

DS-252

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Access for Montana Flour & Grains.	Proposed Implementation Date: June 1, 2006.
Proponent: Montana Flour & Grains.	
Type and Purpose of Action: For the purpose of a safe access to private property to conduct a grain cleaning business and related activities.	
Location: SE1/4SE1/4NW1/4, Sec. 15, T24N, R8E.	County: Chouteau.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Mt.DNRC; Montana Flour & Grains, Andre C. Giles, President; Barbara Leinart, Lessee of State Lease #8287; Sharon Pavlovik, Chouteau County FSA Office, head of the CRP Program. The purpose for this Land Use License #3232 is to provide a safe access to private property to construct and conduct a grain cleaning and marketing facility.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Mt. Department of Agriculture, Nancy Peterson, Director. The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to issue a Land Use License for access until a permanent easement can be obtained.

## IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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?	[N] Silty soils are present. There are no unusual geologic features present. The surrounding area is in CRP.
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**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

<p>5. <b>WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</b> 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>[N] There is no potential for water degradation.</p>
<p>6. <b>AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.</p>
<p>7. <b>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[Y] The CRP stand will be removed and gravel and pavement will be put in its place. There are no rare plants or cover types present.</p>
<p>8. <b>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] There is some use by upland game and big game animals, but it is not considered substantial.</p>
<p>9. <b>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[N] The area in question is all in an established field of CRP. There are no species of special concern.</p>
<p>10. <b>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no Historical, Archaeological or Paleontological resources present.</p>
<p>11. <b>AESTHETICS:</b> 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>[Y] This access rout will be just north of the town of Ft. Benton at the major highway intersection of Hwy 87 &amp; Hwy 223. The access road will be at 1374 feet north of this intersection located on the west side of the highway. It will run east &amp; west 554 feet to the new plant location.</p>
<p>12. <b>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>[N] Limited resources will not be used in this project.</p>

### IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] There are no other plans for this tract at this time.
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### III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] Human health and safety should not become affected by this project.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This will be a grain cleaning and marketing facility. Commercial and agricultural activities will be enhanced.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[Y] New jobs are likely to be created with this facility. I do not know how many.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[Y] Taxes should be created by 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?	[Y] There could be substantial additional traffic due to the construction of this facility. Additional fire protection and police services are likely to be needed.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None.
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?	[N] The surrounding area is composed of highways and CRP.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require	[N] Additional housing will not be required.

**III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

additional housing?	
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There will be no shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[Y] There is an active CRP Contract at the site location. The surface lessee and the State will have to be indemnified by Montana Flour & Grains for that acreage that is removed.

EA Checklist Prepared By:  
 BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
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 Signature  
 Date: May 8, 2006

**IV. FINDING**

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to issue a Land Use License until a permanent easement can be obtained.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected with this license once the indemnification of the CRP Contract has been made.
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:  
 CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
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 Signature