Cornic Rock

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

Project Name:	Rustler 3D Seismic Project
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2006
Proponent:	Grant Geophysical
Location:	1N-61E-Sec36
County:	Carter

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Grant Geophysical has requested to conduct a seismic survey on the section of State Trust land mentioned above. This project would utilize heavy vibration equipment and seismic detecting equipment for the purpose of oil and gas exploration. This survey will encompass several other sections of Private and BLM land in the area.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Grant Geophysical has submitted the proper documentation to request this project. The ELO staff has conducted a field review on the project on May 15, 2006.

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

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Allow Grant Geophysical to conduct the seismic survey of this section of State Trust Land
Alternative B- No Action

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.

Alternative A- Soil composition is generally a silty clay loam, with some areas of rock outcrops. Some soil disturbance will take place through the use of heavy vibration equipment. Major disturbance will be mitigated through the exclusion of heavy equipment on some areas of this section. Heavy equipment will not be allowed into any drainage, wetland or sub irrigated sites on the project. It will also not be allowed in steeper topography or any area where the soil structure is fragile. Some soil compaction will take place in areas where heavy equipment will be operated.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- Water quality will be maintained by excluding access to any area where ground or surface water could potentially be disturbed. All equipment will be kept out of drainages or any area where water quality quantity or distribution could be affected.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- Pollutants and Particulates will be increased during the project. After the completion of the project pollutant and particulate levels will return to normal.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- Vegetation communities will be affected by this project. The use of heavy equipment has the potential to damage some areas of the plant community this growing season. This will come from the vegetation being compacted by heavy equipment. This will stunt or set back the vegetative community for an undetermined amount of time.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A-There will be minimal disruption to the wildlife that inhabit the area. The scale and length of the project will not be enough to permanently disrupt the lives of wildlife. Species in the area include Mule Deer, Antelope, Raptors and other birds, various rodents, rabbits, reptiles and others.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A-There is no evidence of any sensitive species habitats in the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Alternative A- Cultural sites have been noted within the scope of this project. A search of the cultural records of the section shows that there are several Teepee Rings in the SW ¼ of the section. There is also a Rock Cairn located near the center of the section. During the field review these sites were located and observed as well as

carvings into a sandstone rock face. Disruption of these sites will be mitigated through the redirection of heavy equipment in a matter suited to avoid them. The DNRC archeologist has been contacted concerning this.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.

Alternative A- Very little impact will be felt aesthetically in the scope of this project. There will be minimal lasting affects on the landscape from this project. The project should only last a few days and the landscape will be allowed to recover.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.

Alternative A- No Significant impact.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.

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.*

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14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A- There may be potential safety risks for laborers but the potential risk is minimal with proper safety efforts.

Alternative B- No Impact

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15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Alternative A- It has potential to have a positive effect on Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production.

Alternative B-

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.

Alternative A- This project has the potential to create jobs with further development possibilities.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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

Alternative A- No Significant impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact
Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Significant

Alternative B- No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- This project has the ability to produce revenue to the school trust through the payment of surface damages. The amount of which has not been set at this time. It also will aid in the exploration and potential development of mineral resources in the area.
Alternative B- No Impact

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Scott Aye	**Date:**	6-1-05
	Title:	Land Use Specialist		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

None

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Marc Aberg		
	Title:	Eastern Land Office Lands Program Manager		
Signature:	Marc A. Aberg		**Date:**	5/19/2006