

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

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SEP 1 2004

DNRC MELO



STATE OF MONTANA

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HAVRE UNIT OFFICE  
PO BOX 868  
210 SIXTH AVENUE  
HAVRE, MONTANA 59501-0868

September 7, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clive Rooney, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office  
Julie David, Mineral Leasing Section, Minerals Management Bureau

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

RE: Riverside Contracting, Inc.  
Applications for Permit to Take & Remove Borrow Material from State Land  
Township 36 North, Range 15 East  
Section 1: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Township 37 North, Range 15 East  
Section 36: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Hill County, Montana - ~ 8 Acres

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SEP 28 2004

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

Enclosed you will find two applications for permits to take and remove borrow material from state lands that were submitted by Loren Brandt of Riverside Contracting, Inc. Riverside Contracting, Inc has submitted these applications for an upcoming road construction project on State Highway #233 in northern Hill County. Loren is the Vice President for Riverside Contracting, Inc. and his telephone number is (406) 721-9267. Enclosed you will find a copy of the applications to take and remove borrow material from state land, topographic maps showing the approximate location for each of the applications submitted, a copy of the transaction set, a copy of the check for the application fee, a deposit record, a deposit receipt, two notices for settlement of damages forms, copies of the Landowner Consent for Reclamation forms (DEQ), two copies of the application for mined land reclamation permit (DEQ), and an Environmental Assessment Checklist. The receipt number is listed at the top of each application for permit to take and remove borrow material from state lands. Please review the EA Checklist, sign and date it, and return an executed copy to the Havre Unit Office. Please forward a copy of the executed EA Checklist to Connie Daruk in Helena, so that she may forward it to the Environmental Quality Council.

Riverside Contracting, Inc. would like to use approximately 3.67 acres in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 1, Township 36.0 North, Range 15.0 East and another 3.67 acres in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 36, Township 37.0 North, Range 15.0 East to remove borrow material for an upcoming road construction project on State Highway #233 north of Havre, MT. Riverside Contracting, Inc. plans to remove approximately 50,000 cubic yards of borrow material from each of the above referenced tracts of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will reclaim the disturbed areas with native grasses and yellow sweetclover, after the entire road construction project has been completed.

I recommend that the royalty rate be set at \$0.45 per cubic yard of borrow material removed and that the Department receive an advance royalty of \$2,000. I am recommending that the Department issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two permits to remove borrow material from the above referenced tracts of state land. The following is a list of stipulations that need to be incorporated into each permit.

1. Permittee shall contact the surface lessee and the Havre Unit Office, 48 hours prior to commencing any surface activities.
2. The permittee shall be responsible for controlling all annual and noxious weeds introduced by the permittee's activity on the state land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto deeded land adjoining the premises.

3. Borrow mining activities shall only be permitted in the designated area (highlighted in yellow) shown on the attached topographic maps.
4. The permittee must receive written permission from the Department for any other mining or road construction activities outside of the designated area. Unauthorized expansions will result in a minimum fine of \$2,500.00 or \$2,500.00 per acre, whichever is greater.
5. The top six inches of topsoil shall be stripped and stockpiled upslope of the project, prior to removing borrow the material.
6. No vehicle oil changes or petroleum disposal shall occur on the state land.
7. All trash, debris, or refuse generated by the mining activities shall be disposed of and removed from the state land.
8. Permittee must notify the Havre Unit Office for an on-site inspection of the proposed reclamation plan, prior to initiating any reclamation activity. When the site reclamation is completed, the permittee must notify the Havre Unit Office for a final on-site inspection and approval.
9. In order to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds on state land, all equipment used on this project must be initially power washed prior to use.
10. Motorized vehicle use may only occur on dry or frozen ground only. No activities will be allowed during muddy conditions.
11. All gates will be left as they are found and all fences that are taken down will be restored to their original condition as soon as possible.
12. Permittee shall make satisfactory adjustment for any damages sustained by the owner or lessee of the surface on the tract of land, in conjunction with the operations by the permittee.
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 6 lbs. PLS/acre 'Rosana' western wheatgrass, 5 lbs. PLS/acre 'Pryor' slender wheatgrass, 3 lbs. PLS/acre 'Critana' thickspike wheatgrass, 5 lbs. PLS/acre 'Lodorm' green needlegrass, and 1 lb. PLS/acre of 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. Permittee shall contact the Havre Unit Office when reclamation is completed.

