

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252{PRIVATE }

{PRIVATE } CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Badland Tree & Landscaping, Inc. - Commercial Sign on State Land LUL #3199	Proposed Implementation Date: December 15, 2003
Proponent: Badland Tree & Landscaping, Inc. - C/O Larry Adams, Box 1615 Badland Road, Havre, MT 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: Larry Adams, owner of Badland Tree & Landscaping, Inc. is applying for a land use license for the existence of a commercial advertising sign on State land.	
Location: SE¼SW¼, Sec. 36, Township 33.0 North, Range 15.0 East	County: Hill County, Montana

{PRIVATE } PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (MT DNRC) has been petitioned by Larry Adams for a land use license for the placement of a commercial advertising sign on State land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The MT DNRC is the only governmental agency with jurisdiction for this type of project on State land.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: RECEIVED JAN 05 2004 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE	<u>Action Alternative:</u> Grant Larry Adams permission to retain an existing commercial advertising sign on State land. The MT DNRC will issue Badland Tree & Landscaping, Inc., C/O Larry Adams a land use license for the placement of this sign on State land. <u>No Action Alternative:</u> The MT DNRC will recommend the removal of the existing commercial sign on this tract of State land. Larry Adams will not be issued a land use license for a commercial advertising sign.

{PRIVATE } IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	<u>Action Alternative:</u> The soils are mostly silty clay loams in the area of the commercial sign. The topography consists of nearly flat to gently rolling plains on the secondary flood plain above the Milk River. There are no unusual geological features present in the immediate area of the commercial sign. The soils on this tract of State land will not be impacted at all with the existence of a commercial sign. <u>No Action Alternative:</u> The soils will not be altered on this tract of State land. Larry Adams will not be issued a land use license for the existence of a commercial advertising sign on State land.

{PRIVATE }IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there portential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign will not impact the water resources that exist in this area. The commercial sign will not contaminate drinking water or violate any ambient water quality standards.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The water quality, quantity, and distribution on this tract of State land will not be altered.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign will not impact the air quality on this tract of State land. No pollutants or particulates will be produced from this sign.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The air quality will not be altered on this tract of State land.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The vegetative communities will not be altered on this tract of State land. The disturbance is small in scope and will not impact the future forage potential on this tract of State land. No rare plants or cover types are present in the area of the commercial sign.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The vegetative communities will not be permanently altered on this tract of State land. Larry Adams will have to remove the commercial advertising sign from this tract of State land.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> Wildlife habitat will not be significantly impacted with the existence of a commercial advertising sign on this tract of State land. The sign is only 3' by 3' on a single pole. The terrestrial and avian life and their habitats will not be disturbed. Wildlife use this area frequently and they are not affected by the presence of a small commercial sign.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The terrestrial and avian life and their habitat will not be disturbed on this tract of State land. The MT DNRC will not issue Larry Adams a land use license for the commercial sign.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not cause adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species. There is no confirmed use of threatened or endangered species using this area, but the potential of occasional use does exist. There are no other species of special concern, nor are there any sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project. The commercial sign is located along Badland Road, which is a highly traveled county road. There are no wetlands within the immediate area of the commercial sign.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The unique, endangered, fragile, and/or limited environmental resources that exist on this tract of State land will not be impacted.</p>

<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> Staff from the MT DNRC inspected the proposed project area for cultural and archaeological resources. No historical or archaeological sites were observed in the immediate area of the disturbance. No surface features or cultural artifacts were discovered during the cultural review of this tract.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> There are no historical or archaeological resources known to be present on this tract of State grazing land.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not cause a large change in the aesthetic value of the land. The commercial sign will not produce excessive noise or light. Residents in this area will continue to use the county road that runs through this tract of State land. The commercial sign is visible to the public from the county road.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The aesthetics will remain the same on this tract of grazing land. This area is used for grazing land with some small areas of irrigated agricultural land on the surrounding deeded land.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign does not use resources that are limited in this area. The commercial sign does require a very small portion of land. However, there are no demands on the environmental resources of water, air, and energy. There are no activities nearby that will affect the existence of the commercial sign.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> There will be no additional demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, and/or energy on this tract of State land. The commercial sign will be removed from the State land.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign will not impact other studies, plans, or projects that the MT DNRC has for this tract of State land. The MT DNRC has the ability to remove the sign at any time.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> There are no other environmental documents pertinent to the area. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources that exist on this tract of State land.</p>

{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not add to the human health and safety risks found in this area. The commercial sign has no impact on the human health and safety risks in this area.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The human health and safety risks found in this area will not be impacted.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The sign does increase commercial activity across this tract of State land. The commercial sign does not alter the native rangeland forage production on this tract of State land.</p>

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{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p> <p>(Continued from Previous Page)</p>	<p>(Continued from Previous Page)</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The agricultural activities will not be altered on this tract of State land. The native rangeland will not be altered and forage production will remain the same.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The quantity and distribution of employment will not be impacted with the proposed action. The commercial sign on the State land will not create, move, or eliminate jobs within the surrounding area.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The quantity and distribution of employment will not be impacted in this rural area. The sign will be removed from the State land.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign will not create or eliminate tax revenue in Hill County. The local and state tax base will not change.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The local and state tax base will remain the same. Tax revenue from this tract of land will not change in Hill County.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The commercial sign will not require additional government services. Traffic will continue to be the same on Badland Road.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> There will be no demand for government services on this tract of State land. The MT DNRC will continue to administer this tract of State land.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> There are no other known locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of State land. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to evaluate State land resource issues from a logical, environmental, and economic point of view.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The MT DNRC will deny a land use license for the commercial sign and it will be removed from this tract of State land.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> This tract of State land does have a perfected legal access for recreational purposes. This tract has moderate recreational value for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. No impacts on the recreational activities are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The recreational activities will continue to be moderate on this tract of State land. This tract of State land will continue to have legal access for recreational opportunities. Anyone with a State Lands Recreational Use License can recreate on this tract of State land, provided they follow the rules and regulations for recreating on State lands.</p>

<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not increase the density and distribution of the human population and housing in this area. The commercial sign will not require additional housing and the population in this area will remain the same.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The density and distribution of population and housing will not be altered in this area.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not cause a disruption of the traditional lifestyles in this area. The surrounding communities consist mainly of farmers and ranchers. The commercial sign is an advertisement for Badland Tree & Landscaping.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The native and traditional lifestyles that are found within this area will not be disturbed.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity that is found within this area. The commercial sign will not shift the cultural uniqueness or diversity of this area in any way.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area will remain the same. The State land will continue to be used for livestock grazing purposes.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p><u>Action Alternative:</u> There are no other social or economical circumstances associated with the installation of a commercial sign on this tract of State land.</p> <p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> The social and economic circumstances will remain the same on this tract of State land.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature

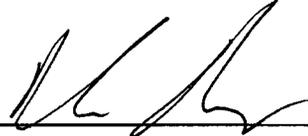
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Date: December 8, 2003

{PRIVATE }IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S.I.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved by: CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office



Signature

12-16-03

Date: