

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Lease#6370-Improvement, Livestock Water Development

Proposed Implementation Date: Summer 2010

Proponents: Marias River Land & Livestock, 1137 Adel Road, Cascade, MT 59421
McCauley Ranch, PO Box 1413, Cut Bank, MT 59427

Type and Purpose of Action: The surface lessee has requested to dig a new well on deeded land located in the SW4SW4, Sec. 4, T31N, R4W in order to service the water line and water tanks located on state and deeded land. After the well is completed, the lessee wants to install a water line to feed one tank on deeded land next to the well, one water tank placed on state land, a water tank that will be placed on state land to feed deeded and state land, and an additional tank placed on deeded land. A detailed map showing the locations for this EQIP project lay out is included within this assessment. The primary objective is to enhance cattle distribution leading to better range utilization. The project consists of approximately 6,000' of 2" HDPE pipe to be placed across state land located in Sec. 5, T31N, R4W and the total project length is 8,500' ending on the SSW4SW4, Sec. 32, T32N, R4W.

Location: Sec. 5, T31N, R4W
Trust: Public Buildings

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.

Mark Johnson-NRCS
DNRC, Surface owner
Marias River Land & Livestock, Surface Lessee
McCauley Ranch, Surface Lessee

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 requested livestock water development.

No action. Do not approve the requested livestock water development.

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, compactable 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?

[Y] Soils and topography present difficulties for the installation of the water line. The Cabbart-Hillon complex contains 25 to 45% slopes, the Joplin-Hillon clay loams contain 8 to 15% slopes, and they both have a moderate erosion hazard. The Hillon-Joplin clay loam contains 3 to 8% slopes and has a slight erosion hazards. This will make installation of the water line difficult as erosion problems will exist because of the

	<p>topography. Cumulative impacts are likely to be mitigated with the use of water bars and straw bales to slow down the water erosion. These difficulties will be further mitigated by the use of a static plow to place the water line which results in limited soil disturbance. In addition, the disturbed areas will be reclaimed and reseeded as per the NRCS/EQUIP contract.</p>
<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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will improve overall water quality and quantity. This will lead to better livestock distribution and lessen the impact on the riparian area located on the South edge of Sec. 5.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not impact the air quality.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] Existing vegetation will be temporarily disturbed for the placement of the pipeline, but it will be on a small scale and will be reclaimed, so there will be no permanent damage. Cumulative impacts on the soil resources are not expected as the disturbed areas will be reclaimed and reseeded. There were no plant species of concern or potential species of concern noted per the NRIS survey.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. However, these tracts provide habitat for a variety of big game species (mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope), predators (coyote, fox, badger), upland game birds (sharp tail grouse, Hungarian partridge), other non-game mammals, raptors and various songbirds. The proposal does not include any land use change which would yield changes to the wildlife habitat. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] A review of Natural Heritage data through the NRIS was conducted with one animal species of concern noted and no potential species of concern noted on the NRIS survey. The peregrine falcon's habitat consists of cliffs for nesting and water features for food. This tract contains these features, but no nesting sites have been documented in the proposed livestock water line installation area and the Marias River area of the tract will be avoided. Given the fact that no on the ground management changes will occur on the tract and the construction corridor will avoid any critical habitat, any direct, indirect, or cumulative effects are not expected due to the installation of the livestock water line.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[Y] There was one cairn like rock formation that was noted within the livestock water line installation area. Dori Passmann, the NRCS State Archaeologist, looked at the cairn and did not find significant lithic scatter around the cairn. Dori asked that the water line installation route be amended to miss this site and that was done. The rest of the water line installation route was surveyed and no items of archaeological</p>

	significance were located.
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 water line will be buried so there will be not aesthetic impacts. There will be two water troughs placed on state land but they will be placed in areas that are not readily visible. The aesthetic value that is lost by the water troughs will be mitigated by the value of reliable water to livestock and wildlife.
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 project. The proposed project 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 project will not affect human health or human safety in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The proposed water development will improve livestock distribution and generally improve the lessee's ranching opportunities and use of this state lease.
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?	[N] The proposed action will not significantly affect 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?	[N] The proposed action will not affect 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?	[Y] This project is being cost shared under the NRCS-EQIP program. There will be no excessive stress placed of the existing infrastructure of the area.
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 project is in compliance with Federal, 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] The area where the project is being performed on the State Land is not readily accessible to the public. The proposed project is not expected to impact general recreation 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 project 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 project will not alter the social structure of the surrounding native communities.

