

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Midrivers underground phoneline Fallon County
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Summer 2011
<b>Proponent:</b>	Midrivers
<b>Location:</b>	Section T6N R57E S36
<b>County:</b>	Fallon

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Develop an underground phone line by Midrivers Telephone Cooperative Inc.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Allow the development of the phone line.

Alternative B- No action

### 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.*

Alternative A- The proposed phone line is located on a slight hill. The steep slopes may increase the possibility of erosion of the silty soils. There is minimal ground cover on the site, which may cause a potential soil erosion problem. Erosion prevention devices will be needed to slow down the erosion along the phone cable.

#### 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.*

Alternative A- Water quality may decrease in the nearby stream.

Alternative B- No Impact

#### 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.*

Alternative A- Minimal pollutants may be produced during the development buried cable. It should return to normal following development.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- The site is in good range health and plants show average growth vigor. Disturbance to the site may have minimal effect and should recover following the installment of the road. Current vegetation is crested wheatgrass and western wheatgrass. The development of phone cable on the lease it can be seeded with crested wheatgrass.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A-Wildlife disturbance may occur when the buried cable is being developed. Once established wildlife should not be affected.

Alternative B- No impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A-There is no evidence of any sensitive species habitat in the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

Alternative A-Upon inspection of the parcel by the Eastern Land Office staff no significant findings were noted on this parcel. Due to the small scope of the project, no significant impacts should occur.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- The phoneline will have minimal affects on the aesthetics.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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

---

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES</i> potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</li><li>• Explain <i>POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS</i> following each resource heading.</li><li>• Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</li></ul>

---

**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

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

Alternative A- There may be potential safety risks for laborers during the development of the line, but the potential risk is minimal with proper safety efforts. This will provide better communications for the local community.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

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

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

Alternative A- No impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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*

Alternative A- Would required occasional inspections, and up keep.

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

---

**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.*

Alternative A- No impact

Alternative B- no impact

---

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Kimberly Haile	<b>Date:</b> 3-30-2011
	<b>Title:</b> Land Use Specialist	

---

**V. FINDING**

---

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

Alternative A

---

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

Minimal and acceptable

---

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

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Marc Aberg /s/ Marc A. Aberg
	<b>Title:</b> Eastern Land Office; Land Program Manager
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>