DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Billboards	Proposed Implementation Date: Pending
Proponent: Montana Sign Co. 1910 HWY 2 East, Havre, MT 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: Erect three Billboards on State land.	
Location: E½SW¼, S30 T33N R16E	County: Hill

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The Montana Sign Company has petitioned the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) to erect three billboards on the referenced tract of State land for advertising purposes. The State surface lessees, Jerry & Jennifer Morse, have been notified of the proposed project.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The DNRC is the only Government Agency that has jurisdiction in this matter.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	**Action Alternative:** Allow the proponent to put up three billboards on the referenced tract of State land. **NO Action Alternative:** Deny the proponent permission to put up the billboards on the State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	**Action Alternative:** The soils in the proposed project area consist of silty loams with 0-4% slopes. Several holes, approximately 16" in diameter will be dug to install support poles for the proposed billboards. The soil excavated from these holes will be places next to the holes and be used to fill in the holes if/when the proposed billboards are removed. **NO Action Alternative:** The soils in this area will not be impacted.
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?	**Action Alternative:** The water quality, quantity, and distribution in this area will not be impacted under this alternative. **NO Action Alternative:** Water quality, quantity and distribution will not be affected.

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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 airshed)?	**Action Alternative:** Air quality surrounding the proposed project area may be temporarily impacted. Construction activities may create dust in the project work zone but there will be no long term impact to air quality in the area. **NO Action Alternative:** Air quality will not be affected in this area.
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	**Action Alternative:** The State surface within the proposed project area consists of native grasses and forbs. The vegetation where the 16"-holes are proposed will be destroyed. If the billboards are removed in the future, the vegetation should eventually come back naturally. **NO Action Alternative:** Vegetation in this area will not be effected.
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	**Action Alternative:** Ungulate and Avian wildlife species may be affected by the use of heavy equipment during the construction of the proposed billboards. Any impacts will be temporary. **NO Action Alternative:** Ungulate and Avian wildlife species will not be affected.
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?	**Action Alternative:** There are no known unique or endangered environmental resources within the proposed project area. **NO Action Alternative:** No resources in the area will be affected.
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	**Action Alternative:** There are no noted historical or archaeological sites in the immediate area of the proposed project site. **NO Action Alternative:** No historical or archaeological sites will be affected.
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?	**Action Alternative:** The proposed billboards will be located on highway 232, 2-miles north of Havre Montana. One of the signs is designed to be 10'X24' and the other two signs are designed to be 12'X48'. The signs will be plainly visible to anyone traveling highway 232 or to anyone in the immediate area. **NO Action Alternative:** The aesthetics of in this area will not be affected.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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?	**Action Alternative:** No resources will be affected by this proposed project. **NO Action Alternative:** No resources will be affected.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	**Action Alternative:** There are no other studies in this area. **NO Action Alternative:** No studies, plans or projects will be affected.

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?	**Action Alternative:** During the construction phase of installing the referenced billboards, workers will face some health and safety risks. The workers understand the risks as occupational hazards. **NO Action Alternative:** Human health and safety risks will not be affected.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	**Action Alternative:** No industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities will be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** No industrial, commercial or agricultural activities or production will be affected.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	**Action Alternative:** The quality and distribution of employment in the area will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** The quantity and distribution of employment will not be affected.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	**Action Alternative:** The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	**Action Alternative:** Demand for government services will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** Demand for government services will not be affected.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	**Action Alternative:** No known environmental plans or goals will be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** No management plans will be affected.

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 Alternative:** No recreational or wilderness activities will be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** Recreational and wilderness activities will not be affected.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	**Action Alternative:** Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	**Action Alternative:** Social structure and mores will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** Social structure and mores will not be affected.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	**Action Alternative:** The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	**Action Alternative:** No social and economic circumstances will be affected. **NO Action Alternative:** No social and economic circumstances will be affected.

EA Checklist Prepared By: _____ Date: January 29, 2008
Craig Biggerd, Land Use Specialist

To allow "Action alternative" to proceed.

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	allow the Montana Sign Co. to erect three billboards on state land in Sec. 30, T 33N, R 16E.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By Barny Smith, Lewistown Unit Manager Date: 2/4/08