

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Removal of gravel from State land.	Proposed Implementation Date: December 4, 2003
Proponent: DD Quarter Circle Ranch, HC 60, Box 108, Whitewater, MT 59544	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to remove gravel from State land for the purpose of road improvement. This type of activity will be granted under Gravel Permit identified as Number G-1390-03	
Location: E2NW4SE4, 5 acres, Sec. 36 Twp. 32N Rge. 32E	County: Phillips

## I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DD Quarter Circle Ranch contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office. DD Quarter Circle Ranch has made application to remove 5000 cubic yards of gravel to improve an exiting road.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The other agency that would have jurisdiction for this type of project is the Department of Environmental Quality, Helena Office.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a gravel permit to the applicant for the removal of 5000 cubic yards of gravel from State land.  No Action Alternative: Deny a gravel permit to the applicant for the removal of 5000 cubic yards of gravel from State land.

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## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	This type of project will alter the surface soils on the state land. The area will be reshaped and resloped upon project completion. The surface soils will be stockpiled and replaced on the disturbed site. The area will then be reseeded to native grass species as outlined in the reclamation plan of operations.
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?	This type of project on State land will not impact the water quality, quantity and distribution.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	This type of project on the State land will have minimal impact to the air quality. There will be some dust that will become air borne from the excavation

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	of the gravel from the State land. The air quality will only be impacted at the project site.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	The vegetation on the project area will be destroyed with this type of activity. The area of impact is small in scope and will be revegetated through a comprehensive reclamation plan.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	The state land contains various habitat types for wildlife and upland birds. The project is small in scope and native grass species will be restored on the project area.
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?	The area of impact contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	The state land contains various stone circle sites that are identified as archaeological sites. The area of impact does not contain circle sites and there will be no archaeological sites that will be disturbed.
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?	This type of project is small in scope and will have minimal impact to the aesthetics of the state land.
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?	This type of project on State land will place no demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	This type of project on State land will not impact other studies, plans or projects that DNRC may have in place on the state land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	This type of project on State land has minimal human health and safety risks. The risks are understood by the employer and employee as occupational hazards.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	The project will have minimal impact to the current agriculture activities that are occurring on the surrounding State land.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	The project will have no impacts on the quality and quantity and distribution of employment.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	The project will have no impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	The project will place no demands for government services.

19. <b>LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</b> Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.
20. <b>ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</b> Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	The area of impact is small in scope and will have minimal impact to the recreational values associated with the State land.
21. <b>DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</b> Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	The project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.
22. <b>SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</b> Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.
23. <b>CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</b> Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.
24. <b>OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</b>	The project will provide necessary material to the applicant for road improvement. The project will provide gravel royalty to the School Trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist Date: December 4, 2003  
 Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. <b>ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</b>	Grant the applicant a gravel permit to remove 5000 cubic yards of material from the State land for road improvement.
26. <b>SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</b>	The project will not impact the state land natural resources as per the comprehensive reclamation plan developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.
27. <b>Need for Further Environmental Analysis:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Hoyt Richards  
 Signature Date: December 4, 2003