

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	3 Rivers Great Falls North fiber optic
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Summer 2011
<b>Proponent:</b>	3 Rivers Communications, P.O. Box 429, Fairfield, MT 59436
<b>Location:</b>	29, 32, 36 T22N, R3E
<b>County:</b>	Cascade
<b>Trust:</b>	All Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Construction Land Use License and permanent buried utility easement for fiber optic line.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The state surface lessees were contacted by the proponent.

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

None

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

- A - Do not issue LUL and do not recommend easement approval
- B - Do not issue LUL, but do recommend easement approval
- C - Approve LUL and recommend easement approval

### 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.*

A small portion of the proposed route in section 36 is on range land with moderate slopes. The remainder of the proposed route on the state land is on agricultural land, gentle terrain and limited potential for adverse effects.

**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.*

There is no surface water, streams or ponds along the proposed route for this buried fiber optic line and no anticipated adverse effects to water resources.

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**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.*

Some potential for short term creation of dust during construction. Once line is buried and revegetation is established there should be no effects.

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**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.*

Minor disturbance of vegetation during line burial. Lessee consent forms for potential crop damages and etc. have been provided.

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**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.*

No adverse effects anticipated. The routes all parallel just outside of existing road right-of-ways. The buried fiber optic line should no effect to wildlife habitats.

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**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.*

No adverse effects are expected to T & E species, from a buried fiber optic line.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

The cultural resource survey for this project noted a new site (24CA1583) located in section 36, T22N, R3E. The report recommended that the project be relocated to provide at least a 5 meter buffer to this feature. Patrick Rennie reviewed the report compiled by Thos Consultants and concurred that this buffer should be adequate to protect this site.

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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.*

There should be no adverse aesthetic effects from a buried fiber optic line.

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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.*

No effects

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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.*

There are active grazing and agricultural leases on these tracts and various other utility and road easements. The proposed buried fiber optic line should have no effect to these activities and uses.

#### 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.*

No adverse effects anticipated.

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#### 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

These parcels are minor segments to an overall project which spans private and state lands in multiple counties.

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#### 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.*

There would be no measurable effects from this proposal.

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#### 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.*

The new infrastructure would likely be installed on other private lands if denied by the state. As such, approval or denial of this proposal would not have any measurable different effect to local or state tax revenues.

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#### 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*

The proposal would have no adverse effect to government services. Installation would increase and improve communication options in this area.

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#### 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.*

None.

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#### 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.*

Each of these tracts is legally accessible from a public road, for recreational purposes. The proposal for a buried line would have no effect to recreational access or uses.

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**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.*

The proposal would have no effects to population distribution.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

There should be no adverse effects to any traditional lifestyles from the installation of a buried fiber optic line adjacent to existing road ways.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

As long as the project route is adjusted to protect the newly found cultural feature in section 36, T22N, R3E (as described above in section 10), there should be no adverse effects from this proposal.

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**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.*

29, T22N, R3E = 3.5796 acres in a 20' wide easement.

32, T22N, R3E = 0.0232 acres in a 20' wide easement across a corner of a tract

36, T22N, R3E = 4.8632 acres in a 20' wide easement

Total acreage of Common School trust lands for this proposal is 8.466 acres.

DNRC Cascade county fee schedule would indicate a land value of at least \$750/acre. Considering close proximity to Great Falls I am recommending a land value of \$1000/acre, which yields a possible easement value of \$8466.00.

The recommended fee for a temporary construction Land Use License is \$150.00.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> D.J. Bakken	<b>Date:</b> July 8, 2011
	<b>Title:</b> Helena Unit Manager	

**V. FINDING**

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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

I have selected alternative C, to issue a Land Use License for construction while recommending Land Board approval of the easement request.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

As long as the project route is adjusted to protect the newly found cultural feature in section 36, T22N, R3E (as described above in section 10), there should be no adverse effects from this proposal.

