

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Bresnan Communications, 1111 Stewart Ave, Bethpage New York, 11714 Fiber Optic line installation
Proposed Implementation Date:	October 2011
Proponent:	Bresnan Communications
Location:	Section 16 T3N R9W
County:	Deer Lodge

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Bresnan Communications is proposing to install an underground fiber optic cable along an existing road in the NE1/4NE1/4, section 16 T4N R9W (see attached map).

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Bresnan communications
DNRC

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

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action – The land use license (LUL) would not be issued to Bresnan Communications. This would prevent the cable from being installed, delaying cable services to adjacent residents.

Action – The LUL would be issued authorizing Bresnan to install the line and put it into service.

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.

There are three separate soil types within the tract, Winspect-Wilspring, China Springs, Poin-Larkspur.

No Action – Additional disturbance to the soils within this portion of the tract would not occur. There would not be any increase in the potential for erosion, displacement or compaction.

Action – Installation of the fiber optic line would involve a foot mounted on a dozer to create a trench for the line. This would leave an unvegetated strip of ground 1' or less in width for the entire length of the line. Because of the narrow width of disturbed land no problem with erosion is anticipated. The license holder would be required to apply the following grass seed mixture to any area which are disturbed by this action. All grass seed will be certified weed free.

Pubescent Wheat Grass	4# PLS/ac
Intermediate Wheat Grass	4# PLS/ac.
Bluebunch Wheat Grass	4# PLS/ac

Streambank Wheat Grass 4# PLS/ac.

Alsike Clover 1# PLS/ac.

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.

No Action – No change is anticipated from the existing condition

Action – There are no streams or other surface water in close proximity to the proposed project.
No impacts to water quality or quantity are anticipated under either the action or no action alternative.

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.

No anticipated impacts from either alternative because no burning is involved.

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.

Range sites involved with this proposed project are in the 10-14 inch precipitation zone. Native vegetation is dominated by Bluebunch Wheat Grass (5%), Western Wheat Grass (5%), Sedge Inc. (15%) and blue grasses (35%). A search of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) identified no plant species of special concern.

No Action – No disturbance would occur to the existing vegetation consequently there would be little damage to existing vegetation.

Action – A trench less than 12" wide and 18 to 24 inches deep would be constructed to hold the fiber optic line. There would be disturbance to the native vegetation caused by the creation of this trench. To mitigate for the disturbed area, the licensee would be required to grass seed all disturbed area's with the mixture identified in item 4 above.

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.

Because of the minimal amount of disturbance and the short time period involved to install this line, no impacts are anticipated under either alternative.

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.

A search of the NRIS site identified 6 species of concern which could occur in the area of this project, Wolverine, Hoary Bat, Preble's Shrew, Golden Eagle, Clarks Nut Cracker and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. The Wolverine, Hoary Bat and Clarks Nut Cracker require habitat associated with forested sites. This habitat does not exist within the proposed project area. No Golden Eagle nest sites are not known to occur within the project. It is possible for the the preble's shrew to occur in the area, but given that the line will be installed in an old highway right of way which has historically been severely disturbed it is unlikely that any damage will occur to this animals habitat. The Westslope Cutthroat requires water which does not occur on this site No impacts are anticipated under either alternative to any of these species.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

No impacts are anticipated under either alternative. If the action alternative were to be selected the permittee would be required to stop work if an archaeological site were to be discovered and notify DNRC's Anaconda Unit Manager.

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.

No Action – No changes are anticipated to occur from existing conditions under this alternative.

Action – There would be a minor impact to the view shed from construction of a 1' wide trench. Over time this would heal over and revegetate, blending into the surrounding land scape

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 impacts are anticipated under either the action or no-action alternatives.

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.

No other projects are currently underway within this section. No impacts are anticipated associated with this plan under either alternative.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

No impacts anticipated by either alternative

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

No Action – In order to provide communication services to the customers near the proposed project, an alternative route would have to be negotiated and then a new line installed. This would increase the companies costs along with delaying services to interested parties.

