

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Rigler Road Use LUL	Proposed Date of Implementation. When approved
Proponent: Rigler Ranch Partners, Box 34, Pray, MT 59065	
Type and Purpose of Action: Paul and David Rigler are applying for a LUL for the purpose of hauling decorative rock on an existing two-track road. The road is useable as is except for some minor side slope correction in one location. The rock will be collected on deeded land in Sec 25, T6S-R7E. There are alternative routes but the route that crosses the NE ¼ of Section 36, is the most feasible.	
Location: NE ¼ NE 1/4 , SEC 36, T6S-R7E	County: Park County

RECEIVED

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

MAY 07 2004

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>No public scoping was done Tom Lemke - MFWP Biologist commented</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>No other agencies have any jurisdiction.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>NO ACTION - An alternative route will have to be sought</p> <p>USE TRAIL THAT GOES THROUGH DAILEY LAKE CAMPGROUND - More work would have to be done to make the two-track useable. Rock hauling would disrupt campground activities and would be more visible to the public. MFWP holds an exclusive License for the campground and such activities would not meet their objectives.</p> <p>AS REQUESTED - Rock can be hauled across state land for a short distance with minimal work required to make the trail useable. No other entities would have to be dealt with.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:	<p>N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)</p> <p>[n] The chosen route is through a swale between Lw</p>

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Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	glacial moraines. The area is quite stable.
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]
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] The selected route is on an existing two-track trail that has been used by the lessee to access the state land as well as other deeded lands. There will be minimal new disturbance to the vegetation.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[y] Elk are often seen in the area during harsh winters. Mule deer and antelope are common year round. The proposed activity will not disturb wildlife. MFWP indicated a non-use period from February 15-May 1 would be desirable but not mandatory.
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?	[n]
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[y] There are stone "drive lanes" in the area on deeded lands. In the SE ¼ of Sec 25 (deeded) there is an alleged stone representation of a man, known locally as the "stickman". Many feel it is a natural phenomenon and not man made at all. The project will not impact the stickman or the drive lanes.
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]
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] The route through the Dailey Lake Campground was not selected because the MFWP has an exclusive License to operate the campground and rock hauling may not fit into their objectives of providing a recreational area for the public. MFWP also owns the adjacent Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area. This project should not impact wildlife management area. MFWP

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	indicated it would be preferable to not use the road during the period of Feb 15 - May 1 but not mandatory.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[y] Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks maintains a campground on Dailey Lake which is in the SW ¼ of the section. A power line traverses the tract as well as a portion of the access road to Dailey Lake. Range surveys are on file.

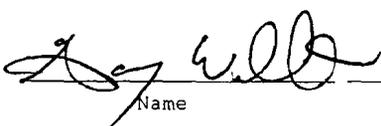
III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

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]
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] The state land is adjacent to the Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Dome Mountain WMA is managed by MEWP as an elk winter range. MEWP also manages the Dailey Lake area which is a popular fishing and windsurfing lake.
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: Kalitowski, Jim Bozeman Unit Manager Date: March 8, 2004

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Recommend the AS REQUESTED Alternative
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The requested alternative was selected over a route through the campground because most of it is on deeded land and overall it is a shorter route. The route will also be less noticeable and inviting to motorized recreationists. Very little improvement will have to be done other than about 100 feet that may have to be graded to correct a small sideslope. Generally the trail will be used as is. There are significant cultural sites in the area, such as "drive lanes" and the "stickman"; the chosen route will not impact any of the sites.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [] EIS [] More Detailed EA [] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By:  Area Manager
Name Title

Gerry Williams
Signature

Date: March 8, 2004

Kalitowski, Jim

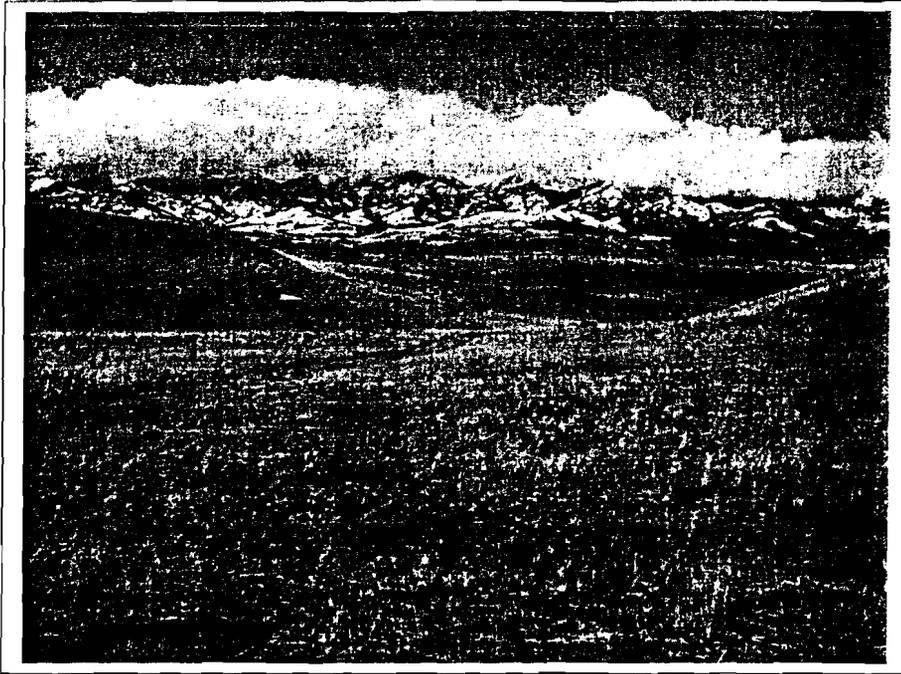
From: Tom Lemke [lemkeinliv@mcn.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2004 2:08 PM
To: Kalitowski, Jim
Cc: kalt@montana.edu
Subject: RE: Dome Mountain Wildlife Mgmt Area

