CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Golden Eagle Studies
Proposed Implementation Date:	March 2011
Proponent:	Craighead Beringia South
Location:	T2N R9E Sect16; T1N R9E Sect. 16; T3S R8E Sect. 36; T2N R10E Sect 16
County:	Park
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proposed Land Use License would be to access and use state trust lands for capturing golden eagles during the nesting season (March-July) for scientific studies. The process would include setting out portions of road-kill and placing a remotely fired net launcher next to the bait to capture the eagles. The eagles will be tagged and then released. When conditions allow (when ground is not soft/muddy) vehicles will be driven to the traps. Vehicles will be kept weed free.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Stutterheim Ranch Inc, lessee
Skillman, Edward, lessee
O'Hair Ranch Co, lessee
Philip Morris Inc, lessee

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks permit number 2011-024, and federal permits 22637,039573, and MB075594

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Action: Grant the land use license allowing for the capture and study of golden eagles on state trust land.

No Action: Do not grant the land Use License allowing for the capture and study of golden eagles on state trust land.

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.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture. If the ground is soft/muddy vehicles will not be driven to the traps.

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.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to water quality, quantity and distribution.

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.

There will be no impact to air quality.

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.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to vegetation cover, quantity and quality.

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.

Due to the limited scope of the proposed license, no direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life and habitats.

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 list Sprague's Pipit, Bald Eagle, Grasshopper Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Wolverine, Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout as species of concern for the townships and ranges covered by the proposed license. Due to the limited scope of the proposed license, no direct or cumulative impact to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources is anticipated.

The effect of netting the Golden Eagles, the species being studies under the proposed license, will be addressed in the FWP and federal permits.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Township 2N Range 9E Section 16 has a registered stone circle/tipi ring site.

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.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to aesthetics.

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.

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

- *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.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

None.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

No effect.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 effect.

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?

No affect.

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.

The Land Use License would generate $150.00 per year for the three years the license would be issued for if granted.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:** Katie Svoboda	**Date:** March 30, 2011
	Title: Office Manager /s/	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED: Action: Grant the land use license allowing for the capture and study of golden eagles on state trust land.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS: As a permitted activity with a limited scope no significant impact would be expected.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:** Craig Campbell	
	Title: Bozeman Unit Manager	
Signature: Craig Campbell/s/		**Date**: March 30, 2011