

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	LUL #3963233 – temporary road use / water use for dust abatement.
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	August 2012
<b>Proponent:</b>	Dick Anderson Construction, Inc, 4610 Tri-Hill Frontage Road, Great Falls MT 59404
<b>Location:</b>	N½NW¼, Section 11, T35N, R5W
<b>County:</b>	Glacier
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools (CS)

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proponent has applied for a Land Use License to use an existing road to access Hay Lake and to use water from Hay Lake for dust control on a nearby wind farm construction project.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

DNRC-Surface  
DNRC Water Resource  
Willard Hjartarson-Surface Lessee, Lease #429  
Dick Anderson-Proponent

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

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Alternative A (No Action) – Deny the proponent the requested LUL #3963223.

Alternative B (the Proposed action) –Grant the proponent the requested LUL #3963223.

### 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.*

Soils and geology in this area are generally suitable for road use. No road improvements will occur. No cumulative effects to the soils are anticipated.

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**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.*

The applicant will be using water from Hay Lake for dust control measures. HB 33 was signed by Governor Martz and became effective on April 27, 2001 and allows of the use of surface waters for dust control on construction projects. The law allows for the use of water from an individual who holds a valid Montana water right and intended water use that does not exceed 60,000 gallons of water per day per water right. This dust control project will be authorized under DNRC water right #41L 18526 00. A portable pump will be set up 50 feet from shore to fill a water tender. No surface disturbances are planned on or near the lake share. No other improvements or manipulation of the surface is expected.

No other surface or groundwater resources will be impacted by the proposed LUL.

Other water quality and/or quantity issues will not be impacted by the proposed action.

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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.*

The proposed LUL will help control dust in the area from a large construction project. This will benefit air quality in the area.

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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.*

The vegetation within the proposed project area is grazing land. The access will utilize an existing road and no improvements will be necessary. Negative long-term impacts to the vegetation are not expected.

A review of Natural Heritage data through the NRIS was conducted and there were no plant species of concern noted or potential species of concern noted on the NRIS survey.

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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.*

The proposal does not include any land use changes which would yield changes to the wildlife habitat. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. The proposed action will not have long-term negative effects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat.

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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.*

There are no threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated with the proposed project area. At this time, no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources have been identified within the proposed project area.

A review of Natural Heritage data through the NRIS was conducted for T35N, R5W: There were 3 species of concern: Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk and Long-billed Curlew. The proposed LUL is not expected to impact these species.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

The route was inspected on August 20, 2012 and no archeological features were observed. Research of TLMS indicated no recorded archaeological data for this state land. No surface disturbances are authorized for the proposed LUL. Archaeological or paleontological resources will not be impacted.

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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 state land does not provide any unique scenic qualities not also provided on adjacent private lands. No direct or cumulative effects to aesthetics are anticipated.

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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.*

The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed action.

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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.*

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tract listed on this EA.

<b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</li><li>• Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS 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.*

The proposed will reduce dust in the area created by a large construction project. This will help human health and road safety in the area.

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

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

The proponent will use an existing road and will not impact the agricultural or grazing use of this state land.

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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.*

The proposed action will add to the overall construction project in the area.

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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.*

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

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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*

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on government services.

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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.*

The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.

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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.*

This tract of state land does not have a high recreational value for hunting and fishing. The tract is legally accessible to the public. The proposed action is not expected to impact general recreational activities on this state land.

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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*

The proposal does not include any changes to housing or developments. No direct or cumulative effects to population or housing are anticipated.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness or diversity of the area.

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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 project will benefit the school trust in terms of the fees generated from the LUL.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> ERIK ENEBOE	<b>Date:</b> August 20, 2012
	<b>Title:</b> Conrad Unit Manager, Central Land Office	

**V. FINDING**

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

Issue land Use License authorizing use of an existing road for temporary access.

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

Significant impacts are not expected to occur as a result of the proposed activity. The road to be is existing and suitable for such use.

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

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> GARRY WILLIAMS
	<b>Title:</b> Area Manager, CLO
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 8/28/2012



*Sec 11, T35N, R5W*



# Dick Anderson Construction

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Printed: Aug 17, 2012