

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

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STATE OF MONTANA

July 30, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clive Rooney, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Julie David, Supervisor, Mineral Leasing Section, Helena Office

FR: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office *Dan Dobler*

RE: Sandtana, Inc. – Lessee
J. Burns Brown Operating Company – Operator
Oil & Gas Lease #31,153-94
Township 35.0 North, Range 18.0 East, MPM
Section 16: All
Blaine County, Montana
Proposed Well - State 16-35-18 (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$)

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

J. Burns Brown Operating Company (JBBOC) is proposing to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road into the well site on this tract of state land. JBBOC will install a pipeline, if the well is capable of commercial production. JBBOC will be conducting the project on behalf of Sandtana, Inc. The surface and the mineral rights on this tract are owned by the State of Montana. I conducted an on-site review of the proposed project and have outlined my concerns within the drilling stipulations listed on the attached page.

Enclosed you will find an Environmental Assessment Checklist for your review. I have concluded in the Environmental Assessment Checklist that no large-scale or negative impacts to the state land are expected, as long as J. Burns Brown Operating Company follows the stipulations that I have set in place for this project. Please review the EA Checklist, sign and date it, and return a finalized copy to me. Please forward an executed hard copy of the EA Checklist to Connie Daruk in Helena, so that she can forward it to the EQC. I used a global positioning system to map the proposed drilling site on this tract of state land. Enclosed you will find a GIS map with the drill pad plotted in. I'm recommending that J. Burns Brown Operating Company be issued a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well on this tract of state land. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at the Havre Unit Office and I will be glad to assist you.

Enclosures:

Natural Gas Exploratory Well Drilling Stipulations for Oil & Gas Lease No. 31,153-94

State 16-35-18 Well (SW¼NW¼) - Blaine County, Montana

1. Permittee shall contact Robert Munson and the Havre Unit Office, 48 hours prior to any surface activity on the state land.
2. The permittee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by the permittee's activity on this tract of state land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto deeded land adjoining the premises.
3. This tract may contain significant buried archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources. If any of these resources are located, the permittee shall contact the appropriate Area Office, Unit Office, and Department Archaeologist in Helena immediately. The Department reserves the right to restrict surface activity for the purposes of protecting significant cultural resources.
4. In order to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds on this tract of state land, all vehicles and drilling equipment used on this project must be initially power washed prior to use.
5. Drilling activity will only occur on dry or frozen ground. No activity will be allowed during muddy conditions.
6. No vehicle oil changes or petroleum disposal shall occur on this tract of state land.
7. There will be no off-road traffic other than that necessary to accomplish the gas well drilling, construction of an access road into the well site, and the installation of a pipeline, if this well is capable of commercial production. The Department would like you to accomplish these tasks by using the most direct route possible for the access road and the pipeline.
8. All gates will be closed and all fences that are taken down will be repaired as soon as possible.
9. The topsoil removed from the well site and the pipeline must be located upslope of the project. The excess dirt and pit stockpiles will be located down-slope of the project.
10. The access road must be kept to a minimal size in order to minimize the impact to the native grazing land.
11. Turn-arounds must be kept to their initial size and they are not to be expanded on. The tear drop must be as close to the drill pad as possible.
12. All disturbed areas shall be reshaped and resloped with the topsoil that is to be stockpiled upslope from the project.
13. All disturbed areas shall be seeded with State of Montana Certified or Registered seed. The seed mixture shall be planted in the amounts specified in pounds of pure live seed per acre (PLS/acre). The seed mixture shall consist of 4 lbs. PLS/acre 'Rosana' western wheatgrass, 4 lbs. PLS/acre 'Pryor' slender wheatgrass, 4 lbs. PLS/acre 'Lodorm' green needlegrass, and 1 lb. PLS/acre yellow sweetclover (seed poundage is to be doubled if area is broadcast seeded). The seeding will be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the Havre Unit Office.