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**27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

EIS

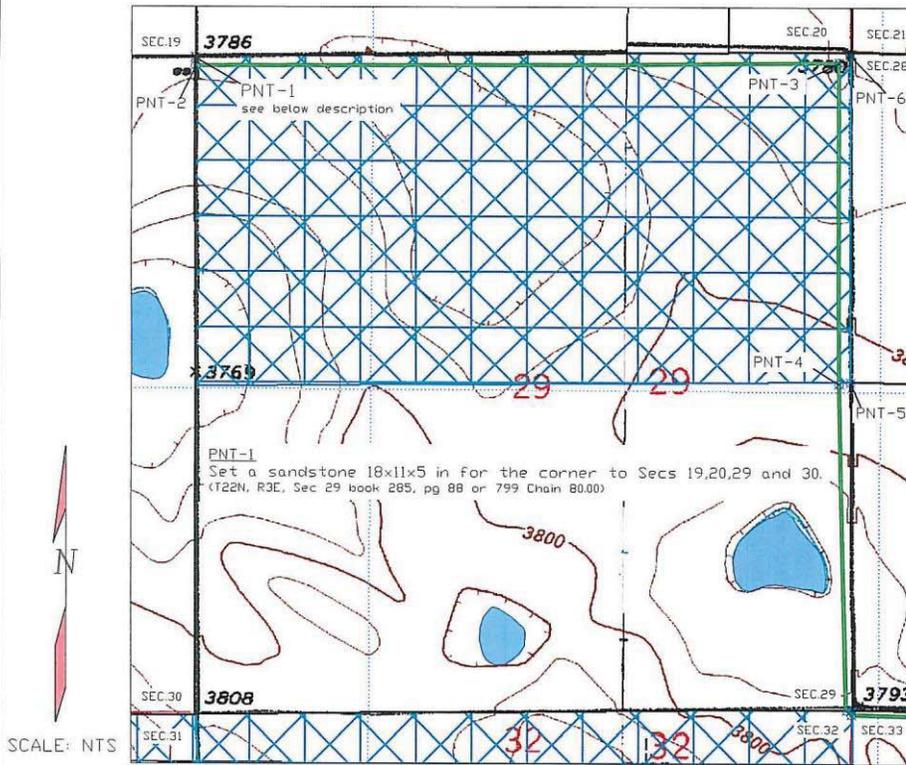
More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Gavin Anderson <b>Title:</b> Forest & Lands Program Manager, Central Land Office
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> July 8, 2011

**EASEMENT SURVEY**

A survey in Section 29 - T22N , R3E P.P.MT. Cascade County, MT.



A Utility easement through land owned by the STATE OF MONTANA  
located in SECTION 29 - T22N, R3E, P.M.MT,  
Cascade County, Montana, more fully described as follows:

<b>LINE TABLE</b>		
<b>COURSE</b>	<b>BEARING</b>	<b>DISTANCE</b>
1-2	S 0d11'35.53" E	21.2700'
*2-3	N 89d38'22.11" E	1582.3700'
*3-4	S 0d7'59.35" E	794.0100'
4-5	N 82d32'30.02" E	28.1000'
5-6	N 0d14'46.83" W	811.3300'
6-1	S 89d39'22.54" W	1608.7300'
*Land effected by easement		<b>3.5796</b> acres

\* Denotes State Land effected by easement

Total easement containing **3.5796** acres within  
the SECTION 29, T22N, R3E, P.M.MT.

