DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Livestock Fence Construction	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2013
Proponent: Cale Handran, P O Box 965, Scobey, Montana 59263	
Type and Purpose of Action: Cale Handran has submitted an improvements request to place a new fence on State land to control livestock from entering classified dryland agriculture. The fence to be placed on the State land will assists the surfaces lessee in keeping the neighbor's livestock from entering his State land.	
Location: SW4, Sec. 34 Twp. 37N Rge. 44E	County: Daniels County

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Cale Handran has submitted an Improvements Request Form to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office. The purpose of the Improvement Request Form is to place a new livestock fence on State land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	There are no other government agencies involved with project on State land.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to Cale Handran to place a livestock fence on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to Cale Handran to place a livestock fence on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY,	Action Alternative: The

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STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	construction of a livestock fence project will impact the soils the fence line route. The impact would be some soil compaction from fencing equipment. The impacts to the soils are minimal. The area of impact will continue to produce tame/native grass vegetation over time from existing seed sources from the surrounding plant community. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils 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 not impact the surface water resources associated with these tracts of State land. The project will have no impacts to other surface water resources on surrounding deeded lands. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils 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 installation of a livestock fence. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to 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 tame/native vegetation on the livestock fence route will see some disturbance by this type of project. The tame/native vegetation will reproduce from existing seed sources.

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	No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the native 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 disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact has no known Sage Grouse habitat. The impacts to the wildlife will be mitigated with the use of Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks book on "A landowners Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences", for the construction of the livestock fence. The fence height will not exceed 42 inches and the bottom wire will be at least 18 inches off the ground. This mitigation measure will minimize impacts to the wildlife population in the area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the habitat resources 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. Sage Grouse are considered a species of special concern by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. This document has identified this upland bird species as not inhabiting these tracts of State land and the surrounding area. 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	Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
paleontological resources present?	by this project. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation personnel have inspected this tract that will have a livestock fence. No Action Alternative: There will 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 visible to the general public from a county road. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the State land involved with this project. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the aesthetics of the State land 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: There will 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 livestock fence installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the State land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to other projects or plans 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 installation of a livestock fence has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to human health and safety 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 agricultural activities that are occurring on the State land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to agricultural activities 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: There will be no impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment 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: There will be no impacts to the local and state tax base 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: There will be no demand for government

	services 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: There will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans or goals 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 big game or upland bird hunting recreational values associated with the state land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the state land 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 in this rural area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to population or housing 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: There will be no impacts to the social structures of the local communities 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: There will be no impacts to cultural

	uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative. The fence project provides a benefit to the tame/native rangeland resources. The fence will control livestock movement and grazing on the State land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to social and economic circumstances under this alternative.

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ Date:
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The action alternative was selected. This alternative will provide the surface lessee management abilities to control livestock grazing, which will benefit the tame/native rangeland resources. The new fence will also protect the dryland agriculture crops on the State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No impacts anticipated.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: s/Matthew Poole/s 04/05/2013

Name Date: