

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Timberline Transport Land Use License
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Fall 2004
<b>Proponent:</b>	Timberline Transport, 6735 Linda Vista, Missoula, MT 59803
<b>Location:</b>	Sec 36 T28N R15E
<b>County:</b>	Choteau

**I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION**

Type of Action: Land Use License. Proponent would like to extend existing State road approximately 1320' to West line of section 36.

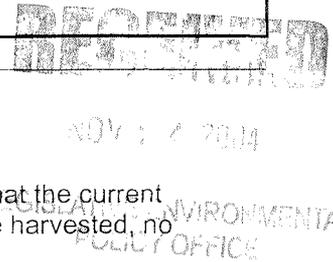
Purpose of Action: Road will be used to access and harvest timber owned by an adjacent landowner.

**II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

**1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:**

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

Due to the relatively small magnitude of the project (1.5 acres for road ROW) and the fact that the current grazing lease (#998) belongs to Roy and Janet Runnion, the landowner who's timber will be harvested, no extensive public involvement was sought.



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

None.

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Alternative A: No Action.

Uses such as grazing would continue and the road would not be extended.

Alternative B: Land Use License to extend the existing road.

The existing road would be extended approximately 1320' using DNRC road building standards along with implementation of BMP's. An estimated return to the State of \$2000.00 in the form of rental fees and stumpage.

**III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

**4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:**

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

Soils in the project area are complexes of Garlet-Elkner on slopes of 25-70%. These soils are comprised of Garlet cobbly loams and Elkner sandy loams. No unusual or unique geologic features were identified in the project area. Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be implemented on the road following construction in the

form of water bars or drive thru drain dips and the road surface will be seeded with grass common to the area. No cumulative impacts to soils are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

No surface water present in the project area. No cumulative impacts to water resources are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

The project area is located within Airshed 9. State Hazard Reduction Standards will be mitigated by initiating slash disposal (by DNRC personnel) during seasonal burning periods and completed by following procedures established by the State Airshed Coordination Group. These measures will ensure that all direct and indirect effects of smoke to air quality will be minimal. No cumulative impacts to air quality are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

No rare plants or cover types have been identified in the project area. Road surface along with the cut and fill slopes will be grass seeded following construction. No cumulative impacts to vegetation are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

The project area is frequented by terrestrial game and nongame wildlife and birds common to the area. Temporary displacement of certain species during construction operations will be direct short term impacts. There are no fish bearing streams within the project area. No cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

No federally listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, or identified habitat are known to exist within the project area. No wetlands exist within the project area. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

No recorded historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present within the project area. A search for such sites was conducted by Patrick Rennie, DNRC Archaeologist, in conjunction with the Two Mile Ridge timber sale. The main haul road for the Two Mile Ridge timber sale is the road that will be extended.

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

The project area is located on common topographical features typical of the area. It will not be visible from populated or scenic areas. No excessive noise, light will be produced. There will be a visual change with new road construction, but it is not visible from populated areas and the road will be grass seeded following construction. No cumulative impacts to aesthetics are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

The project will not use resources that are limited in the area. Other activities nearby are not expected to affect the project. No cumulative impacts to limited environmental resources are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

The proposed road to be extended is the main haul road built and used in conjunction with the Two Mile Ridge timber sale on this tract. Operations associated with this timber sale will be completed prior to construction of the extension of the road.

<b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul> |
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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

Human safety risks may vary with the workers actively involved in "on site" harvest operations. Safety rules and regulations applied through Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and are administered by workers dealing with that program.

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

The project will allow for access and harvesting of the adjacent landowner's (Runnion) timber.

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

People are currently employed in the wood products industry in the region. No cumulative impacts to the employment market are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

People are currently paying taxes from the wood products industry in the region. No cumulative impacts to taxes and revenue are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

There will be no measurable cumulative impact related to demand for government services.

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be incorporated into the design of the project.

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**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

Recreational potential does exist for such activities as hunting and hiking. Access, however, is limited to walk in use to those able to secure access through adjacent private property or those with authorization to cross Indian Reservation Land. No cumulative impacts to recreational and wilderness activities are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project.

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**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

There will be cumulative impacts related to population and housing due to the fact that people are currently employed in this occupation in the region.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

No potential for disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities are likely to occur.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

No affects to any unique quality of the area is likely to occur.

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**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

The estimated return to the trust of fees and stumpage is \$2000.00. This road may be used for future timber harvest either on State land or the adjacent landowner. No cumulative economic or social effects are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Shawn Morgan	<b>Date:</b>
	<b>Title:</b> Management Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Type Response here

Action

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

N.S.I.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: <i>Clive Rooney</i>
	Title: <i>NELC Area Manager</i>
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>10/17/14</i>