

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Livestock Fence Construction	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring/Summer 2015 or 2016
Proponent: Funk Ranch Incorporated, P O Box 235, Hinsdale, Montana 59241	
Type and Purpose of Action: Funk Ranch Incorporated has submitted an improvements request to place a new four wire fence on State land to control livestock from leaving or entering managed native rangeland pastures. The fence to be placed on the State land will assist the surface lessee in keeping livestock in various controlled grazing pasture. The new fence will also help control livestock grazing on these and other associated lands within the ranch rangeland complex. The total length of the new fence will be one and one-quarter mile of fence.	
Location: W2, Section 13 Township 32 North Range 36 East	County: Valley County

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Funk Ranch Incorporated has submitted an Improvements Request Form to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office. The purpose of the Improvement Request Form is to place a new livestock fence on State of Montana land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Other government agencies involved with this type of project on State land is the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Conservation Service.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to Funk Ranch Incorporated to place one and one-quarter mile of livestock fence on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to Funk Ranch

Incorporated to place one and one-quarter mile of livestock fence on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>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>	<p>Action Alternative: The construction of a livestock fence project will impact the soils along the fence line route. The impact would be some soil compaction from fencing equipment. The impacts to the soils are minimal. The area of impact will continue to produce native grass and forb vegetation over time from existing seed sources from the surrounding plant community.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils under this alternative.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the surface water resources associated with this section of State land. The project will have no impacts to other surface water resources on surrounding deeded or federal lands.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils under this alternative.</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 project will have no impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the installation of a livestock fence.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	be no impacts to air quality under this alternative.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p>Action Alternative: The native grass and forb rangeland vegetation on the livestock fence route will see some disturbance by this type of project. The native grass and forb vegetation will reproduce from existing seed sources, upon project completion.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the tame grass vegetation under this alternative.</p>
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>Action Alternative: This type of activity will disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact has no known Sage Grouse habitat. The impacts to the wildlife will be mitigated with the use of a wildlife compatible livestock fence. The fence height will not exceed 42 inches and the bottom wire will be at least 18 inches off the ground. This mitigation measure will minimize impacts to the wildlife population in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the habitat resources under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. Sage Grouse are considered a species of special concern by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. This document has identified this upland bird species as not inhabiting these tracts of State land and the immediate surrounding area.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	<p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the environmental resources under this alternative.</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. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation personnel have inspected these tracts that will have a new livestock fence.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.</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 in a rural area and is not visible to the general public. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the State land involved with this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the aesthetics of the State land under this alternative.</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 the project?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the environmental resources of land water, air or energy under this alternative.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The livestock fence installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

be no impacts to other projects or plans under this alternative.

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: The installation of a livestock fence has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards.

No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to human health and safety under this alternative.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?

Action Alternative: The project will enhance the current livestock grazing management activities that are occurring on the State land. The project will also benefit the surrounding deeded and federal lands.

No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to agricultural activities under this alternative.

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

Action Alternative: The project will not impact the quantity and distribution of employment.

No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.

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: There will be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this

	alternative.
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 effect?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans or goals under this alternative.
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 big game or upland bird hunting recreational values associated with the state land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the state land 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 in this rural area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to population or housing 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: There will be no impacts to the social structures of the local communities under this alternative.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist
Approved By:**

Name: Matthew Poole

Title: Glasgow Unit Manager

Signature: s/Matthew Poole's

Date: 03/10/2015