Enclosures

**{PRIVATE } CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Project Name: Riverside Contracting, Inc.  
Permit to take and remove approximately  
100,000 cubic yards of borrow material  
from two tracts of state land.

Proposed Implementation Date:  
September 15, 2004

Proponent: Riverside Contracting, Inc., 5571 Alloy South, Missoula, MT 59808

Type and Purpose of Action: Riverside Contracting, Inc. would like to remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will be using the borrow material for embankment construction on State Highway #233. The location of the proposed project consists of native grazing land and would disturb approximately 4 acres of land on each tract of state land.

Location:  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 1, Twp. 36N, Rge. 15E  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 36, Twp. 37N, Rge. 15E

County: Hill County, Montana

**{PRIVATE } PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation/ Trust Land Management Division (DNRC/TLMD) has been petitioned by Riverside Contracting, Inc. to remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land in northern Hill County. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has the bid for the reconstruction of State Highway #233, north of Havre, Montana. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has notified state surface lessee(s), Mud Lake Grain, C/o Don McIntosh and Mary D. Pleskac about the proposed project. Damages are anticipated and arrangements have been made for compensation. The Montana Department of Transportation has obtained a right-of-way easement from the Montana DNRC for the construction of this portion of State Hwy. #233.

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

The Montana Department Of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) are the only governmental agencies with jurisdiction for this type of project. The Montana DNRC has signed landowner consent for reclamation forms with the MT DEQ for both tracts of state land that are being impacted with this project. Riverside Contracting, Inc. has obtained the bid for the road construction project on behalf of the MT DOT. The MT DOT will be responsible for the construction project on Montana State Hwy. #233. Riverside Contracting, Inc. needs to obtain a permit to take and remove borrow material from the two above referenced tracts of state land for the purposes of embankment construction.

<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Riverside Contracting, Inc. would like a permit from the Montana DNRC to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state for a highway project north of Havre, MT. The Montana DRNC will issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material for a highway reconstruction project north of Havre, MT. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE } IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>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?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The soils located in the area of the proposed disturbance are mostly silty clay loams. These soils will be suitable to use as borrow material to build up embankments for this highway construction project. The topography in this area consists of gently rolling plains. There are no unusual geological features present in each of the proposed disturbance areas. The proponent will be required to stockpile the topsoil upslope from the project, so that it may be used for reclaiming the disturbed areas. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will use the subsoil as borrow material to create embankments for the highway construction project. All disturbed areas shall be reshaped, resloped, and reseeded. The proponent will be required to reclaim the site with native grasses and forbs.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The soils on these two tracts of state land will not be disturbed. There will be no need to issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. a reclamation plan for this project. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE } 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><b>Action Alternative:</b> Riverside Contracting, Inc. will not impact the water resources that exist in this area. The location of the proposed project area does not contain any surface or groundwater resources. There are no wetlands located within 300 feet of each of the proposed areas of disturbance. There is no potential to contaminate drinking water in this area. This project will not violate any ambient water quality standards. The water quality will not be degraded in this area with this type of project.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There will no be adverse ecological impacts on the quality, quantity, or distribution of water resources in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> Traffic will be substantial in this area throughout the entire length of time it takes to complete the road construction project. Heavy equipment will produce a fair amount of dust particles on these tracts of state land, throughout the entire construction phase of this project. However, no pollutants will be produced on these tracts of state land or adjacent lands by removing borrow material. There are no air quality regulations or zones for this project, as it is located approximately 26 miles north of Havre, MT.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The air quality found on these tracts of state land will not be altered. No dust particulates will be produced from the heavy equipment removing borrow material from these tracts of state land. However, traffic will continue to be substantial on the existing roadway until the construction of State Hwy. #233 has been completed. No pollutants will be produced in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>

{PRIVATE }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 currently found within the area of the proposed disturbance for each tract of state land include the following plant species: 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*), and silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*).

**Action Alternative:** These tracts of state land are primarily used for wildlife habitat and livestock grazing purposes, through a surface lease issued by the Montana DNRC. The vegetative communities that currently exist in the area of the proposed disturbance will be temporarily altered with this type of activity. The total area of disturbance on the native grazing land will be approximately 8 acres (Approximately 4 acres on each tract). There are no rare plants or cover types present in the immediate area of the proposed disturbance. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stock piled upslope from the project area and used last to cover the disturbed areas for reclaiming these sites. The proponent will be required to reclaim the area of disturbance with a mixture of native grasses and yellow sweetclover. Reclamation efforts will ensure that the vegetative communities will be enhanced after this project is completed. The reclamation plan will provide erosion protection, support for the existing habitat types, and an increase in the overall forage production on these tracts of state land.

