

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Drummond reclassification of 38.67 acres.	Proposed Implementation Date: 2/14/06
Proponent: DNRC	
Type and Purpose of Action: Reclassify 38.6 acres from tame pasture to hay land...	
Location: Lease # 7487 SE4 S32 T36N R45E; 35.4 Acres FSA Field # 1  Lease # 1047 SW4 S32 T36N R45E; 3.2 Acres, FSA Field # 20	County: Daniels  <div style="text-align: center;">                       MAR 08 2006                      LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL                      POLICY OFFICE                 </div>

## 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 staff inspected (10/05/05) the land to comply with the lease renewal obligations. During the inspection, it appeared to DNRC that the highest and best use of the 38.6 acres is hay land. At the time of the inspection, the DNRC had the land classified as grazing land, per election of the lessee. The lessee is not annual haying these lands. After the inspection, the Department staff wrote the lessee stating they thought the highest and best use of the land was hay land. The lessee returned a written letter stating that they agree that the land should be classified as hay land and that they were willing to renovate the lands in 2006.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action: Re-classify the land in question from tame pasture to hay land. No-Action: Keep the land classified as tame pasture.

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)  General Discussion: The proposed acreage to be reclassified as dry land alfalfa/grass hay consists of #57 Turner sand loam: 2 to 8 percent slope, capability subclass IVE this comprises approximately

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	<p>36 acres. ; #60 Typic Fluvaquents, 0 to 2 percent slopes, VI, this soil subclass comprises 2.6 acres. The typic fluvaquents is not a well drained soil. Farming may be difficult in early spring or during events of high moisture. The # 61 is a small area that does not encompass much of the land. During wet or muddy conditions, the area may easily be avoided.</p> <p>Action: The conversion of this land to hay land will keep the land in permanent cover. If there are wet or muddy conditions, the hay land does not necessarily need to be driven on. The non-muddy areas may still be hayed</p> <p>No-Action: No affect to these resources will take place.</p>
<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>There is a small overflow area that is incorporated in this field. The area will only have overflow moisture during heavy moisture events.</p> <p>Action: If there are wet or muddy conditions, the hay land does not necessarily need to be driven on. The non-muddy areas may still be hayed. The area will remain in permanent cover, and water and wild erosion will be minimized.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect.</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: None</p> <p>No-Action: None</p>
<p>7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>The vegetation in this area consists of crested wheatgrass and alfalfa. The stand is fairly productive and is capable of being hayed in its present condition if a weed control action was taken.</p> <p>Action: The land will be converted to Alfalfa.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect.</p>
<p>8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>The area is being used by nesting upland game birds and migratory song birds.</p> <p>Action: Conversion to hay land will not affect this habitat type. Conversion to hay land will provide a forage basis for upland game birds and for large game animals.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect to this habitat type will take place.</p>
<p>9.UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened</p>	<p>No unique, endangered or fragile environmental resources are known to exist.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>Action: Conversion to hay land will not affect this resource type.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect to this resources type will take place.</p>
<p>10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>No cultural, historical, or archaeological resources are known to exist.</p> <p>Action: No affect will take place by implementing of this action. The land has already been disturbed. Any surface features that were present would have been disturbed when the land was initially broken.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect will take place by implementing of this action.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Action No affect will take place by implementing of this action.</p> <p>No-Action No affect will take place by implementing of this action.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Action: No additional demands to environmental resources will take place.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect.</p>
<p>13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>Action: No affect.</p> <p>No-Action: No affect.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] 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: Temporary human health and safety risks will be added by the implementation of this project.</p> <p>No-Action: No human health or safety risk will be added because no action will be taking place.</p>
<p>15.INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action: Implementation will add to industrial activities,</p> <p>No-Action: By not implementing this action, the industrial production of the land will not be increased while the agricultural activities will remain the same. The potential agriculture will not be achieved.</p>
<p>16.QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action: the Quantity of employment opportunities will increase.</p> <p>No-Action: Employment opportunities will not be</p>

	created.
17.LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	Action: Implementation of the project will increase the State and local tax base and will also increase trust lands revenue if a well goes into production.  No-Action: By not implementing this project, State, local, and Trust revenues will not be increased.
18.DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	Action: No demands on government services will be required by this project.  No-Action: Government services will not be enhanced.
19.LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	Action: The zoning regulations for this area will not be impacted.  No-Action: The zoning regulations for this area will not be impacted.
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?	Action: There are no wilderness areas in this vicinity. The recreational opportunities will not be impacted due to the fact that the surface owner (fee lands) controls recreational opportunities.  No-Action: No impacts to the quality of recreation and wilderness activities will take place
21.DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	Action: No additional housing demands are anticipated.  No-Action: No additional housing demands are anticipated.
22.SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	Action: No disruption of native or traditional lifestyles is anticipated.  No-Action: No disruption of native or traditional lifestyles is anticipated.
23.CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	Action: No cultural uniqueness or diversity quality shift is anticipated.  No-Action: No cultural uniqueness or diversity quality shift is anticipated.
24.OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action none.  No-Action none.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

*R Hoyt R. daniel*

*Feb 16 06*

Date: February 15, 2006

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:

Name

Title

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

Date: February 15, 2006