

FOR: Connie Barak

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

<b>Project Name:</b>	MDT Big Dry Culvert Extension
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	2008
<b>Proponent:</b>	Montana Department of Transportation
<b>Location:</b>	T18N-41E-Sec 2
<b>County:</b>	Garfield County

**I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION**

The Montana Department of Transportation has requested a 2 year land use license from the DNRC Eastern Land Office. This license is for activities related to the replacement of a culvert located of the mentioned tract of State Trust Land. The project would take up .14 acres outside of the current MDT easement for highway 200.

**II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

**1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:**

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

The proponent has filed the proper applications for the development of the land use license. The DNRC Eastern Land Office will administer the land use license for this project. The proponent will be required to reclaim the site to its prior condition upon expiration or cancellation of the land use license. This includes but is not limited to re-grading of the site and reseeding to a native grass mixture. The Eastern Land Office will provide the seeding mixture as well as inspect the reclamation of the site.

**2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:**

None

**RECEIVED**

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**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Alternative A- Grant MDT a Land Use License for the construction on this tract of state land.

Alternative B- No Action

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

**III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

**4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:**

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

Alternative A- Some soil disturbance can be expected. This will come from activities that could compact the soil. No fragile soil types were noted in the inspection.

Alternative B- No Impact

**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

Alternative A- Water resources will be affected due to the new culvert creation. This should allow the drainage to better follow a natural course which should allow for less erosion in the area.

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**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

Alternative A- Construction of this project could increase the pollutant and particulate density for this area during the time of construction. This increase should be minimal in nature and would subside after the completion of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

Alternative A- Construction of this may affect the vegetation community in the area of the project. The proponent of this project will be required to reclaim the project to its prior condition upon expiration of the license. This includes but is not limited to re-grading the surface and reseeding the site to a native grass mixture that is to be approved by the DNRC Eastern Land Office

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

Alternative A- The wildlife in the area will experience a minor impact but due to the construction of the project. This impact should subside after the project completion

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

Alternative A- There is no evidence of any threatened or endangered species within the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

Alternative A Upon survey by the ELO field staff no historical sites have been noted within the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

Alternative A- Any impact to the aesthetics of this project would be minimal in nature.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

None

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b></p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul> |
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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

Alternative A- The construction of this project will be completed by trained professionals. This should minimize any risk associated with the construction of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

Alternative A- This project should add to the industrial, commercial and agricultural activities in the area.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

Alternative A- This project has the potential to create new jobs with potential advancement opportunities.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

Alternative A- This project will benefit the school trust through the purchase of a land use license. The amount of this license is set at \$150.00 per year for a total payment of \$300.00.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Scott Aye	<b>Date:</b> 2-29-2008
	<b>Title:</b> Land Use Specialist	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

None

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Marc Aberg
	<b>Title:</b> ELO Lands Program Manager
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Marc Aberg</i>
	<b>Date:</b> 2/29/2008