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Proposed Exploratory Natural Gas Well & Access Road – State 16-35-18 Well	Proposed Implementation Date: September 1, 2004
Proponent: J. Burns Brown Operating Company, PO Box 420, Havre, MT 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent plans to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road into the proposed well site on this tract of state land. J. Burns Brown Operating Company (JBBOC) will install a pipeline, if the well is capable of commercial production. The surface and the minerals rights on this entire tract of land are owned by the State of Montana. J. Burns Brown Operating Company will be conducting this project on behalf of Sandtana, Inc.	
Location: SW¼NW¼; Section 16, Twp. 35N, Rng. 18E	County: Blaine County, Montana

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has been petitioned by the proponent to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road into the drill site on the above referenced tract of state land. JBBOC will install a pipeline across the state land, if the well is capable of commercial production. The State of Montana owns the surface and mineral rights on this entire tract. The proponent has contacted the state's surface lessee, Robert Munson, and they will settle all surface damages within a reasonable time period following the completion of the well. If successful, the proposed natural gas well would generate additional revenue for the School Trust Fund, through royalties from the sale of natural gas. J. Burns Brown Operating Company is the operator for all the developments on this oil and gas lease. The oil and gas lease from the State of Montana is held by Sandtana, Inc.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's, Havre Unit Office, Minerals Management Bureau, and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas are the only governmental agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of project that will be conducted on State School Trust lands. The Montana DNRC will conduct an Environmental Assessment Checklist to determine whether or not to allow JBBOC to drill this natural gas well on this tract of state land.</p>

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p>Action Alternative: Grant J. Burns Brown Operating Company permission to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road into the well site on this tract of state land. If the proposed well is capable of commercial production, J. Burns Brown Operating Company will install a pipeline to transport the natural gas off the state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny J. Burns Brown Operating Company permission to drill an exploratory natural gas well on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue JBOC a permit to drill the gas well on this tract of state land.</p>
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II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>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?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: J. Burns Brown Operating Company (JBOC) will disturb the soils on this tract of state land with this type of activity. Mitigation measures will be used to stockpile the topsoil upslope from the project, so that it may be used for reclaiming the site. The sub-soil will be stock piled in a separate pile, down-slope of the project and used for fill during the reclamation process. If necessary, there will also be a separate stockpile of dirt for the pit that is used to drain off the excess water from the gas well. The soils on this tract of land are suitable for this type of activity. There are no unusual geologic features. There are no special reclamation considerations for this project, if the operator follows the stipulations that have been set in place for this project by the Havre Unit Office.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The natural gas well and access road will not be constructed on this tract of state land. The soils on this tract of land will not be disturbed. The Montana DNRC will not issue JBOC a permit to drill the natural gas well on this tract of state land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>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?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will have a minimal impact on surface and groundwater resources in the surrounding area. Drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road on this tract of state land will not impact the water quality, quantity, and distribution in this area. The location of the proposed drill site is in a rural area that is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes. There is no potential to violate any ambient water quality standards. This project will have no impact on drinking water maximum contaminant levels. Water quality will not be degraded in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The water quality, quantity, and distribution will not be impacted on this tract of state land. Surface and groundwater resources will not be disturbed. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill the natural gas well on this tract of state land.</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>Action Alternative: Drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road will produce some minimal particulates, throughout the entire length of time it takes to accomplish this project. Once the gas well is drilled and the access road to the pad is completed, the air quality will return to normal. This project is not influenced by air quality regulations or zones.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The proponent will not be granted permission to drill an exploratory natural gas well on this tract of state land. The air quality will not be impacted and no particulates will be produced. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill the natural gas well on this tract of state land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?

The vegetative communities found within this area include the following plants: western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), green needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), cudweed sagewort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), dense clubmoss (*Selaginella densa*), silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), and woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*).

Action Alternative: The vegetative communities found within the immediate area of the disturbance will be temporarily altered with this type of project. The proposed project area does not contain any rare plants or cover types. The proposed natural gas well is located on native grazing land. This area is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. The access road will cross approximately 100 feet to the east from the county road located on the west section line. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stock piled upslope from the project, so that it may be used last to cover the disturbed area. The area of disturbance will be reclaimed with a mixture of native grasses and yellow sweetclover. The reclamation plan will be incorporated as a stipulation within the well drilling permit issued by the Montana DNRC.

No Action Alternative: The vegetative communities currently found on this tract of state land will not be temporarily altered. Native grasses, forbs, and shrubs will not be disturbed. The vegetative cover, quantity, and quality will remain in its natural state. The topsoil will not be disturbed and there will be no need for a reclamation plan. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Is there substantial use of the area by important
wildlife, birds or fish?

