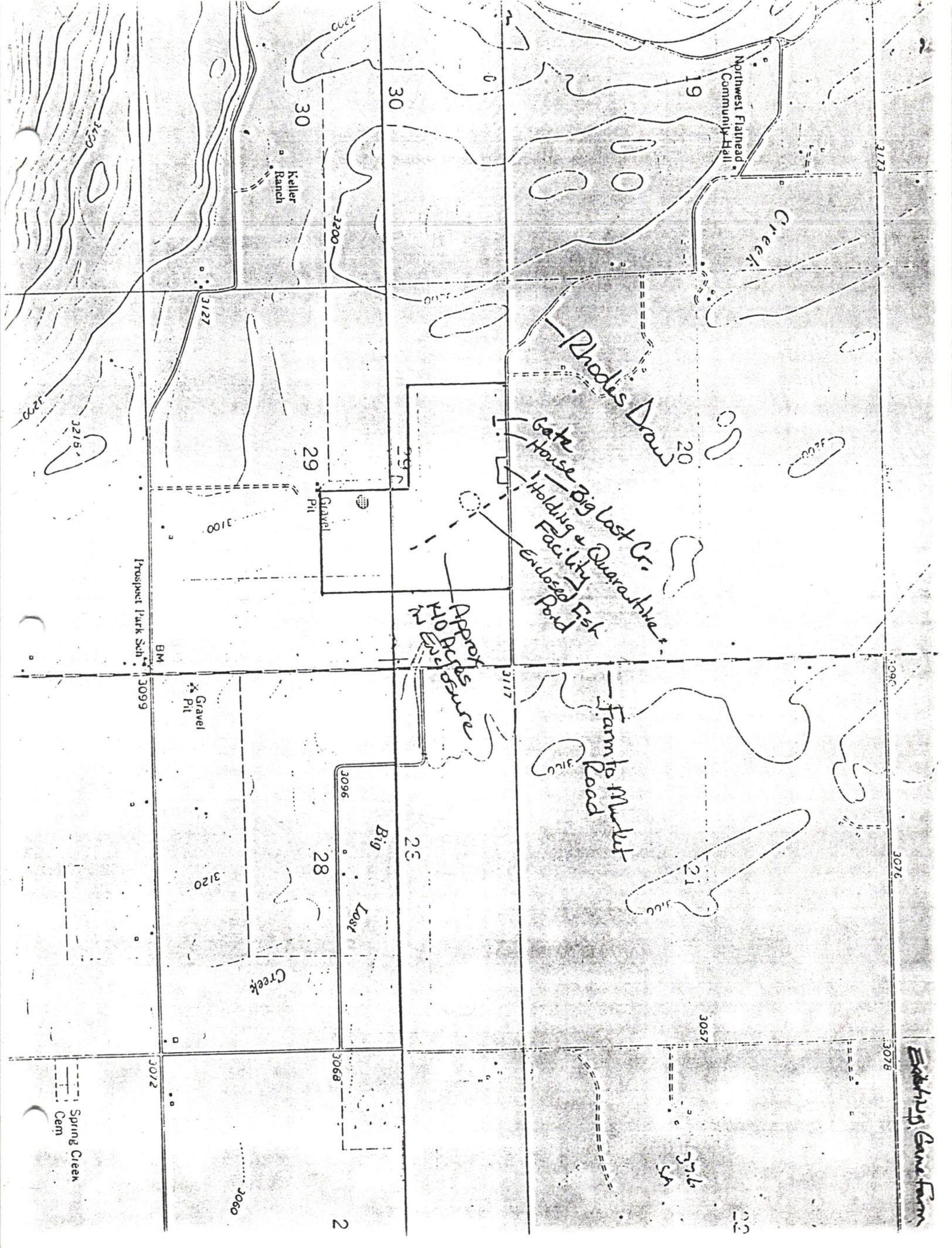
4. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Game Warden Brian Sommers
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4562

Wildlife Biologist Tim Thier
P. O. Box 507
Trego, MT 59934
(406) 882-4697

REF:RASMUSSEN.EA
02/20/96

GAFARMEA.FRM
Rev. 12/95



Northwest Flathead
Community Hall

Keller
Ranch

Creek

Rhodes Draw

Gate House - Big Lost Cr.
Holding & Quarantine
Facility
Enclosed Pond

Approx.
110 Acres

Farm to Market
Road

Prospect Park Schl
BM

Gravel
Pit

Spring Creek
Cem

Existing Game Farm

19

30

30

29

20

25

Big
Lost

28

Creek

21

22

2

3096

3068

3120

3127

3060

3215

3200

3200

3173

3096

3076

3078

3117

3057

316

92079 08320

EXHIBIT A

TRACT 1:

That portion of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, Section 20, Township 29 North, Range 22 West, Flathead County, Montana described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4; thence along the North line of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 South 89°20'50" East, 400.00 feet; thence South 0°39'11" West, 400.00 feet; thence South 0°03'36" East 896.20 feet to the North line of Rhodes Draw, a 60 foot County Road; thence along the North line of the road North 89°58'08" West, 795.02 feet to the West line of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4; thence along the West line North 0°03'39" West, 1294.87 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Parcel B of Certificate of Survey No. 8993.

TRACT 2:

The North Half of the Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter, the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, all in Section 20, Township 29 North, Range 22 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana.

TRACT 3:

The North Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, the North Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, and the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, all in Section 29, Township 29 North, Range 22 West, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana.

RETURN TO: Peter J. Viano
255 Rosewood Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901-3442

2 SOUTH TWENTYS

STATE OF MONTANA.

County of Flathead

Recorded at the request of CIE
this 19 day of MARCH 1992 at 8:52 o'clock A and recorded in
the records of Flathead County, State of Montana.

Fee \$ 12.00 PD.

RECEPTION NO. 9207908320

RETURN TO

Susan M. Weaver
Flathead County Clerk and Recorder
Dwain Robinson
Deputy