**NOTE:**  
UTILITY EASEMENT 10 FEET EACH SIDE OF CENTER LINE.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

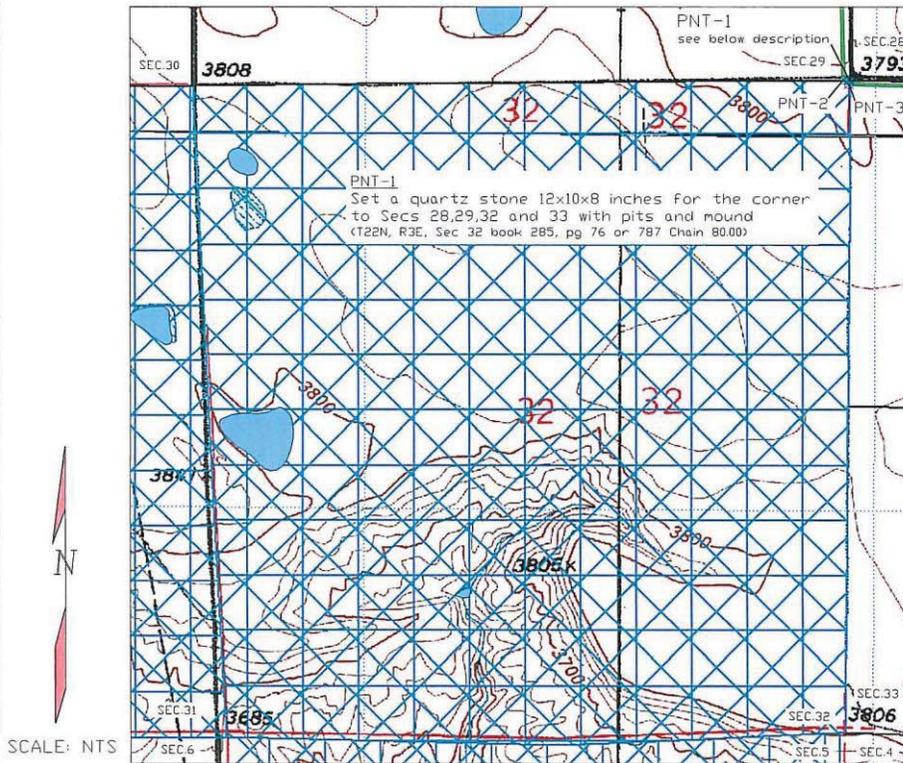
QUADRANGLE MAP    Benton Lake West 47111F4 & Benton Lake East 47111F3 - 1995 7.5 MINUTE SERIES  
CONTROL            USGS, and USC&GS  
PROJECTION        NAD 27, ZONE 12  
METHOD              GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

  
 John M Schmitt  
 Engineering Supervisor

Power to GATR FTTH		 <b>3 RIVERS</b> COMMUNICATIONS	202 5th Street S. P.O. Box 429 FAIRFIELD, MONTANA	1 OF 2
V/D #: 17271001    Date: 04/25/2011	F:\Work\mproj\EXCHANGE\216 GREATFALLS\WORK ORDERS\Power-GATR Fiber Route Stacking Sheets.dwg			

**EASEMENT SURVEY**

A survey in Section 32 - T22N, R3E P.P.MT. Cascade County, MT.



A Utility easement through land owned by the STATE OF MONTANA  
located in SECTION 32 - T22N, R3E, P.M.MT,  
Cascade County, Montana, more fully described as follows:

<b>LINE TABLE</b>		
<b>COURSE</b>	<b>BEARING</b>	<b>DISTANCE</b>
1-2	S 89d20'53.90" W	10.8700'
*2-3	S 45d0'0.00" E	15.3800'
3-1	N 0d52'41.42" E	10.8700'
*Land effected by easement		0.0232 acres

\* Denotes State Land effected by easement

Total easement containing **0.0232** acres within  
the SECTION 32, T22N, R3E, P.M.MT.

**NOTE:**  
UTILITY EASEMENT 10 FEET EACH SIDE OF CENTER LINE.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

QUADRANGLE MAP Benion Lake West 47111F4 & Benion Lake East 47111F3 - 1995 7.5 MINUTE SERIES  
CONTROL USGS, and USC&GS  
PROJECTION NAD 27, ZONE 12  
METHOD GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

