

Misc

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS Region 6, Migratory Bird Stamp Project

Project Name: Skoyen-DNRC Wetland Restoration

Proposed Implementation Date: 5/2002

Proponent: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Type and Purpose of Action: This project involves restoring a 33-ac wetland north of Chinook, MT. The wetland was originally ditched years ago to deliver water into a livestock watering pit on adjacent private property. By filling in this ditch, the livestock pit will likely be dried up during most years. To mitigate for the loss of water, we are proposing to develop a well which would provide water to both the School Trust land and adjacent deeded property via a watering tank along the fence line.

Estimated costs are as follows

- fill in ditch = \$500
- drill and case well - \$23/ft X 500' = \$11,500
- power to well - \$1250/300ft X 600' = \$2,500
- pump, tank, electrical hook-up, misc. setup = \$1,200

Total estimated cost = \$15,700

Partner commitments follows

- Ducks Unlimited = \$3,750
- USFWS Partners For Wildlife = \$3,750
- Landowner/lessee = \$1,200 (i.e. tank, elec., pump, misc. setup)
- State Migratory Bird Stamp = \$6,500
- Cooperative agreement for dirt work = \$500*

*The actual dirt work necessary for restoring the wetland will be part of a bid package handled by Ducks Unlimited through a cooperative agreement with FWP Migratory Bird Stamp Program and USFWS Partners for Wildlife.

A map of the project site can be requested from Rick Northrup, Wildlife Biologist at 406-654-1341.

Location: Project area is in Blaine County, MT; T35N R18E Sec 36: 11 miles north-northwest of Chinook

County: Blaine

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	We have worked with the lessee and adjacent landowner (both Duane Skoyen) and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to achieve an agreement which works for both parties. Additional funding was acquired from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Duane Skoyen.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	DNRC is responsible for administering the State School Trust land on which the drained wetland is located.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Action Alternative No Action Alternative	The (preferred) Action Alternative is as described under "Type and Purpose of Action". The No Action Alternative would maintain the status quo. That is, the 33-acre wetland would not be restored and the benefits gained from the project would not

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be achieved.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4.GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[n] This project would result in returning a wetland-type soil to its original natural moisture regime.
5.WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[n] This project will restore the natural hydrology.
6.AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[n]
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[n] This project would restore a natural wetland habitat type with its associated plant life.
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[y] This wetland would provide excellent temporary wetland habitat for migrating and breeding shorebirds and waterfowl.
9.UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?	[y] Under the present condition, this site does not provide wetland habitat. However, once the drainage ditch is plugged, the wetland will be restored to its natural condition, providing wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife and plant species.
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[n] At present we do not expect there to be significant cultural resources. The actual fill borrow site will be reviewed by a certified archaeologist prior to completing the project.
11.AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[n] This site will provide aesthetic value to passersby on the adjacent county road.
12.DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[n]
13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other	[n]

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
studies, plans or projects on this tract?	

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[n]
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[n] The actual construction work and well-drilling will provide temporary income for local businesses. The well will provide a consistent source of water for livestock.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[n]
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[n]
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[n]
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[n]
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[y] There are hunting opportunities in the project area. Sharp-tailed grouse and pronghorn commonly frequent this area. The wetland project is not expected to provide additional hunting opportunity but will result in increased waterfowl production in the area.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[n]
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[n]
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[n]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[n]

EA Checklist Prepared By: Rick Northrup, Wildlife Biologist

Date:

IV. FINDING:	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By: _____

Name

Regional Supervisor

Title