**No Action Alternative:** The vegetative communities that currently exist on these two tracts of state land will not be altered. The topsoil will not be disturbed on these two tracts of state land and there will be no need for a reclamation plan. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

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 within the immediate area of the proposed disturbances will be impacted with the removal of borrow material by large construction equipment. The area of disturbance will be small in scope and shall be reclaimed with the terms and conditions outlined in the reclamation plan from the Montana DNRC and/or Montana DEQ. The disturbed areas will be reclaimed with a mixture of native grasses and yellow sweetclover. The areas of disturbance primarily consists of the following plant species; needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), green needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) and western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*). The location of the proposed project is best described as a short grass prairie habitat type. Many different types of wildlife species use this area for habitat. Those species include; whitetail deer, mule deer, antelope, badger, skunk, the Columbian ground squirrel, red fox, coyote, as well as many different types of songbirds, upland game birds, and waterfowl. Wildlife species may be temporarily displaced on these tracts of state land, until the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 is completed. 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 habitat that currently exists on these tracts of state land.

**No Action Alternative:** The terrestrial and avian life and their associated habitats will not be disturbed on these two tracts of state land. Wildlife species will continue to use these tracts of state land as they have in the past. Wildlife species will not be temporarily relocated in this area. Wildlife habitat will not be temporarily altered on these two tracts of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

<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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed action is not expected to cause adverse ecological impacts on threatened or endangered species. There is no confirmed use of threatened or endangered species using this area, but the potential of occasional use does exist. There are no species of special concern, nor are there any sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area. There are no wetlands located in the immediate areas of disturbance. Reclamation efforts will ensure that the areas of disturbance are reseeded to a mixture native grasses and yellow sweetclover.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The unique, endangered, fragile, and/or limited environmental resources that exist on these two tracts of state grazing land will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> No historical or archaeological sites were observed in the areas of the proposed disturbance, during the on-site inspection that was conducted on these two tracts of state land. No surface features or cultural artifacts were discovered during the scheduled field review of these tracts. The areas proposed for removing borrow material do not contain any known cultural resources.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There are no known historical or archaeological resources present on these two tracts of state grazing land. Unknown historical and archaeological resources will not be disturbed, if this project is not undertaken. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>

<p>11. AESTHETICS: 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><b>Action Alternative:</b> Removing borrow material from these two tracts of state land will lower the aesthetic value temporarily. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will reclaim the disturbed areas with a mixture of native grasses and yellow sweetclover. The proposed project will produce some excessive noise, throughout the entire construction phase of this project. Traffic will continue to use the existing road on the southern section line of this tract of State land. However, after the construction project is completed and the disturbed areas have been reclaimed, the aesthetic character of this area will increase with the newly improved two lane highway.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The aesthetic character of the land will remain the same on these two tracts of state grazing land. Excessive noise will still be produced in this area from the road construction activities. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENGERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed project will demand the environmental resource of land by removing borrow material from these two tracts of state land for the road construction project on State Hwy. #233. The project will not use any environmental resources that are limited in this area. There are no other known activities in this area that will impact these tracts of state land. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material for developing embankments for the road construction project.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There will be no additional demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, and/or energy on these two tracts of state grazing land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>

