

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Easement
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	August 2016
<b>Proponent:</b>	Francis and Joanne Noel
<b>Location:</b>	SE1/4NE1/4 Section 1 Township 3S Range 6E
<b>County:</b>	Gallatin
<b>Trust:</b>	Western/Eastern

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Create a 0.55 acre easement for a garage, well, and SW corner of a home which were previously under a Land Use License. The Land Use License was originally created after a survey determined the improvements were on state land.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

None.

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

None.

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Action: Issue the easement for the 0.55 acres which includes a garage, well, and corner of a home.

No Action: Do not issue the easement for the 0.55 acres which includes a garage, well, and corner of a home. Leaving the improvements unlicensed and non-easemented on state trust land.

### 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.*

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. There will be no change to geology and soil quality under either alternative.

**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.*

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. There will be no change to water resources under either alternative.

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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.*

No effect under either alternative.

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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.*

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. There will be no change to vegetation under either alternative.

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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.*

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. There will be no change to fish and wildlife under either alternative.

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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.*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists the Wolverine, Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, Northern Goshawk, Brown Creeper, Evening Grosbeak, Great Gray Owl, Pacific Wren, Western Toad, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout as species of concern in the township and range the proposed easement is located.

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. No effects would be expected to these species and their habitat.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

No known historical, archaeological or paleontological resources have been identified in the area that encompasses the proposed easement.

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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.*

The land has been in its current state prior to 1970 when the home was purchased by Francis Noel. There will be no change to aesthetics under either alternative.

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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 effect to environmental resources under either alternative.

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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.*

No health and safety risks under either alternative.

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

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

No change under either alternative.

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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.*

No change under either alternative.

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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.*

No change under either alternative.

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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*

No change under either alternative.

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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.*

No change under either alternative.

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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.*

No change under either alternative

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### 22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

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

No change under either alternative.

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### 23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

No change under either alternative.

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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.*

The easement would create \$2131.25 in income for the Eastern/Western trust.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Katie Svoboda	<b>Date:</b> 7/22/16
	<b>Title:</b> Office Manager	

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**V. FINDING**

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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED: Action:** Issue the easement for the 0.55 acres which includes a garage, well, and corner of a home.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:** I have determined that none of the anticipated environmental impacts outlined in the EA are significant according to the criteria outlined in *ARM 36.2.524*. I find that no impacts are regarded as severe, enduring, geographically widespread, or frequent. Further, I find that the quantity and quality of various resources, including any that may be considered unique or fragile, will not be adversely affected to a significant degree. I find no precedent for future actions that would cause significant impacts, and I find no conflict with local, State, or Federal laws, requirements, or formal plans. In summary, I find that the identified adverse impacts will be avoided, controlled, or mitigated by the design of the project to the extent that the impacts are not significant.

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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> Craig Campbell
	<b>Title:</b> Bozeman Unit Manager
<b>Signature:</b> Craig Campbell /s/	<b>Date:</b> 8/18/16