

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Temporary Construction Area within lease 9243	Proposed Implementation Date: Pending
Proponent: Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT 59620	
Type and Purpose of Action: Use State land during the construction process of installing culverts under Highway 191.	
Location: SW4SW4NW4, S36 T23N R23E	County: Phillips

## 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>Montana Department of Transportation contacted the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) concerning this proposed project. The surface lessee's of the State land have also been contacted.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The DNRC is the only Government Agency that has jurisdiction concerning this matter.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MAY 04 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Allow the proponent to utilize 0.06 acres of State land during the installation of culverts under Highway 191 in the referenced location.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Deny the proponent access to 0.06 acre during the installation of the culverts under Highway 191 in the referenced location.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>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?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The soils in the proposed project area consist of Neldore/Bascovey/Rock outcrop. The soils are shallow clays and the terrain is moderately steep. Activities from the proposed project will disturb the soils and the geographic features in the project area. Mitigation measures, which include the re-contouring of any disturbed areas, will be required to reduce the negative impacts to the soils and geographic features.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The soils in this area will not be impacted.</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</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The water quality, quantity, or distribution in this area will not be impacted by the proposed project.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Water quality, quantity and</p>

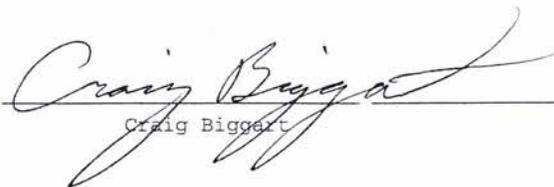
II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	distribution will not be affected.
6.AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Air quality within the immediate proposed project area may be temporarily impacted. Construction activities may create dust in the project area.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Air quality will not be affected in this area.</p>
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The vegetation in the Proposed project area will be disturbed during construction activities. Mitigation measures, which include the re-seeding of any disturbed areas within the proposed project area, will be required. The seed mixture for the reseeded will consist of native grasses.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Vegetation in this area will not be effected.</p>
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Ungulate and Avian wildlife species may be affected when heavy equipment is in operation during the proposed project. The impacts will be small and temporary.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Ungulate and Avian wildlife species will not be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed project location is in south Phillips County. There is sage grouse habitat scattered throughout this region. The closest sage grouse strutting ground has been identified approximately two miles to the northeast of the proposed project site. Sage grouse will not be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No resources in the area will be affected.</p>
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> There are no noted historical or archaeological sites in the immediate area of the proposed construction site. The State archaeologist has been informed of the proposed project and has no concerns with the project operations.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No historical or archaeological will be effected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed project site is next to highway 191. During the construction phase, heavy equipment and the disturbed landscape will be visible from the highway. Through mitigation measures, which include the reclamation of the project area,</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	<p>eventually the visible disturbances to the project area will be minimal.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The aesthetics of in this area will not be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> No resources will be affected by this proposed project.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No resources will be affected.</p>
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> There are no other studies in this area.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No studies, plans or projects will be affected.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> During the construction phase of the proposed project, the construction workers will face some health and safety risks. The employer and employees understand the risks as occupational hazards. During the construction phase of the proposed project, there will be some safety risks to the general public. The proponent will take the proper measures to ensure the public's safety.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Human health and safety risks will not be affected.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> No industrial, commercial or agricultural activities or production will be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No industrial, commercial or agricultural activities or production will be affected.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The quantity and distribution of employment will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The quantity and distribution of employment will not be affected.</p>
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> Demand for government services will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Demand for government services will not be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> There is a DNRC TLMD grazing plan in place in this area. The proposed construction activity on the 0.06 acres of State land will not affect the grazing plan.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No management plans will be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The recreational potential for this tract is hunting. Hunting will not be affected by this proposed project.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Recreational and wilderness activities will not be affected.</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> Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Social structure and mores will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Social structure and mores will not be affected.</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 cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> No social and economic circumstances will be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No social and economic circumstances will be affected.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By:

  
Craig Biggart

Date: March 8, 2006

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Grant permission to allow licensee to utilize the 0.06 Acres to install culverts
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:  <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By

R. Hoyt Richards  
R. Hoyt Richards, Glasgow Unit Manager

Date: March 8, 2006