Action Alternative: The habitat found in the immediate area of disturbance will be impacted with the construction of the drill pad and access road. The area of disturbance will be small in scope and will be reclaimed with the terms and conditions outlined in the well drilling stipulations from the Havre Unit Office. The disturbed area will be reclaimed with a mixture of native grasses and yellow sweetclover. The area of disturbance primarily consists of western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), green needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), cudweed sagewort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), dense clubmoss (*Selaginella densa*), silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), and woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*). The area of the proposed location is best described as a short grass prairie habitat type. The proposed project will have a minimal impact on wildlife species found in this area. Wildlife species may be temporarily displaced, during the drilling and construction phases of this project. However, no wildlife species will be permanently relocated as a result of this project. The proposed project will not have any long-term impacts on the wildlife species or their associated habitat found in this area.

No Action Alternative: The terrestrial and avian life and their associated habitats found within this area will not be disturbed. Wildlife species will continue to use this area as they have in the past. Wildlife species will not be temporarily displaced. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas well and access road will have a minimal impact on the unique, endangered, fragile, and limited environmental resources present in this area. There are no wetlands located in the area of disturbance. No sensitive species or species of special concern will be threatened by this project. Listed, threatened, and/or endangered species will be able to migrate through this area with minimal disturbance. There is no confirmed use of this area by threatened or endangered species; however, the potential of occasional use does exist.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The unique, endangered, fragile and limited environmental resources found on this tract of state grazing land will not be impacted. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Staff from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has conducted an on-site review of the proposed project area for historical and archaeological resources. The proposed gas well and access road are located on native grazing land. No visual surface features were identified within the immediate area of the proposed disturbance. If buried historical or archaeological resources are discovered at any time during the construction of the access road or well site, the proponent shall cease all activity and contact the Havre Unit Office.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological resources present in the area of the proposed project. Unknown historical and/or archaeological features under the surface will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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?

Action Alternative: If successful, the natural gas well will be visible to the public from a county road to the west and will become a permanent topographic feature. The project is located approximately 14 miles north of Lohman, Montana. The land is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. The project will produce some excessive noise during the initial stages of drilling. Once the well is drilled, the noise levels will return to normal.

No Action Alternative: The aesthetics that are currently found on this tract of state land will not be altered. The natural gas well will not become a permanent topographic feature and will not be visible to the public. This tract of state grazing land will continue to be used for the sole purpose of livestock grazing. No excessive noise will be produced from the drill rig and construction activities in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of 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?

Action Alternative: This project will demand the environmental resources of natural gas and a small portion of land for the drill pad area and the access road. The demand on other environmental resources such as water and air will be minimal. Once the project is completed, JBBOC will reclaim the disturbed areas. If the gas well is capable of commercial production, JBBOC will install a pipeline to transport the natural gas off the state land. There are no other activities nearby that will affect this project.

