

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Emigrant Fiber Optic Cable
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	May 2010
<b>Proponent:</b>	Qwest Corporation
<b>Location:</b>	NE,NW,SW Section 16, Township 4S, Range 9E
<b>County:</b>	Park
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The project would place a fiber optic cable, buried at approximately 36 inches deep, from Livingston to Pray in order to enhance telecommunications. The proposed easement would pass through School Trust Land within the abandoned BNSF railroad bed.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program

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

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Grant Easement: Grant the easement allowing for the buried fiber optic cable.

No Action: Do not grant the easement for the buried fiber optic cable.

### 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.*

Soil will be displaced while the cable is being laid. The soil will then be replaced over the cable and reseeded. There should be no long term effects to geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture.

#### 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.*

None

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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.*

None

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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.*

Disturbed areas will be rehabbed and reseeded

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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.*

None

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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.*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program listed three mammals, three birds, and one fish as Species of Concern in the Township and Range this project is proposed. The limited size of the project should have no effect on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

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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.*

The fiber optic cable will be buried. Once reseeded there should be no impact on ascetics.

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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.*

None

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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.*

This parcel has a number of easements including; a public recreation and wildlife conservation, a state highway, an irrigation ditch, and a county road

## IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *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.

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### 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

None

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

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

None

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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.*

None

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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.*

None

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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*

None

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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.*

None

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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.*

No effects

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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.*

None

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### 22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

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

None

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### 23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

No affect

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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.*

This Easement will run down the center of an abandoned Rail Road line outside of the of the Lessees fenced pasture. The 1.26 acre easement would generate an additional \$2520.00 in revenue for the School State Trust Land.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Katie Svoboda/s/	<b>Date:</b> 5/26/2010
	<b>Title:</b> Bozeman Unit Office Manager	

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<b>V. FINDING</b>
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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:** Grant the easement allowing for the buried fiber optic cable.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:** Significant impacts would not be expected as a result of granting this easement.

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**27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

EIS       More Detailed EA       No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Craig Campbell
	<b>Title:</b> DNRC Bozeman Unit Manager
<b>Signature:</b> Craig Campbell/s/	<b>Date:</b> 5/27/2010