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CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Reconstruction of existing Highway No. 2	Proposed Implementation Date: December 1, 2004
Proponent: Department of Transportation, Right of Way Bureau, 2701 Prospect Avenue, P O Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Montana Department of Transportation has made a Right-of-Way application for the expansion of Highway No. 2 in Valley County. The Right-of-Way easement request is for 6.96 acres of State land located next to Highway No. 2. The purpose of this Right-of-Way easement is to improve a major highway that passes through Montana.	
Location: SW4, Sec. 36 Twp. 28N Rge. 41E	County: Valley

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Montana Department of Transportation has made a Right-of-Way application to expand Highway No. 2 which crosses State land in Valley County. Montana Department of Transportation has contacted and informed the surface lessee about this project.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The other government agencies with jurisdiction for this project are the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>DEC 21 2004</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p> <p>Action Alternative: Grant a Right of Way easement to the Montana Department of Transportation to expand Hwy No. 2 on State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny a Right of Way easement to the Montana Department of Transportation to expand Hwy No. 2 on State land.</p>

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?	<p>Action Alternative: This type of project will impact the soils on the State land. The impacts are significant on the area of disturbance. The areas of the State land that will be covered with asphalt will no longer be able to produce native and tame grass vegetation. The soil along the edge of the asphalt highway will produce native and tame grass vegetation upon road side reclamation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the soil on the State land.</p>
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the water quality, quantity and distribution

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p>associated with the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the water quality, quantity, and distribution.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The construction of a highway with heavy equipment will cause some soil dust to become air borne. The dust will mainly be confined to the construction site area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Highway construction will destroy the vegetation on the project site. The areas not covered with asphalt will be reclaimed with native plant species.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the vegetative cover.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: This type of activity will disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there will be minimal impacts to the wildlife and upland bird resources of the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative; Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the wildlife and upland bird habitat resources associated with the State land.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources on the State land.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. This was determined by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office personnel.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the historical or archaeological sites.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project site is located an existing highway and will be visible to the general public. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the land involved with this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts the aesthetics associated with the State land.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
the project?	No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	Action Alternative: The construction on an existing highway will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to other studies, plans or projects on this tract.

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: A highway construction project has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards. There are also health and safety risks to the general public that will be passing through the construction zone. The risk would be involvement in possible traffic and construction equipment accidents. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no human health and safety risks.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts to the livestock grazing activities that are occurring on the State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the livestock grazing activities that are occurring on the State land.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	Action Alternative: The project may increase some local employment. The construction company that will be doing the work on the highway project may employ people from the locale work force. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment.
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: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the local and state tax base.
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	Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

effect?	No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans and goals.
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: There will be no impacts to the recreational values 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: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution 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: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the social structures of the local communities.
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 State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the State land.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The project provides some economic benefit to the local community businesses. This economic circumstance would be the sale of products to the company that will be doing the road construction. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the social and economic circumstances.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist Date: 12-2-2009
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Right of Way Easement to Montana Department of Transportation to improve Highway No. 2 located on State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The project will have no significant impacts to the natural resources on the State land.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:	

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:

Name
R. Noyt B. Charles
Signature

Title

Date: 12/6/04