Action –The license would be issued granting the applicant authorization to proceed with installation and to provide services

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.

No Action – No additional employment would occur

Action – Short term employment for 4 individuals would be provided.

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.

No impacts anticipated by either alternative.

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

No impacts anticipated by either alternative.

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.

No impacts are anticipated under either alternative

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.

No Impacts anticipated under either alternative

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.

No impacts anticipated under either alternative

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No impacts anticipated under either alternative

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

No impacts anticipated under either alternative

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.

No Action – No additional income would occur

Action - \$250 per year would be generated for each of the first 2 years of this installation.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Fred E. Staedler Jr.	Date: 10-7-11
	Title: Anaconda Unit Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

The Action Alternative

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant impact anticipated with the implementation of mitigation measures

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name:
	Title:
Signature:	Date:

LAND USE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME OF APPLICANT Bresnan Communications, LLC
 ADDRESS 1111 Stewart Avenue
 CITY Bethpage STATE NY ZIP 11714
 HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE 406-438-1577

Application is hereby made for access for the following purpose(s):
Be specific and include map, if appropriate.

The purpose of this License is to:

Installation of an underground
Fiber optic cable, along an
existing road.

Tracts of land situated in Silver Bow County, Montana, and being further described as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

SECTION 16 TOWNSHIP 3N 4W RANGE 9W

PART OF SECTION North of I-90 on north
side of abandoned highway 105.

DURATION (MONTH) September (DAY) 26 (YEAR) 20 11

THROUGH (MONTH) September (DAY) 26 (YEAR) 2013

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE Robert M Eudism DATE 9-26-2011

Mail completed form and \$25.00 application fee to the Area Office that handles the county the request is in. After an on-site inspection, the Area Manager will consider whether the proposed use is in the best interest of the trust. All applications should be sent to the appropriate Area Office for review (Note: estimated processing time is 60-90 days).



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1000 Hill St, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Google

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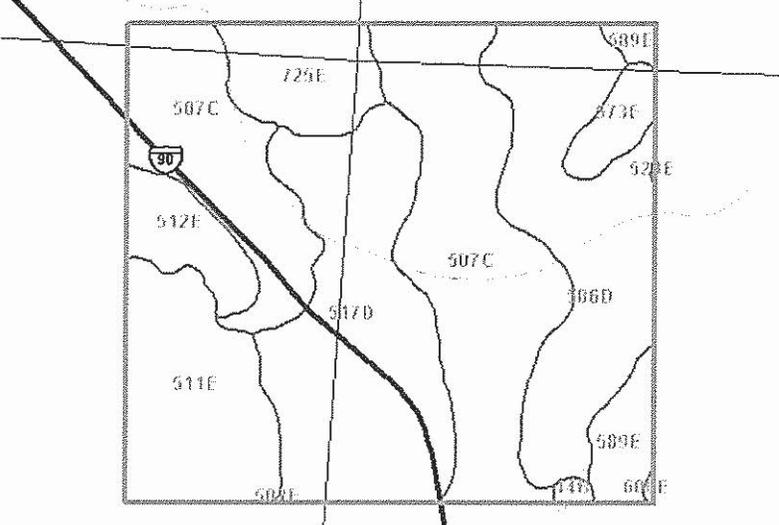
1000 Hill St

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Montana SSURGO Soils

Selection Info: State Plane Coordinates: 349001,203667,350496,205020

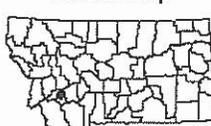
Back To Data List
Zoom IN OUT Zoom Factor 2
Pan
Full Extent



This map is 1.37 miles wide.

