DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: The surface lessee has proposed to place a stockwater pipeline on State land Lease No. 119.	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2013
Proponent: Handy Industries Incorporated, P O Box 236, Scobey Montana 59263	
Type and Purpose of Action: Handy Industries Incorporated has submitted a Land Use License application to the Glasgow Unit Office to place a stockwater pipeline and one stock tank on State land. The purpose for this project is to increase available water for livestock and to control grazing management of the State land and surrounding deeded lands. The pipeline length on the State land will be 3,762 feet.	
Location: N2N2, Section 25 Township. 35 North, Range 47 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.	Handy Industries Incorporated has submitted a Land Use License application to the Glasgow Unit Office. The purpose of the Land Use License application is to acquire a Land Use License to place a stockwater pipeline and one water tank on State land. The stockwater pipeline after leaving the State land will supply water to several other stock tanks located on Handy Industries deeded lands. The stockwater pipeline is for improved grazing management of the State land and surrounding deeded lands.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The government agencies that may have jurisdiction for this project are the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Conservation Service. Handy Industries Incorporated has informed the Glasgow Unit Office that they have applied for and received cost share money from Environmental Quality Incentives

	Program.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License to Handy Industries Incorporated to place a stockwater pipeline and one tank on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a Land Use License to Handy Industries Incorporated to place a stockwater pipeline and one tank on 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 impact the soils on the stockwater pipline route. The impacts are minimal to the native plant community. The area of impact will be reclaimed from existing native grass and forb seed sources currently growing along the pipeline route. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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 improve the ability to have a reliable livestock water source on the State land. The stockwater pipeline will also service livestock water tanks on deeded land. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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: No impacts

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	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 native vegetation on the pipeline route will see some disturbance by this type of project. The pipeline route will be leveled. The existing seed sources in the soil profile next to pipeline route will re-inhabit the disturbed soils. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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 disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope. There will be minimal impacts to the wildlife and upland bird habitat resources of the area. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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: No impacts under this alternative.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	Action Alternative: The project area contains no known historical or archaeological sites. The project area was inspected by R. Hoyt Richards, Unit Manager, Glasgow Unit Office for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	involved with this project. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
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: No impacts under this alternative.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	Action Alternative: The stockwater pipeline and tank will not impact other projects or plans that the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation may have occurring on the State land. No Action Alternative: No impacts 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 placing of a stockwater pipeline and tank involves construction equipment which has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	Action Alternative: The project will enhance the current livestock grazing activities that are occurring on the State land. The project will also enhance surrounding lands with a water source for livestock. The water source should also enhance grazing management practices.

	No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the quantity and distribution of employment. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the local or state tax base. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	Action Alternative: The project will place no demands for government services. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the recreational values associated with the state land. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of the population and housing on this rural area. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the social structures of the local communities.

	No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The project provides some economic benefit to the local community business. This economic benefit will be supplying the pipeline company with various products during the pipeline installation. No Action Alternative: No impacts under this alternative.

EA Checklist Prepared By:_____/S/_____Date:
Randy Dirkson, Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	No Action Alternative: The no action alternative was not selected Action Alternative: The action alternative was selected by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Unit Manager. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will grant a Land Use License to Handy Industries Incorporated. The Land Use License will allow Handy Industries Incorporated to place a stockwater tank and pipeline on State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The stockwater pipeline project will have no significant impacts to the State land natural resource. The native rangeland

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: R. Hoyt Richards, Glasgow Unit Manager, NELO
Name Title

Signature /s/ Date: 1/23/12