

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Lease #7995 – Culvert Installation / road improvements	Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2009
Proponent: Merle Morris (lessee), Mt FWP, and DNRC- Conrad Unit	
Type and Purpose of Action: Improve a creek crossing by installing a culvert.	
Location: NW¼, Sec 16, T22N, R7W – Common Schools	County: Teton

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Merle Morris – Lessee Dave Yerk – Mt FWP fisheries biologist
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Teton County Conservations District.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Approve the installation of the culvert and road improvements. No action. Do not approve the request.

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 culvert installation. Installing a culvert will reduce erosion concerns at the crossing and reduce sediment entering into the Split Rock Lake complex. 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 will improve overall water quality by reducing sediment input into Split Rock Lake.
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.
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] Existing vegetation will be temporarily disturbed during construction, but it will be small scale and will naturally revegetate.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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] The proposed action is located along the eastern Rocky Mountain front and is generally considered excellent wildlife habitat. The culvert installation will reduce sediment entering into to Split Rock Lake and generally improve fisheries. Construction activities may temporarily displace local wildlife, but no long-term impacts are expected. Overall, no long-term negative effects 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 proposed project is located in the grizzly bear recovery zone. The area may be used occasionally by grizzly bears. The project will be completed when grizzly bears are denning for the winter. Overall, no long-term negative effects on grizzly bears and/or grizzly bear habitat are expected. There are no other species of special concern or any other sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Cultural resources will not be impacted by this proposed project. No cultural resources were found during a site inventory completed on November 5, 2009.
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 culvert crossing will improve the aesthetics of the landscape. This is small scale project and fits into the surrounding landscape and predominant uses. No other changes to the aesthetics character of the land area expected.
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?	[Y] The proposed culvert installation will improve human safety by creating a reliable and easy creek crossing.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The proposed action will not impact industrial, commercial or agricultural activities in the area.
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 be contracted out to a local construction company. This adds to the long-term employment in the surrounding communities.
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 the local tax base in the short term through local contractors. No long term impacts are expected.

<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] This project will not create more demand on government services.</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>[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.</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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[Y] This tract of state land has high recreational value for fishing and camping on Split Rock Lake. State land is not legally accessible to the public. However, the surface lessee, Mr. Morris, allows the public to cross his deeded land to access Split Rock Lake. The proposed action, along with signing, will improve the overall recreational use impacts to the surface. The proposed action will not impact general recreational activities on this State Land.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not change the human population distribution or the housing requirements in the area.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not alter the social structure of surrounding native communities.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[Y] The estimated cost to complete this project is \$4,000.00. This project is being paid for by DNRC and Mt FWP at a 50 / 50 split. No other unique circumstances exist.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ ERIK ENEBOE
Erik Eneboe

Conrad Unit Manager - CLO Date: November 24, 2009
Title