  
 John M Schmitt  
 Engineering Supervisor

Power to GATR FTTH

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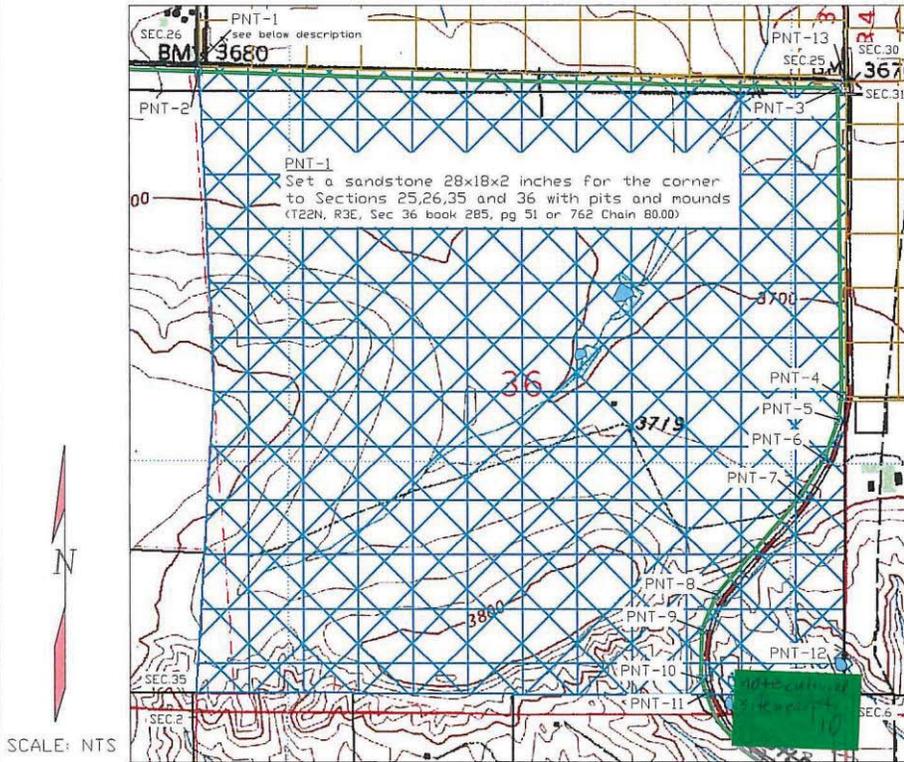
**3 RIVERS**  
COMMUNICATIONS

202 5th Street S.  
P.O. Box 429  
FAIRFIELD, MONTANA

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OF  
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## EASEMENT SURVEY

A survey in Section 36 - T22N, R3E P.P.MT. Cascade County, MT.



A Utility easement through land owned by the STATE OF MONTANA  
located in SECTION 36 - T22N, R3E, P.M.MT.,  
Cascade County, Montana, more fully described as follows:

### LINE TABLE

COURSE	BEARING	DISTANCE
1-2	S 0d3'23.53" E	22.3700'
*2-3	S 88d28'12.03" E	1596.2300'
*3-4	S 0d38'37.00" E	772.8400'
*4-5	S 7d36'5.71" W	60.4700'
*5-6	S 19d49'3.90" W	103.8400'
*6-7	S 31d58'27.69" W	116.9900'
*7-8	S 40d38'35.36" W	318.3800'
*8-9	S 22d41'59.54" W	96.7700'
*9-10	S 1d14'18.46" W	122.8400'
*10-11	S 20d17'53.27" E	40.1100'
11-12	N 89d42'21.81" E	341.4100'
12-13	N 0d16'59.09" E	1540.7000'
13-1	N 88d27'24.17" W	1615.3600'
*Land effected by easement		4.8632 acres

\* Denotes State Land effected by easement

Total easement containing **4.8632** acres within  
the SECTION 36, T22N, R3E, P.M.MT.

**NOTE:**  
UTILITY EASEMENT 10 FEET EACH SIDE OF CENTER LINE.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

QUADRANGLE MAP Benton Lake East 47111F3 & Northwest Great Falls 47111E3- 1995 7.5 MINUTE SERIES  
CONTROL USGS, and USC&GS  
PROJECTION NAD 27, ZONE 12  
METHOD GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

*John M Schmitt*  
John M Schmitt  
Engineering Supervisor

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