No Action Alternative: There will be no demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy. The Montana DNRC will not issue J. Burns. Brown Operating Company a permit to drill the natural gas well on this tract of State School Trust land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Montana DNRC will continue to explore for natural gas resources on tracts of land that have mineral rights owned by the State of Montana. The mineral rights are owned by the State of Montana's School Trust Fund and revenue brought in from these developments will continue to be used for educational purposes by the beneficiaries of the Trust. The Montana DNRC will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities as long as they are environmentally sound and pose no long-term damaging impacts to state land. The goal of the Montana DNRC's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) is to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenue for the trust beneficiaries, while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. The Montana DNRC/TLMD will continue to administer the licensed grazing activity and set stocking rates on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC does not have any other studies, plans, or projects on this tract of state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The project will not impact other studies, plans, or projects that the DNRC has on this tract of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: J. Burns Brown Operating Company, their subcontractors, and their employees understand the risks associated with drilling a natural gas well, constructing an access road, and installing a pipeline. JBBOC, their subcontractors, and their employees assume these risks as occupational hazards. This project will not add to the human health and safety risks found in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The project will not impact the human health or safety risks found in this area. J. Burns Brown Operating Company will not assume any occupational hazards by not drilling this gas well. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road will add to the industrial activity on this tract of state land. If JBBC is successful in drilling a producing natural gas well, the School Trust Fund in Montana will generate additional revenue through royalties from the sale of natural gas. The forage production on the native grazing land will be temporarily reduced, due to the well pad and access road disturbance. However, after the reclamation process is completed, the forage production in the area of disturbance will be enhanced. The reclamation plan will increase the long-term forage productivity and enhance erosion control on these soils.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities will not be disturbed on this tract of state land. There will be no additional revenue generated from royalties to the School Trust Fund of Montana and J. Burns Brown Operating Company. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will provide J. Burns Brown Operating Company with additional revenue through the sale of natural gas, if the well is successful. The State of Montana's, School Trust Fund will also benefit from the royalties, through the sale of natural gas. The project will not move or eliminate jobs within the surrounding area. However, the project will provide JBBC's employees with additional work and income.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The quality and distribution of employment will not be impacted in this area. If the Montana DNRC does not issue JBBC a permit to drill this well, their employees and subcontractors will simply move on to the next job. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project may create tax revenue in Blaine County, if the well is capable of commercial production. Therefore, the project will have an impact on the local and state tax base.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The local and state tax base will not be impacted. Tax revenue will remain the same in Blaine County. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBC a permit to drill this natural gas well.</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>Action Alternative: The project will create some substantial traffic during the initial stages of drilling the natural gas well and constructing the access road into the well site. J. Burns Brown has been informed as to where the access road into the well site will be placed. The well pad is only 100 feet off of a county road to the west. The project will not create an additional demand for government services. The project will not require the services of fire protection, police, or schools.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no additional demand for government services on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC/TLMD will continue to administer and monitor all licensed grazing activities on this tract of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on 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>Action Alternative: The project will not interfere with any other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the Montana DNRC has for this tract of state grazing land. No zoning plans will be in effect for the construction of a natural gas well and an access road to service it. The Montana DNRC will continue to explore for natural gas resources on tracts of land that have mineral rights owned by the State of Montana. Environmental Assessment Checklist's will continue to be the basis of conclusion for future development of natural gas facilities on state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no other known locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of state land. The State of Montana will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities on lands in which the State of Montana owns the mineral rights. The State will only approve such projects that will be environmentally friendly and in the best interest of the School Trust Fund of Montana. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on 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>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas well and access road will be located on a legally accessible tract of state land. The natural gas well will be located approximately 100 feet from a county road along the west section line. This tract of state land does have good recreational potential for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. The main recreational activity that occurs on this tract of state land is hunting. The natural gas well and access road will have a minimal impact on the recreational activities that may occur on this tract of state land. The recreational potential on this tract of state land will continue to be moderate to high.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: This tract of state land will continue to be used for recreational purposes by the general public, since it has legal access. The recreational potential for this tract of land will continue to be the same. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not add to the population and require additional housing. The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural area. The project will be completed in two to three days and the drill crew will leave the site. If the natural gas well is capable of commercial production, JBBOC's employees will bury a natural gas pipeline to transport the natural gas off the state land. This will require the presence of JBBOC's employees for an additional day or two.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural farming and ranching community. The Montana DNRC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed project will not disrupt any native or traditional lifestyles found within this rural area. Drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road into the drill pad area will not change the social structures and mores found in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The native and traditional lifestyles will not be impacted in this rural farming and ranching community. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas well will not cause a shift in any of the unique qualities that are found in this area. No cultural artifacts or surface features were observed or noted in the area of disturbance. Natural gas companies provide work and income for the people who live in these rural areas that are not in the farming and ranching business.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land and the people who live there will not be impacted. This tract of state land will continue to be used solely for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will generate additional revenue for the Montana DNRC/School Trust Fund and JBBOC if the well is capable of commercial production. J. Burns Brown Operating Company will generate revenue for the surrounding communities through lodging, gas, food, and fuel for their equipment.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The potential for generating additional revenue for the School Trust Fund, J. Burns Brown Operating Company, Sandtana, Inc., and the surrounding communities will be lost. The Montana DRNC will not issue JBBOC a permit to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land. There are no other appropriate social or and/or economic circumstances to discuss within this Environmental Assessment Checklist.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: Dan Dobler
Name