Identify	Legend	Metadata
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Mapping Unit	No
Highways		
<input type="radio"/>	Interstate Route	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	U.S. Route	
<input type="radio"/>	Montana Route	
<input type="radio"/>	Secondary Route	
Water Body		
<input type="radio"/>	Lake/Pond	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	Swamp/Marsh	
<input type="radio"/>	Glacier	
Streams		
<input type="radio"/>	Major river or stream	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	Other stream	
<input type="radio"/>	Un-named stream	
Town Population		
<input type="radio"/>	0-100	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	101-1,000	
<input type="radio"/>	1,001-5,000	
<input type="radio"/>	Over 5,000	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> County	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Land Survey Section	Yes
Select a Background Image:		
None		
Click here for a printable version		
HELP		

Location Map



Data Reports

SSURGO Soils

[Download Montana SSURGO Soil Data Shape File](#)

Description

[Click Here](#)

SSURGO soil mapping units

[Click here to close window and return to map.](#)

Search Area:

State Plane Coordinates: 349001,203667,350496,205020

Total Area = 500 Acres

Mapping Unit Name	Mapping Unit Type	Mapping Unit Symbol	Mapping Unit Key	Acres	Percent of Total Area
Chinasprings ashy sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, stony, moderately impacted	Consociation	507C	320360	156	31.3
Poin-Larkspur complex, 4 to 20 percent slopes	Complex	517D	1424733	109	21.7
Chinasprings-Patouza-Chinasprings, deep complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes, moderately impacted	Complex	586D	320664	92	18.4
Hungryhill-Euell-Larkspur complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes, stony	Complex	511E	362012	60	12.1
Winspect-Wilspring complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	Complex	725E	362067	30	6.0
Euell-Larkspur complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes, stony, moderately impacted	Complex	512E	320495	21	4.2
Nivean-Patouza complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes, very stony, moderately impacted	Complex	589E	320661	18	3.6
Whitlash, very stony-Rock outcrop-Hungryhill, very stony complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	Complex	573E	320356	11	2.3
Meadowcreek-Anamac complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes, moderately impacted	Complex	44B	320254	2	0.4
Illiano, very stony-Euell, very stony-Rock outcrop complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	Complex	608E	1424751	0	< 0.1
Poin-Rock outcrop-Euell complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	Complex	528E	362004	0	< 0.1
Hungryhill-Savenac complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes, stony	Complex	502E	362014	0	< 0.1

Data Description

This is a summary of the SSURGO soil mapping unit polygons that are inside your search area. This data is mapped at 24k. More information about this dataset can be found [here](#). A status map of available data can be viewed [here](#).

Animal Species of Concern

Species List Last Updated 07/19/2011

6 Species of Concern
 Filtered by the following criteria:
 Township = 3 N Range = 9 W



Species of Concern
 6 Species
 Filtered by the following criteria:
 Township = 3 N Range = 9 W

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)

3 SPECIES
 FILTERED BY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
 TOWNSHIP = 3 N RANGE = 9 W

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	CFWCS TIER ID	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT	
Gulo gulo Weaverine	Mustelidae Weasels	G4	S3	C	SENSITIVE	SENSITIVE	2	0%	37%	Boreal Forest and Alpine Habitats	
Lasinus cinereus Hoary Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	Species verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland									
Sorex preblei Preble's Shrew	Soricidae Shrews	G4	S3				2	28%	79%	Sagebrush grassland	
Species verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Dawson, Fergus, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Madison, Missoula, Phillips, Powell, Ravalli, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Teton, Valley, Wheatland											

BIRDS (AVES)

2 SPECIES
 FILTERED BY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
 TOWNSHIP = 3 N RANGE = 9 W

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	CFWCS TIER ID	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Aquila chrysaetos Golden Eagle	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3			SENSITIVE	2	3%	100%	Grasslands
Nucifraga columbiana Clark's Nutcracker	Corvidae Jays / Crows / Magpies	G5	S3				3	9%	84%	Conifer forest
Species verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Madison, McCone, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Teton, Toole, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
Species verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Wheatland										

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)

1 SPECIES
 FILTERED BY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
 TOWNSHIP = 3 N RANGE = 9 W

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USES	BLM	CFWCS TIER ID	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi Westslope Cutthroat Trout	Salmonidae Trout	G4T3	S2		SENSITIVE	SENSITIVE	1		34%	Mountain streams, rivers, lakes
Species verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland										