

ENR PROJECT NO. 07-01-00000

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Flage – Smith water line and stock tank development – Lease 7339, 3660, 5744	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2006
Proponent: Grant Flage & Gerald Smith PO Box 83, Galata, MT 59444	
Type and Purpose of Action: To install a stock water development system to provide a reliable source of water to the below listed tracts of land. The proposal is for the installation of 3 livestock water tanks and about 1 mile of water pipeline.	
Location: NW¼NW¼, Sec 15, T31N, R3E All, Sec 16, T31N, R3E W½SW¼, Sec 9, T31N, R3E	County: Toole

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DNRC, Gerald Smith: Surface Lessee Toole County Federal NRCS Agency, Equip Program
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	1. Deny the request 2. Locate an alternative route 3. Approve the proposed route

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposal is through relatively flat topography. The soils are deep. There will be approximately 1 mile of disturbance from pipeline construction. Small scale and temporary disturbances to the soil resources will occur. Disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded. No long term impacts are expected.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The water source is the Galata Rural water system. Other water quality and quantity issues will not be impacted.

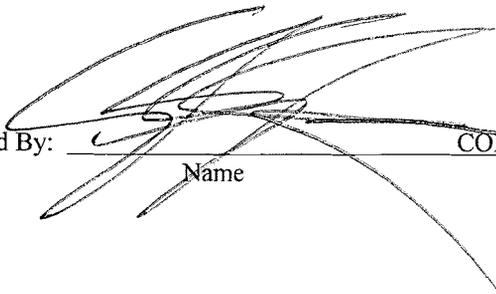
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II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Air Quality will not be affected from the implementation of this project.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will cross native rangeland. The vegetative community will be temporarily disturbed along the pipeline route. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded back to native vegetation.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed water tanks will provide a reliable water source for livestock and area wildlife.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no federally listed or threatened species or habitat present on this tract.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[Y] The pipeline route was surveyed on July 27, 2005. No archaeological sites were observed. A copy of the NRCS "negative finds" report is attached.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project is inline with other area improvements. No impacts to aesthetics are expected.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will not be demands on the areas resources from the installation of this proposal.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] There are no other plans or projects within these tracts at this time.

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] This project will not change health and human safety in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The project will add the surface lessee's ranching operations. This water development will improve livestock distribution and provide a reliable source of water for pasture rotations.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project will create a few local contracting jobs for the implementation of the line.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] There will be some tax revenue generated from the implementation of this project.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This proposal will not increase the demand for government services to the area.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] There are no government zoning or management plans in affect along this proposed route.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] State land is legally accessible. The project is not expected to impact general recreational use in the area.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This proposal will not change the population of the area.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities' possible?	[N] This proposal will not impact area lifestyle or traditions.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] This proposal will not affect the cultural uniqueness of the area.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will be no other potential for future use other than for current management. This project will be authorized by under improvements.

EA Checklist Prepared By:  CONRAD UNIT MANAGER – CLO Date Feb 27, 2006

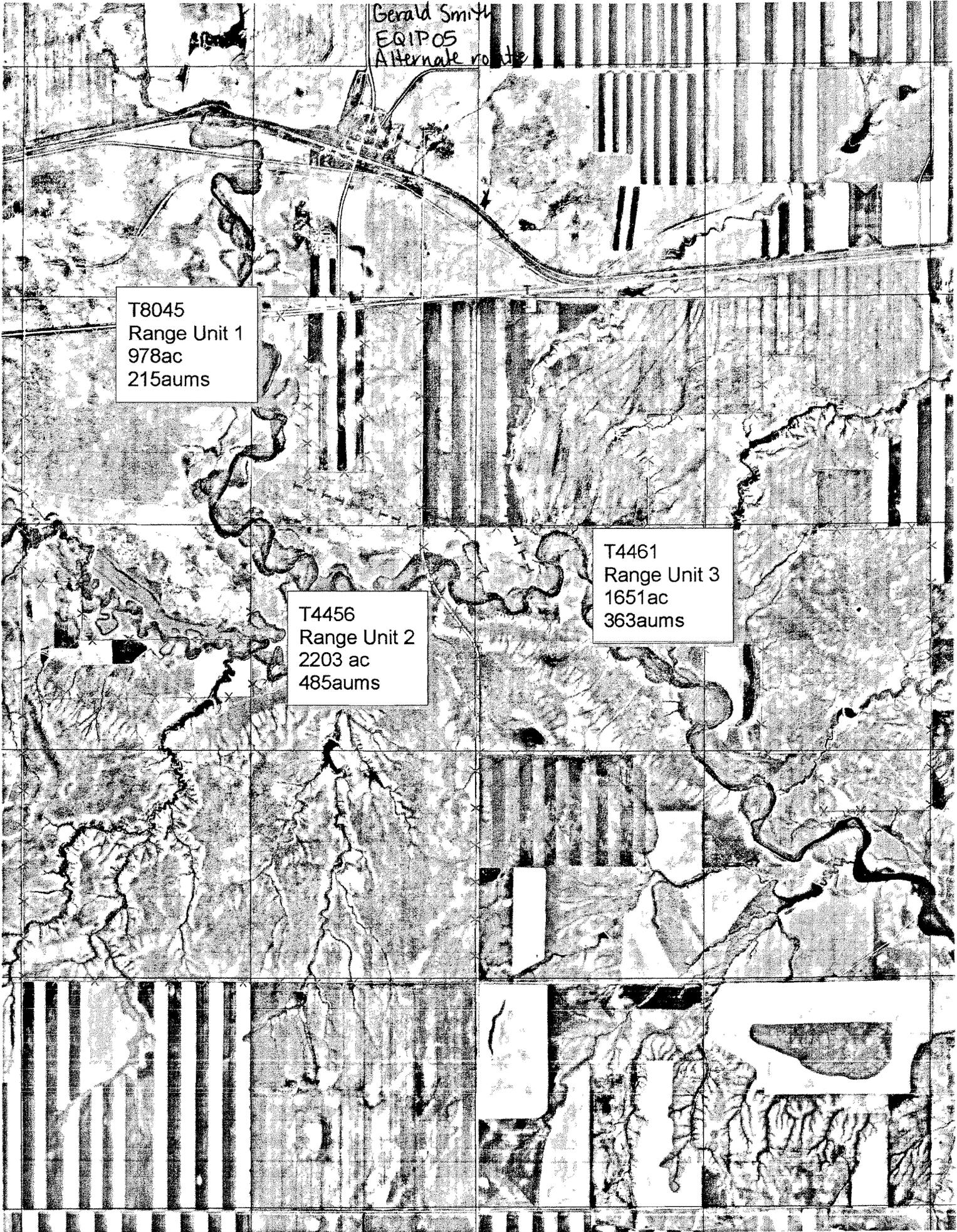
Name Title

Gerald Smith
EQIP 05
Alternate route

T8045
Range Unit 1
978ac
215aums

T4456
Range Unit 2
2203 ac
485aums

T4461
Range Unit 3
1651ac
363aums



NRCS NEGATIVE FINDINGS REPORT

This form will be completed for surveys where no cultural properties (sites) were found. Completion of this form assumes that the surveyor has completed the NRCS National Cultural Resources Training and the inventory was conducted using enough 15-meter (50-foot) transects sufficient to cover the APE and any areas that could be affected by construction.

FIELD OFFICE: Shelby

COUNTY: Took

TWN-RNG-SEC-QUARTER: 8,9,16,17,20,21-31N-3E

STATE LAND: TWN-RNG-SEC: SW SW-8-31-3E ; NW NW-16-31-3E, NENE-17-31-3E

ACRES: 23.7 ac (17,500 lin ft approx x 60' width approx)

FILE SEARCH RESULTS: Negative 6/21/05

CONTRACT #: (NOT REQUIRED) 74032SSC992 PROGRAM: EQIP

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: LIST ALL PRACTICES COVERED BY THIS REPORT

Practice Name	Code	CI #	*If M Category Exception (1-4)	Method of Survey & width of transect
pipeline	516	1	Y	} Parallel transects, approx. 40' width. Much of line is through CRP & previously disturbed ground (approx. 1 mile worth)
water fetty	614	2	Y	

* MAP IS NOT REQUIRED FOR M CATEGORY.

DATE OF INVENTORY: 7/26/05

SURVEYOR'S NAME: Misty Vermulm

TRIBAL/ALLOTTED LAND: 0 YES NO

IF YES, NOTIFICATION TO CULTURAL CONTACT: _____
NAME DATE

DATE SENT TO AREA OFFICE: 7/26/05

COMMENTS: Expecting to rip in the pipeline such that disturbance area will be narrow. Also viewed an alternate route per landowner/topography preference. Alternate route is expected location installation

ATTACH COPY OF USGS MAP

NRCS INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING NEGATIVE FINDINGS REPORT

ITEM:

FIELD OFFICE AND COUNTY: Identify the field office conducting the field inspection and the county where the project is located.

TWN-RNG-SEC-QUARTER: Provide the legal description of the project down to the quarter quarter (40 acres), if applicable.

STATE LAND: List any DNRC owned land covered by this report.

ACRES: Provide the acres covered by the field inspection. This figure should correspond to the project/survey area identified on the topo map.

FILE SEARCH RESULTS: File searches will be conducted for all "Y" and non-exempt "M" undertakings (Exhibit 1). Field office personnel will conduct the file search through the NRIS website (<http://nr.is.state.mt.us/>). If no cultural resource sites found on the data base enter, "Negative". However, if a site is found within that section contact State Archaeologist, to discuss how to proceed. Attach a copy of file search page showing the township and range to this form.

CONTRACT #: Enter the appropriate contract number from Protracts. This is optional, not required, was requested for tracking purposes.

PROGRAM: Applicable program—i.e., EQIP, etc.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: LIST PRACTICE NAME, PRACTICE CODE, CONTRACT ITEM NUMBER IN APPROPRIATE BOXES. IF PRACTICE FALLS INTO THE "EXEMPT (M)" CATEGORY LIST, COMPLETE THE EXCEPTION BOX WITH THE APPROPRIATE 1,2,3 OR 4 FROM BELOW. **METHOD OF SURVEY AND WIDTH:** State how ground investigation was completed on foot, parallel or zigzag transects, etc. Also, include the width of the area surveyed, i.e., 100 feet on each side of planned pipeline and any other pertinent information.

- 1 – previously cultivated or otherwise disturbed area
- 2 – application does not involve ground disturbance
- 3 – no sites present and non-intrusive or minimal ground disturbance (*implies some level of looking to make sure sites are not present and that the practice relatively non-intrusive such as steel posts or insulated power fences*)
- 4 – changes to historic structures are not permanent nor is structure moved

DATE OF INVENTORY AND SURVEYOR'S NAME: Give the date(s) when the field inspection was done and list the people who did the inspection.

TRIBAL/ALLOTTED LAND: If land is within reservation boundary complete the name of appropriate contact person.

COMMENTS: This section can be used to further explain field methods, clarify a project, provide any information of interest, or make notes concerning any possible future projects in the area.

MAP: Attach a copy of a USGS Quad map showing the survey boundaries. Maps are not required if M category.

Cultural/Historic Sites

Selection Info: Township 31N, Range 3E

[Back To Data List](#)

Zoom IN

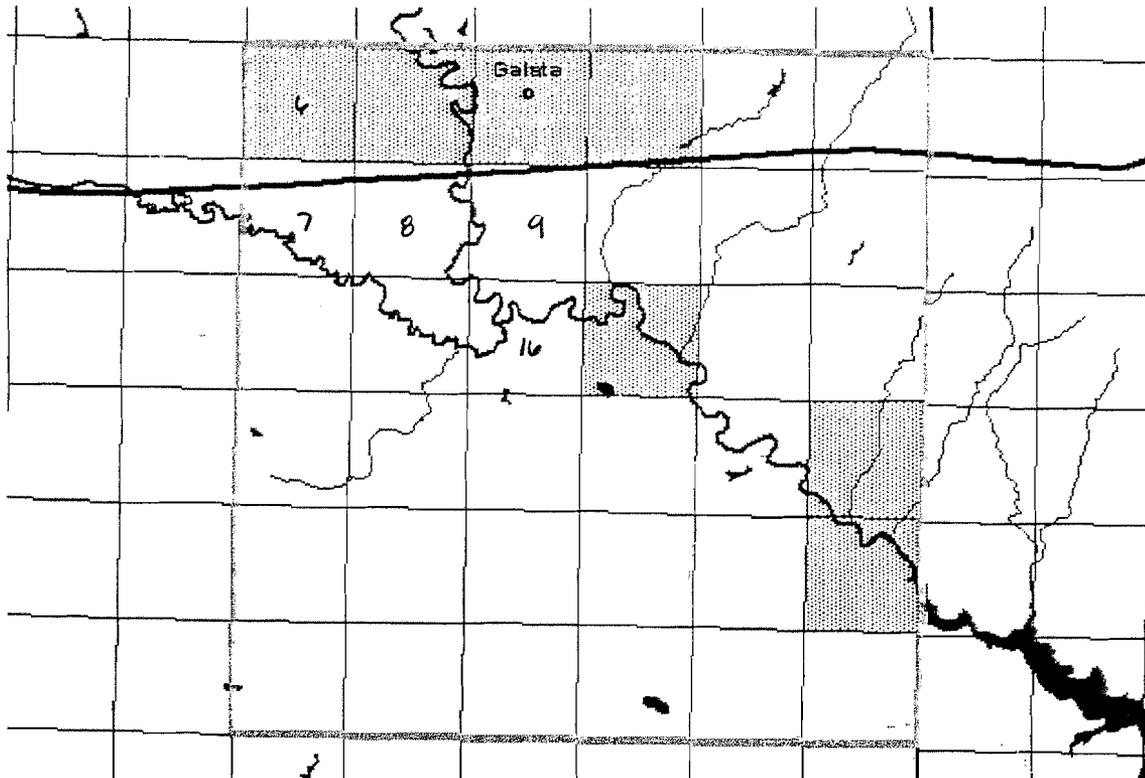
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Zoom Factor 2

Pan

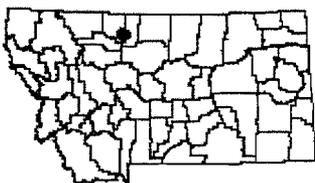
[Full Extent](#)

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This map is 10.0 miles wide.