Havre Unit Manager
Title

Dan Dobler
Signature

July 30th, 2004
Date

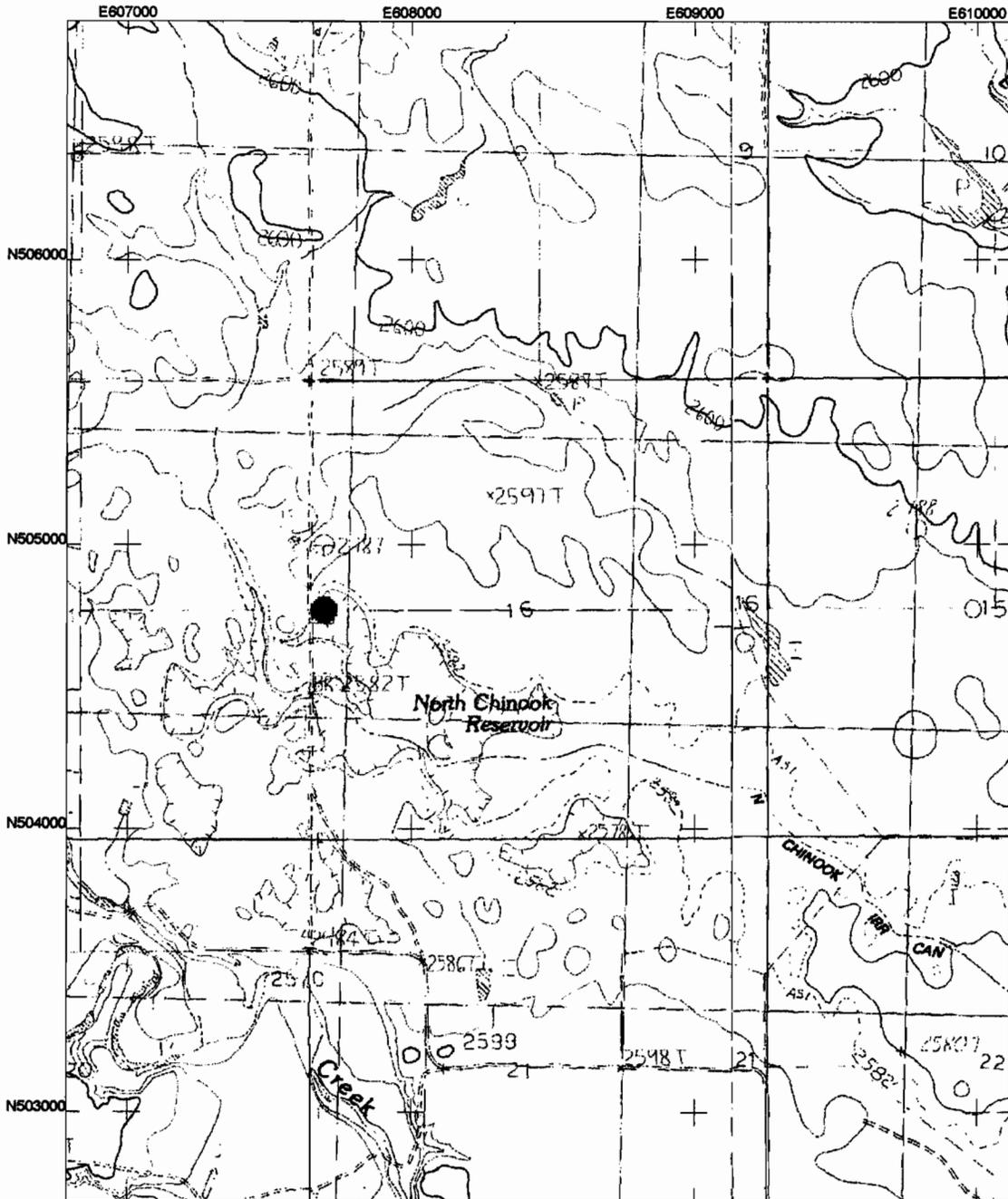
IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S.F.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Clive Rooney
Name

Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Title

Clive Rooney
Signature

8-5-4
Date



JBB 16-35-18 -SWNW

US State Plane 1983
 Montana 2500
 NAD 1983 (Conus)



Scale 1:24,000



JBB STATE 16-35-18.cor
 7/23/2004

GPS Pathfinder[®]Office
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