<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> There are no other environmental documents pertinent to this area. The Montana DNRC will continue to administer all surface and subsurface activities on these two tracts of state land. Staff from the Montana DNRC will continue to evaluate grazing management activities and set stocking rates on these two tracts of state land every ten years in accordance with Montana State Statute. The Montana DNRC has received all the appropriate documents from the Montana DOT and the Montana DEQ for this project to go ahead.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There are no other environmental documents pertinent to this area. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenues for the trust beneficiaries, while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed action will decrease the human health and safety risks found in this area. Removing borrow material from these two tracts of state land will provide Riverside Contracting, Inc. with enough borrow material to use for embankment construction for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233. This section of State Hwy. #233 is currently a gravel road and susceptible to drifting in the winter time and flooding in the spring time. This project will provide the Montana DOT with a more reliable state highway to connect Havre with the Canadian border. Human health and safety risks will decrease in this area after this project is completed.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The human health and safety risks found in this area will continue to remain the same. This highway will continue to drift in the winter time and flood in the spring time. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
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{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed action will alter the livestock grazing management and the forage production on these two tracts of state land. However, after the borrow material has been removed from these two tracts of state land the areas of disturbance will be reclaimed with native grasses and yellow sweetclover. This project will not interfere with the industrial and commercial activities that are currently found on these tracts of state land.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The industrial, commercial, and livestock grazing activities will not be altered on these two tracts of state land. The grazing land will not be disturbed and forage production will not decrease in these areas. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The quantity and distribution of employment will be impacted with the proposed action. Removing borrow material from state land will create jobs for Riverside Contracting, Inc. employees. This project will eventually provide residents in this area with a more reliable highway to travel on.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The quantity and distribution of employment will not be impacted in this rural area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Removing borrow material from state lands will not create or eliminate tax revenue in Hill County. The local and state tax base will not change as a result from removing borrow material from these two tracts of state land. However, reconstructing State Hwy. #233 will create additional tax revenue within Hill County.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The local and state tax base will remain the same in this area. Tax revenue from these tracts of state land will not change in Hill County. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>

{PRIVATE }III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?

**Action Alternative:** There will be a substantial increase in heavy equipment travel across these two tracts of state land during this entire project. Traffic on existing State Hwy. #233 will also be very substantial until this entire road construction project is completed. No additional government services will be needed as a result of the proposed action. There will not be a demand for other services such as police, fire protection, or schools.

**No Action Alternative:** There will be no additional demands for government services on these two tracts of state land. There will no substantial use across the state land by the heavy equipment removing borrow material. Traffic will continue to be substantial on this highway, until this road construction project is completed. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?

**Action Alternative:** There are no other locally adopted environmental plans or goals for these two tracts of state land at this time. The MT DNRC/TLMD will continue to evaluate state land resource issues from a logical, environmental, and economic point of view. There are no zoning or management plans in effect for these tracts of state land at this time.

**No Action Alternative:** There are no other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the MT DNRC/TLMD has for these two tracts of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.

<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><b>Action Alternative:</b> These two tracts of state land have a perfected legal access for recreational purposes. These two tracts have low to moderate recreational value for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. No impacts on the recreational activities are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The recreational activities will continue to be low to moderate on these two tracts of state land. These two tracts of state land will remain legally accessible to people for recreational purposes. Anyone with a State Lands Recreational Use License from the State of Montana can recreate on these two tracts of state land. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed action will not increase the density and distribution of the human population and housing in this rural area. The proposed project will not require additional housing. Removing borrow material from these two tracts of state land will simply provide Riverside Contracting, Inc. with additional fill dirt for developing embankments for this road construction project.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The density and distribution of population and housing will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed project may disrupt the traditional lifestyles found in this area. The surrounding community consists mainly of farming and ranching families. The proposed project may complicate livestock management decisions for a short period of time on these two tracts of state land. However, the disturbance will be small in scope and the proponent will settle all damages with the state's surface lessee(s) on these two tracts of state grazing land.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The native and traditional lifestyles that are found within this area will not be altered. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts 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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed action will temporarily impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity that is found within this area. Reconstructing this portion of this highway may be considered the end of an era by some. However, the new highway will be more safe and reliable to the people who travel this road frequently.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land and its people will remain the same. This area will continue to be used for livestock grazing, production of dryland agricultural commodities, and wildlife habitat. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> There are no other social or economical circumstances associated with the proposed project on these two tracts of state grazing land.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The social and economic circumstances will remain the same in this area. The Montana DRNC will not issue Riverside Contracting, Inc. two separate permits to take and remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of borrow material from two tracts of state land for the reconstruction of State Hwy. #233 in northern Hill County. Riverside Contracting, Inc. will have to find an alternative location to get borrow material for this road construction project.</p>

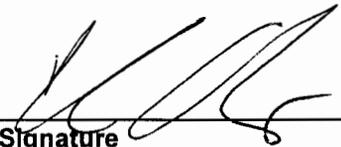
EA Checklist Prepared By: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
Signature

Date: September 7, 2004

{PRIVATE }IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S.I.
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

  
Signature

9/16/14  
Date: