

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Removal of Grave from State land	Proposed Implementation Date: August 6, 2010
Proponent: Pro Cooperative 45 South Main Box 167, Opheim, Montana 59250	
Type and Purpose of Action: Pro Cooperative has applied for a large volume gravel permit from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The gravel will be removed from an existing gravel pit that has been active for over 20 years. The gravel will be used at the Four Buttes elevator for expansion of grain handling facilities.	
Location: Portions of Section 11 Township 35 North, Range 46 East	County: Daniels

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Pro Cooperative has made an application to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to remove gravel from State land. The gravel removal would occur on an existing gravel pit and 15,000 cubic yards of material will be removed.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The Montana Department of Environmental Quality will also have jurisdiction for this type of project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a gravel permit to Pro Cooperative to remove gravel from State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a gravel permit to Pro Cooperative to remove gravel from State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impact on the soils of the State land. The gravel removal will occur from an existing gravel pit. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils on the land under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the water quality, quantity and distribution associated with this tract of state land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to water resources under this alternative.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the project. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the air quality under this alternative.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	Action Alternative: The removal of gravel will have no impact to the vegetation cover as the gravel pit has no vegetation.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the vegetation under this alternative.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	Action Alternative: This type of activity will not disturb the habitat types on the surrounding State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there will be no impacts to the wildlife and upland bird resources of the area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the wildlife habitat resources associated with the land under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the environmental resources under this alternative.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. The state land was inspected by Randy Dirkson, Land Use Specialist, and it was determined that there are no historical or archaeological resources on project area. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project site is located in a rural area and is not visible to the general public. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the State land involved with this project. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the aesthetics associated with the land under this project.
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?	Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the environmental resources of land, water, air or energy under this alternative.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	Action Alternative: The gravel removal will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the state land. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the plans, studies or other projects on the land under this alternative.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	Action Alternative; The grave; removal has minimal human health and safety risks. The contractor understands the health and safety risks as occupational hazards. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to human health or safety under this alternative.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add	Action alternative: The project will have no impacts to the agricultural activities that are occurring on

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative: Grant a gravel permit to Pro Cooperative to remove gravel from State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The project will have no significant impacts to the natural resources on the State land. The project will provide additional revenue for the School Trust.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: R. Hoyt Richards, GUO Manager
Name

Title

/s/ _____
Signature

11/18/2010

Date: