

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Meagher County Airport
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Summer 2010
<b>Proponent:</b>	Meagher County
<b>Location:</b>	SESW, Section 36 T9N R6E (see parcel 16 on the plat)
<b>County:</b>	Meagher
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proponent would like to obtain an easement for protection of an object free area adjacent to the surface of Runway I-19. The 2.1 acre easement would allow the airport to control placement of objects on the tract to comply with FAA regulations governing the airport. No disturbance is anticipated.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The proponent, surface lease, FAA and SHPO were contacted.

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

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. Not issuing the easement.
2. Issuing the easement as proposed.

### 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.*

None. No impacts are anticipated. The area has been disturbed in the past by prior construction and land use. No disturbance is proposed with this project.

#### 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. No surface water is present and no disturbance is anticipated.

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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.*

None. No disturbance is planned.

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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.No impacts are anticipated.

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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.*

None. No impacts are anticipated.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

None No impacts are anticipated. SHPO has indicated concurrence.

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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.*

None. No disturbance is planned.

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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. Issuing the easement would likely limit future development options on the small tract but would not interfere with current land use.

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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.*

None. There is currently a grazing lease on the tract.

#### 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. The project is compatible with current use.

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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.*

None.

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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.

**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

None.

**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

None.

**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.*

Issuing the easement would provide income to the State, (~\$800.00/A), would allow compliance with FAA regulations for the existing airport, and allow current use.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Robert Vlahovich	<b>Date:</b> 7/20/2010
	<b>Title:</b> Special Uses Coord.	

**V. FINDING**

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

I have selected the alternative to recommend Land Board approval for this easement.

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

The Meagher County Airport is already situated upon an easement on this tract. Airport runway improvements and requirements by the FAA require the Airport to have surface control regarding improvements upon this added area lateral to the existing run way. No surface impacts are anticipated.

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

EIS       More Detailed EA       No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> D.J. Bakken	
	<b>Title:</b> Helena Unit Manager	
<b>Signature:</b> /s/ Darrel J. Bakken		<b>Date:</b> 8/3/2010

## AIRPORT PROPERTY LEGEND

PARCEL NO.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	LAND RECORDS OF MEAGHER COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER						C.O.S.	FAA PROJECT NO.	NOTES
			TYPE OF INTEREST	ACRES	DATE	MICRO FILM	BOOK	PAGE			
1	-	STATE OF MONTANA	R.O.W. DEED	±320	1979		FB	669-670	-		
2	-	CITY / COUNTY	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±38.1	1983		F18	715-718	A.D.A.P. 5-30-0083-01		
3	-	-	EASEMENT	-	-		-	-		NO LONGER REQUIRED	
4	-	CITY / COUNTY	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±37.9	1985		F23	199-201	A.D.A.P. 5-30-0083-01		
5	HARRIET DAVISON	CITY / COUNTY	FEE	±19.6	1992		F35	636-637	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
6	LOUISE GALT	CITY / COUNTY	FEE	±7.2	1992		F35	630-631	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
7	LOUISE GALT	CITY / COUNTY	FEE	±0.1	1992		F35	632-633	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
8	WSS & YELLOWSTONE R/R	CITY / COUNTY	FEE	±2.9	1992		F35	628-629	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
9	LYLE MOLER	CITY / COUNTY	FEE	±0.2	1992		F35	634-635	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
10	STATE OF MONTANA	CITY / COUNTY	R.O.W. DEED	±0.5	1992		F35	700-701	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
11	LOUISE GALT	CITY / COUNTY	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±4.5	1992		F35	644-649	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
12	WSS & YELLOWSTONE R/R	CITY / COUNTY	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±2.4	1992		F35	650-655	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
13	LOUISE GALT	CITY / COUNTY	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±4.0	1992		F35	638-643	A.I.P. 3-30-0083-01		
14	RIVERSIDE RANCH	-	FEE	±2.3	-		-	-	-	FUTURE - AVIGATION EASEMENT	
15	STATE OF MONTANA	-	FEE	±6.1	-		-	-	-	FUTURE - AVIGATION EASEMENT	
16	STATE OF MONTANA	-	FEE	±3.0	-		-	-	-	TO BE ACQUIRED - AERONAUTICAL	
17	MOLER	-	FEE	±0.6	-		-	-	-	TO BE ACQUIRED - AERONAUTICAL	
18	GALT	-	FEE	±0.84	-		-	-	-	TO BE ACQUIRED - AERONAUTICAL	
19	CITY / COUNTY	-	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±3.28	-		-	-	-	TO BE ACQUIRED - AERONAUTICAL	
20	CITY / COUNTY	-	AVIGATION EASEMENT	±0.47	-		-	-	-	TO BE ACQUIRED - AERONAUTICAL	