Jim: Thanks for the info on the Rigler's request for access. I really don't see any significant wildlife related impacts especially if potential rock mining/moving activity took place during the summer and fall months. If a "rock mining non-activity period" coincided with the adjacent WMA closure Feb 15-May 1 that would be ideal. Have a good day. Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: Kalitowski, Jim [mailto:jkalitowski@state.mt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2004 2:32 PM
To: Lemke, Tom
Subject: Dome Mountain Wildlife Mgmt Area

Tom; I have received a Land Use License application from David and Paul Rigler. They are looking at selling some of the rock on their deeded lands in Sec 25, T6S-R7E. The best route to haul the rock appears to be across the NE 1/4 of state section 36, T6S-R7E, into Sec 31, T6S-R8E. They don't even know if anyone will want the roack but are looking at the possibility. Some guy is hauling rock clear from Nebraska so they figure there may be a market.



Looking NW from gate
on property boundary.



Taken from near the
north boundary looking
back to the SW.

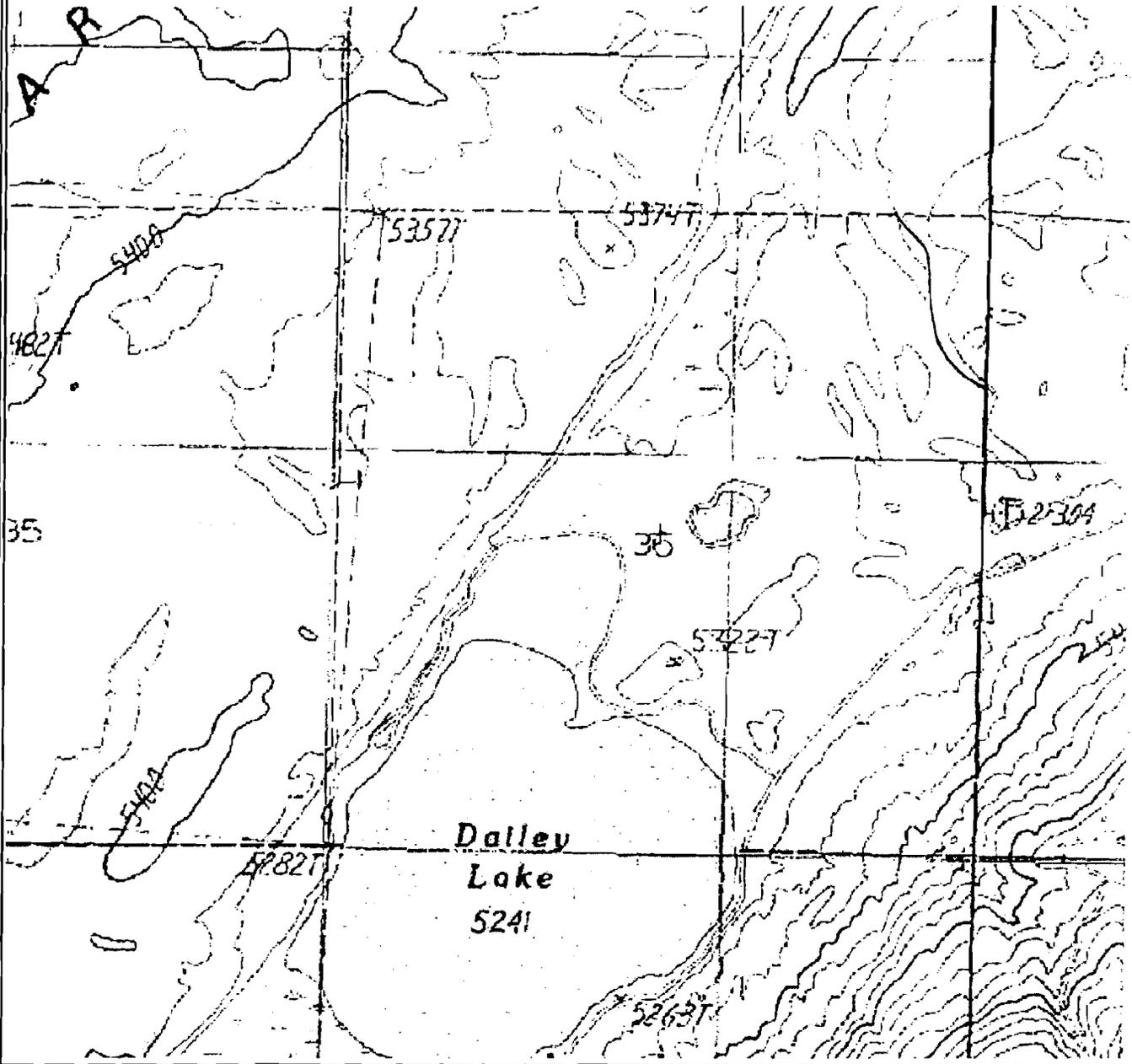
Montana Topographic Map Finder - The map is 1.81 m

Select a Map Control function, then click the Map

If you zoom in to a map less than three miles wide and a Digital Orthophoto is available for the area, you can display the photo.

Display Orthophoto Display 1:24,000 USGS Quadrangle

Refresh



Map Size Extra Large Large Small Refresh

[Click Here to view other map data for this area.](#)

