

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Bank Stabilization on the Yellowstone River

Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2010

Proponent: Kim Nile

Type and Purpose of Action: Place rock riprap along a section of river bank to allow some stability so woody species can revegetate the area.

Location: Sect. 16 T6N R39E

County: Rosebud

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>Licensee is requesting permission to place rock along the bank of the river to try and stabilize the area so woody species can reestablish to provide bank protection.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>Corps of Engineers (404 Permit) Rosebud Conservation District (310 Permit) Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Allow Licensee to install rock riprap. Deny Licensee permission to do project.</p>

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)
<p>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?</p>	<p>[Y] Disturbance will occur, and will be permanent for the lifetime of the project. Action: The implementation of this action can be done in a manner that minimizes damage to the land and allows the river bank to stabilize and soil to stay in place. No Action: Continued erosion will affect not only this area but damage will occur downstream as more river bank is taken.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>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?</p>	<p>[Y] Water resources are affected by this project.</p> <p>Action: Licensee has acquired the proper permits from the Corps of Engineers and the Rosebud Conservation District with Montana FWP concurrence to complete project. A mitigation plan is in place with the Corps of Engineers and Montana DEQ. (See attached Document)</p> <p>No Action: Water will be affected by erosion of the bank, soil and vegetation falling into the river.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[Y]</p> <p>Action: Pollutants and air particulates will be increased by the project. Dirt particles as well as pollutant air particles will increase during the project timeframes. After project completion, the air born particles will return to their normal state.</p> <p>No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[Y] The area where this project is proposed is presently eroding at a rapid rate. The project is intended to slow that erosion and allow some stability so woody species can regain a foothold and revegetate the area. On date of inspection, no rare plants were observed.</p> <p>No Action: As this area is washed away the river will move to new areas that are vegetated or change course altogether and begin affecting the plant community there.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[Y] The area where project is proposed is the bank of the Yellowstone River so fisheries will be affected.</p> <p>Action: Disturbance will take place in the short term, but if the bank is stabilized the result should enhance habitat for all wildlife.</p> <p>No Action: No affect.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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?	[N] Numerous species of concern are listed for this region. The project is small in scope and will not affect these species of concern. Action: No affect. No Action: No affect.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Eastern Land Office inspected the site and observed no cultural or paleontologic resources in project area. Action: If cultural sites within the project corridor are impacted, alternatives will be assessed and a reroute may take place. No Action: No affect.
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?	[Y] The area is accessible to the public by the river. Action: The project will not be visible during the work process. After completion of work project won't be noticeable. No Action: No affect.
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?	[N] Action: The action alternative will not increase demand on resources. No Action: No affect.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] NONE.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES: (Y/N)

<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[N] Action: No affect. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N] Action: The implementation of the action alternative will have no effect on any other activities. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>[N] Action: The project has local in scope and will have no effect on creating employment. No Action: Potential jobs will not be created.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>[N] Action: The action alternative will not increase revenue to the trust. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>[N] Action: This action will not add to that demand. No Action: No affect.</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] Action: These entities will not be affected. No Action: No affect.</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?</p>	<p>[N] Action: No impacts. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N] Action: No impacts. No Action: No affect.</p>

<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] Action: Native or traditional lifestyles will not be affected. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] Action: A shift in the unique quality of this area is not anticipated by the implementation of the proposed project. No Action: No affect.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N]</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: Marc Aberg, Lands Program Manager 2/16/2010

<p>IV. FINDING</p>	
<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>Allow Licensee to place rock riprap along the bank of the Yellowstone River.</p>
<p>26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</p>	<p>If the river continues to erode bank at the present rate it will move into an old slough this spring and potentially change the river course by a half mile or better. This will destroy some very good farmland and change things for a lot of producers in the valley.</p>
<p>27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis</p>	

EA Checklist Approved By:/s/ Chris Pileski Area Manager

March 5, 2010