

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Range Renovation	Proposed Implementation Date: March 15, 2004
Proponent: Wiley Micks, Quad Five/A Division of Materials Bio., Inc.	
Type and Purpose of Action: To renovate native range with a Lawson Aerator.	
Location: Lot 1, Sec. 18, & S1/2, Sec. 20, T7N, R20E.	County: Golden Valley

**RECEIVED**

JAN 05 2004

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Mt.DNRC, Wiley Micks—Quad Five/A Division of Materials Bio., Inc., Careless Creek, Inc., State Lease #6483, Mt FW&P, Harvey E. Nyberg.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to renovate the requested acreage with the Lawson Aerator.

## 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?	[Y] There are clay soils present. These are heavy soils, therefore the need for renovation. There are no special reclamation considerations. This project should improve soil moisture and percolation.
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**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

<p>5. <b>WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</b> 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?</p>	<p>[N] Potential for water degradation from this proposed project is nil.</p>
<p>6. <b>AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.</p>
<p>7. <b>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[Y] There are no rare plants or cover types present. The Lawson Aerator will disturb and remove some plants. The over all lasting effect will be beneficial to the plant community.</p>
<p>8. <b>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[Y] There is some use of these tracts by local wildlife. There is a sage grouse display ground located ½ mile from the project site. The sage brush areas utilized by the sage grouse will not be disturbed. The areas identified by MtFW&amp;P will be left untouched.</p>
<p>9. <b>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[Y] The sage grouse is a species of special concern in Montana. There are no wetlands present. Important habitat areas will not be included in this renovation project.</p>
<p>10. <b>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] Pat Reenie, State Archaeologist has cleared this project. There are no historical, archeological or paleontological resources present.</p>
<p>11. <b>AESTHETICS:</b> 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>[N] This project is no where near any populated sites. There will not be excessive noise or light associated with it.</p>
<p>12. <b>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>[N] Limited resources will not be used. The only concern is the amount of sage brush for sage grouse habitat. These areas will be avoided.</p>

**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] None.
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**III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] This project will not affect human health or safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This project should improve forage production and improve livestock production at the same time. The Quad Five/A Division of Materials Bio., Inc. is a commercial endeavor.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs will not be created.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] This project will not affect taxes in any way.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] Other services will not be needed.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None.
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] These tracts have some recreational value in upland game bird hunting possibilities.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require	[N] Additional housing will not be required.

**III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

additional housing?	
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There should be no shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N] None.

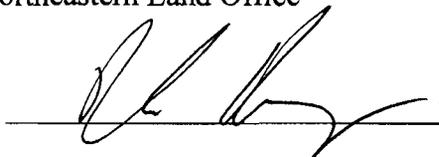
EA Checklist Prepared By:  
 BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
 Signature  
 Date: December 15, 2003

**IV. FINDING**

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to renovate the requested acreage with the Lawson Aerator.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected with this proposed project. The expected positive effects far out weigh the negative. These benefits include increased soil moisture, percolation, plant vigor and forage production.
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

 12-16-03