

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Water Pipe Line & Stock Tanks	Proposed Implementation Date: Pending
Proponent: Ken & Rhonda Ereth , 299 Big Valley RD, Outlook MT, 59252	
Type and Purpose of Action: Install a water pipeline, water collection cistern, and two stock tanks to supply water to livestock.	
Location: NE4SW4, S16 T37N R52E	County: Sheridan

## I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and public involvement for this project.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECEIVED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUN 30 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p>	<p>The Glasgow Unit Office (GUO) of the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) received an improvement request form from the surface lessee of the referenced lease. The lessee has requested to install a water pipeline, water collection cistern, and two stock tanks on land within State Lease 970. GUO personnel have reviewed the improvement request and have informed the DNRC's Water Resources Division (WRD) of the proposed project.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The DNRC TLMD and WRD are the only Government Agencies that have jurisdiction concerning this matter.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Allow the surface lessee to install a water pipeline, water collection cistern, and two stock tanks on the State land.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Do not Allow the surface lessee to install a water pipeline, water collection cistern, and two stock tanks on the State land.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The soils within the proposed project area are Saline Clay. The terrain is gently sloped. The land within the proposed project area is used for winter and early spring feeding of livestock. When the trench is dug to install the water pipeline, the soils will be impacted; However, after the pipeline is installed, the trench will be filled in and the soils will recover naturally.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The soils in this area will not</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	be impacted.
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?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Currently livestock get water from a small creek that runs through the feeding area. The proposed project is designed to give livestock a cleaner and more reliable source of water and may detour livestock from getting water from the creek. Water quality in the creek may improve.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The creek that runs through the project area will remain the only water source for livestock.</p>
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Air quality will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Air quality will not be affected in this area.</p>
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The area the project is proposed for is a feeding/sacrifice area. The addition of the water development will not increase impacts to the vegetation.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Vegetation in this area will not be effected.</p>
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Ungulate and Avian wildlife species will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Ungulate and Avian wildlife species will not be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> No resources in the area will be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No resources in the area will be affected.</p>
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> No historical or archaeological resources will be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No historical or archaeological resources will be affected.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The aesthetics of this area will not be affected.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The aesthetics of this area will not be affected.</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 the project?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> No resources will be affected by this proposed project.</p> <p><b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No resources will be affected.</p>
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> There are no other studies in this area.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

on this tract?

**NO Action Alternative:** No studies, plans or projects will be affected.

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:** There will be some Human health and safety risks during the construction of the proposed project. The workers recognize these risks as occupational hazards.

**NO Action 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:** If this project is approved, livestock will have a cleaner and more reliable source of water. This may result in healthier more productive livestock.

**NO Action Alternative:** No industrial, commercial or agricultural activities or production will be affected.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.

**Action Alternative:** The quantity and distribution of employment will not be affected.

**NO Action Alternative:** The quantity and distribution of employment will not be affected.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?

**Action Alternative:** The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected.

**NO Action Alternative:** The local State tax base and tax revenues will not be affected.

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:** Demand for government services will not be affected.

**NO Action Alternative:** Demand for government services will not be affected.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?

**Action Alternative:** No management plans will be affected.

**NO Action Alternative:** No management plans will be affected.

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:** Recreational and wilderness activities will not be effected.

**NO Action Alternative:** Recreational and wilderness activities will not be effected.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population

**Action Alternative:** Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected.

and require additional housing?	population and housing will not be affected. <b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Density and distribution of population and housing will not be affected.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	<b>Action Alternative:</b> Social structure and mores will not be affected. <b>NO Action Alternative:</b> Social structure and mores will not be affected.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<b>Action Alternative:</b> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected. <b>NO Action Alternative:</b> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be affected.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	<b>Action Alternative:</b> No social and economic circumstances will be affected. <b>NO Action Alternative:</b> No social and economic circumstances will be affected.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

*Craig Biggart*  
Craig Biggart

Date: June 19, 2006

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Installation of pipeline, water pipeline, water collection and two stock tanks will improve grazing distribution
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By

*R. Hoyt Richards*  
R. Hoyt Richards, Glasgow Unit Manager

Date: June 19, 2006