

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: LUL # Road Use / Access	Proposed Implementation Date: June 1, 2009
Proponent: MCR LLC, PO Box 716, Shelby, MT 49747	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant has applied for a LUL for access across approximately 850 feet of state land to drill an oil well (McCutcheon 3-10-36N2E) on adjacent private land. The proposed route will utilize an existing unimproved 2-track trail along the edge of a hay field. The access route will be used various drilling and service equipment. If the well is a producer, the applicant will need to secure long term access across state land.	
Location: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 10, T36N, R2E (see attached map for road location)	County: Toole

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Dave McEwen - Surface Lessee DNRC – Montana BOOG
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	There are no other agencies with jurisdiction on this project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Approve the LUL. No action. Do not approve the LUL.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Soils and geology in this area are suitable for road use. The applicant will use an existing 2-track trail along the edge of a hay field. A culvert will need to be installed where the road crosses an irrigation ditch. No other road improvements will be needed and/or authorized. No Cumulative impacts on soil resources are not expected.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action is not expected to impact water quality, quantity, or distribution in the area
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not impact air quality.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed route traverses classified grazing land and agricultural land. An existing 2-track trail will be used. No road improvements will be completed. Noxious and annual weeds along the road are a concern. The applicant will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds in the roadway. Cumulative impacts to the vegetation are not expected.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No long-term negative affects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat are expected.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposal is to use an existing road. No new roads will be built. Threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated will not be impacted.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] No cultural resources were found within the project area. No road construction is planned for this project.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not change the aesthetics of the landscape.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the proposed project area.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] The proposed LUL will not impact human health or safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The applicants will use an existing 2-track trail along the edge of a hay field. Agricultural and grazing activities on the surface lease will not be affected. The applicant will settle any actual damages with the surface lessee. This LUL will allow the applicant authorization to access a private oil and gas lease to drill an oil well.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will increase area employment for contractors, drilling companies, service companies and oil field workers.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will add to tax revenue.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will not add demand for government services.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This tract of state land has low recreational value. This tract is an isolated 40 and is not legally accessible to the public. The proposed action is not expected to impact general recreational activities on this state land.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not change the human population distribution or the housing requirements in the area.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] The proposed action will not alter the social structure of surrounding native communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The applicant will compensate the school trust at current rates for the road use.

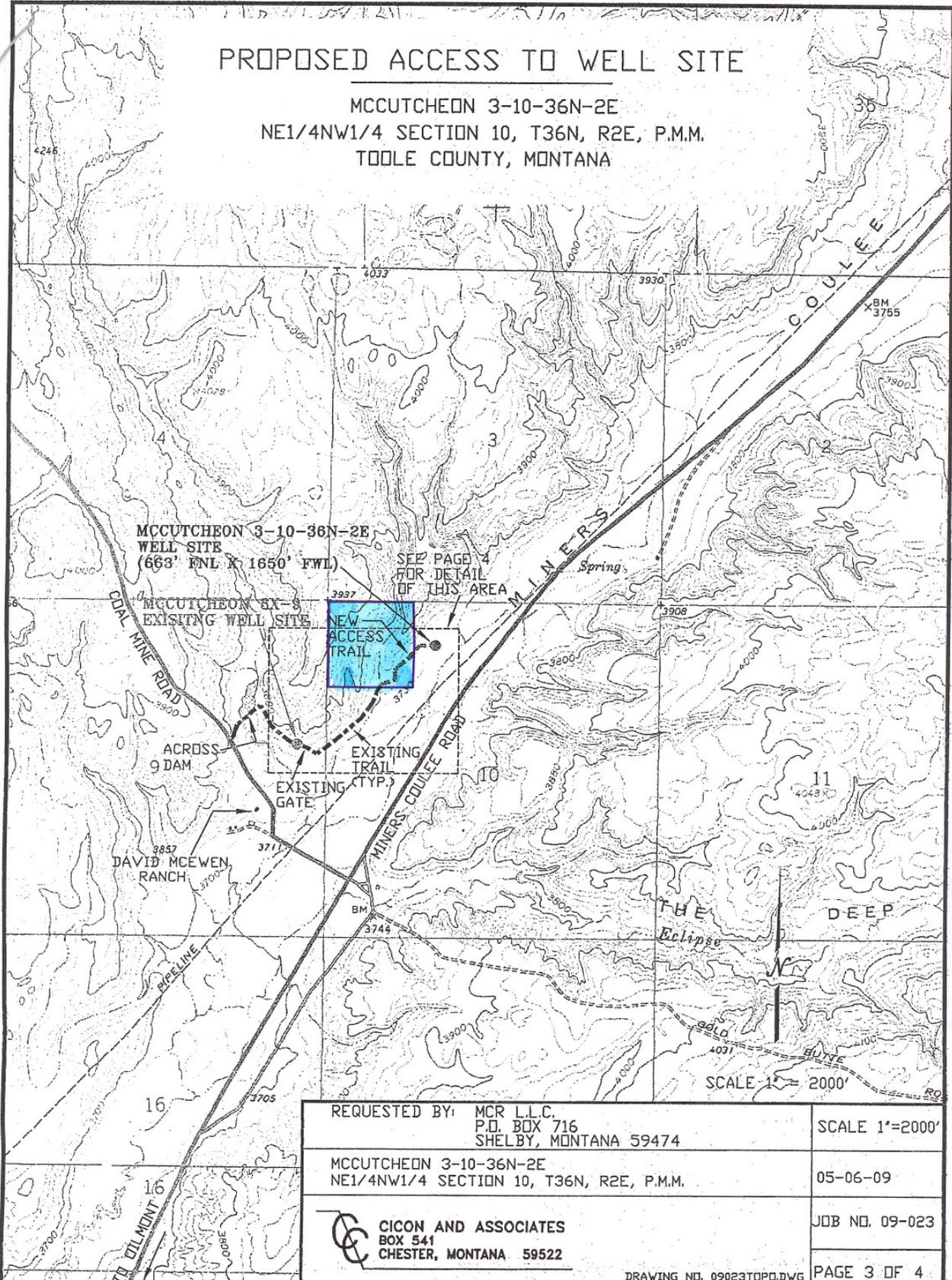
EA Checklist Prepared By: _____
Erik Eneboe

Conrad Unit Manager - CLO
Title

Date: May 29, 2009

PROPOSED ACCESS TO WELL SITE

MCCUTCHEON 3-10-36N-2E
 NE1/4NW1/4 SECTION 10, T36N, R2E, P.M.M.
 TOOLE COUNTY, MONTANA



REQUESTED BY: MCR L.L.C.
 P.O. BOX 716
 SHELBY, MONTANA 59474

MCCUTCHEON 3-10-36N-2E
 NE1/4NW1/4 SECTION 10, T36N, R2E, P.M.M.

SCALE 1"=2000'

05-06-09

 CICON AND ASSOCIATES
 BOX 541
 CHESTER, MONTANA 59522

JOB NO. 09-023