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D.N.R.C.

DS-252

DNRC - Trust and Conservation

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Project Name:** LUL #8447 livestock water pipeline

**Proposed Implementation Date:** December 16, 2003

**Proponent:** Walt Schweitzer, Box 48 Tiber Road, Ledger, MT 59456

**Type and Purpose of Action:** The proponent requested a LUL for the purpose of installing a 2" livestock water pipeline across state land.

**Location:** SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼, Sec 34, T30N, R3E

**County:** Toole

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## I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

MAR 16 2004

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.

None

2. **OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:**

None

3. **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Approve the LUL for installing the livestock water pipeline.

No action. Deny the LUL

## 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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?

[N] The proposed action may cause localized areas of soil erosion and compaction from the manipulation of vehicles and equipment on the surface. The water pipeline will be "ripped" in to minimize soil impacts. The proposed action will temporarily disturb a small portion of the landscape. No long-term negative impacts on the soil resources are expected.

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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?

[Y] The proposed action will improve livestock water distribution.

6. **AIR QUALITY:** Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?

[N] The proposed action will not impact air quality.

<b>II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The water pipeline will be "ripped" in to minimize impacts on existing vegetation. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native species. Overall, no long-term negative and/or cumulative impacts to the vegetation resources are expected.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. The proposed action will create a water source for wildlife in the area. The proposed action will not have long-term negative affects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated with the proposed project area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] A cultural resource inventory was completed by the Conrad Unit Office on 12-16-2003. No cultural resources were found within the project area. No cultural resources will not be impacted by this 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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will occur in a remote area and will not cause a change in the aesthetic character of the 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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the proposed project area.

<b>III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] The proposed easement will not change human safety in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The intent of the proponent's action is increase livestock water sources in several pastures to improve livestock distribution. This will improve the proponent's general ranching operation.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will create provide several days of work for a local contractor.