Location Map



Data Reports

CRIS Site List

Description

[Click Here](#)

Download Sections with Cultural/Historic Sites Shape File

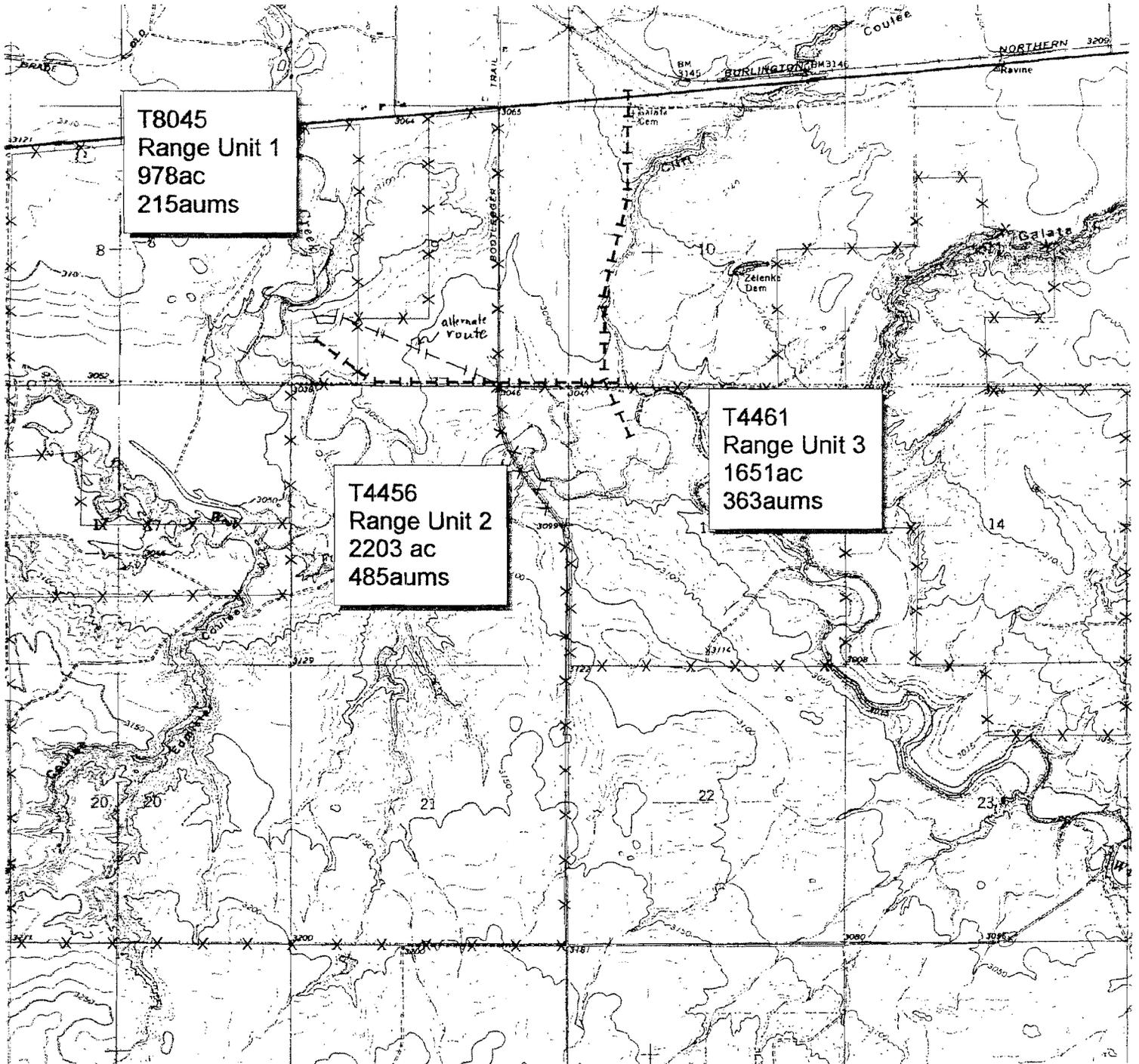
Ne

pl

Topography

Mr. Gerald M. Smith

Date: 06/02/2005



Legend

- tanks
- X — fences
- +— pipeline
- STudy Area
- Planned Land Units
- Section Locator
- diu_a_mt101.shp



4000

0

4000

8000 Feet