<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or 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>[N] The proposed livestock water line will improve the livestock distribution on the lease. It will lessen the impact on the Marias River frontage by livestock traveling to and from water. This project is covered under a lease improvement, so no monetary return to the trust will be realized, but this will be mitigated by the improved livestock distribution on the lease. No other unique circumstances exist.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ Tony Nickol
 Tony Nickol

Land Use Specialist –Conrad Unit
 Title

Date: April 27, 2010



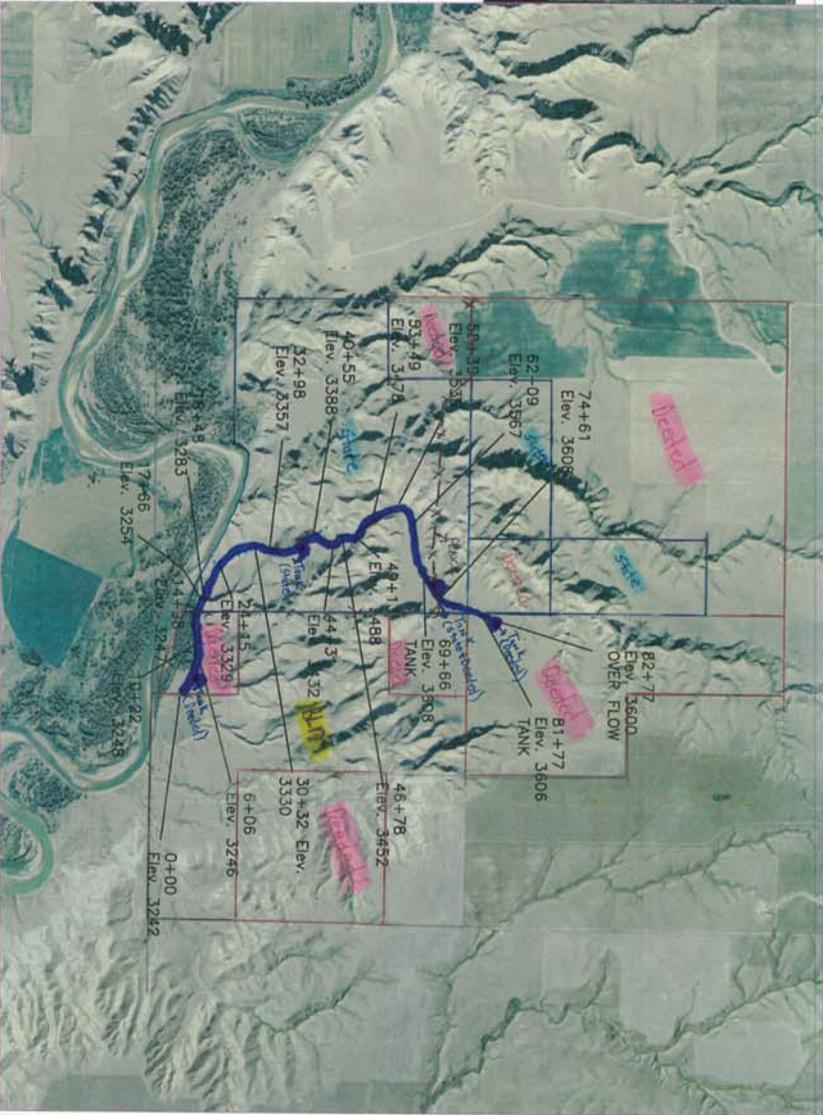
LOCATION MAP

SCALE
Section xxxv

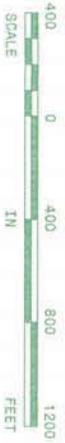


GENERAL NOTES

1. The contractor is responsible for the installation of all utility components identified by this project. The contractor and/or the contractor is responsible for determining the project property locations of all utilities identified by this project.
 2. All existing structures, in the drawings are based on an assumed vertical datum. All existing and distances shown is measured horizontal distance and is approximate.
- System Information:
System provides water for 200 head cattle on approximately 1000 acres of native rangeland/pasture.
System is a Pump-Trip system which provides a minimum "2" of 8 gallon/minute (GPM) provides by a 1.0HP PUMP.
The system includes the following components: 6000 FT 2 INCH-DIPIC 2 INCH AIR VALVE, 2 POUNDS, 2 PRESSURE REDUCERS, 2 INCH AIR VALVE, 2 POUNDS, 2 PRESSURE REDUCERS, AND WELL PUMP. Other items as applicable.



PLAN VIEW - PROJECT LAYOUT



DATE: 08/28/17



PLAN VIEW - PROJECT LAYOUT
STOCKWATER SYSTEM
MARIAS LAND AND LIVESTOCK/EQIP
GLACIER COUNTY MONTANA

APPROVED	DATE
TITLE: MARIAS LAND AND LIVESTOCK	DATE: XXXXXX
DESIGNED: WILLIAM LITTLE	DATE: XXXXXX
DRAWN: WILLIAM LITTLE	DATE: XXXXXX
CHECKED: -	DATE: XXXXXX