

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Robert Bold Fence
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Summer 2016
<b>Proponent:</b>	Robert Bold
<b>Location:</b>	T 20N R 19E Section 9
<b>County:</b>	Fergus
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Robert Bold, the surface lessee, is proposing to build a boundary fence between DNRC State Trust land and his deeded land. The proposed fence would be ½ mile in length on the east side of the tract. Fence will be a four wire barbed fence.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
Northeastern Land Office (NELO)  
Robert Bold (Proponent)

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

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative A (No Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to build the fence.

**Alternative B (the Proposed Action)** – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to build the fence.

### 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.*

Very minimal surface disturbance is associated with the proposed project.

No cumulative effects to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture are anticipated.

**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 cumulative effects to the water resources are anticipated.

**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.*

The air quality in the area will not be affected.

No cumulative effects to air quality are anticipated.

**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.*

Surface disturbance for the project will be minimal.

No rare plants or cover types are present.

No long term cumulative effects to vegetation are anticipated.

**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 project area has a portion that lies with the Greater Sage-grouse core area (see attached map). The nearest lek is 1.8 miles to the southwest of the project area.

No cumulative effects are anticipated.

**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 Montana Natural Heritage Program for Species of Concern with a state rank of 3 or higher was conducted in the township that includes the area of potential effect. (State rank of 3 means potentially at risk because of **limited** and/or **declining** numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.)

The only listed species that came up on the search is the Greater Sage-Grouse.

To mitigate any potential negative effects on the species. The fence will be constructed outside of the nesting season (1 March to 15 July) and the fence will be marked to reduce collisions. Fence marking will be white vinyl fence markers (3 inch segments) and spaced on the top wire every 3 to 4 feet.

There are no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources on this site.

**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

A search on the Montana Historical Society historic preservation site was conducted on 1/4/2016 and no historical or archaeological site was present.

**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 direct or cumulative effects to aesthetics are anticipated.

**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 demands on limited resources are required for this project.

No direct or cumulative effects to environmental resources are anticipated.

**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 no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

**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.

**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

This project will have no cumulative effect on human health and safety.

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

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

This project will add to existing agricultural activities in this area.

**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.*

The project will not create any new long term jobs.

No cumulative effects to the employment market are anticipated.

**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 cumulative effects to the local and state tax base are anticipated.

**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*

There will not be any increases in traffic or traffic patterns if this project is approved.

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on government services.

**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.*

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

**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.*

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on recreation or wilderness activities.

**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 proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments. Population and housing will not be affected.

No direct or cumulative effects to population or housing are anticipated.

**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

The proposed project will have no effect on any unique quality of the area.

**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 proposed project will not have any cumulative economic or social effect.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Brandon Sandau
	<b>Title:</b> Land Use Specialist
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> January 5, 2016

**V. FINDING**

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

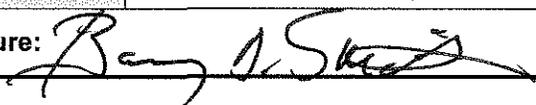
I have selected the Proposed Alternative B, and recommend the proponent be granted permission to build the fence within the terms of the two mitigating factors detailed in section 9 of this document.

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined that no negative long-term environmental impacts will result from the proposed activity.

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

<input type="checkbox"/> EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis
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<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Barny D. Smith
	<b>Title:</b> Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> January 5, 2016

# Animal Species of Concern

Species List Last Updated 06/23/2015



A program of the Montana State Library's  
Natural Resource Information System  
operated by the University of Montana.

1 Species of Concern

Filtered by the following criteria:

Species = Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Invertebrates

Heritage State Rank = S1, S2, S3

Township = 20 N Range = 19 E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

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## BIRDS (AVES)

1 SPECIES

FILTERED BY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

SPECIES = MAMMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, FISH, INVERTEBRATES

HERITAGE STATE RANK = S1, S2, S3

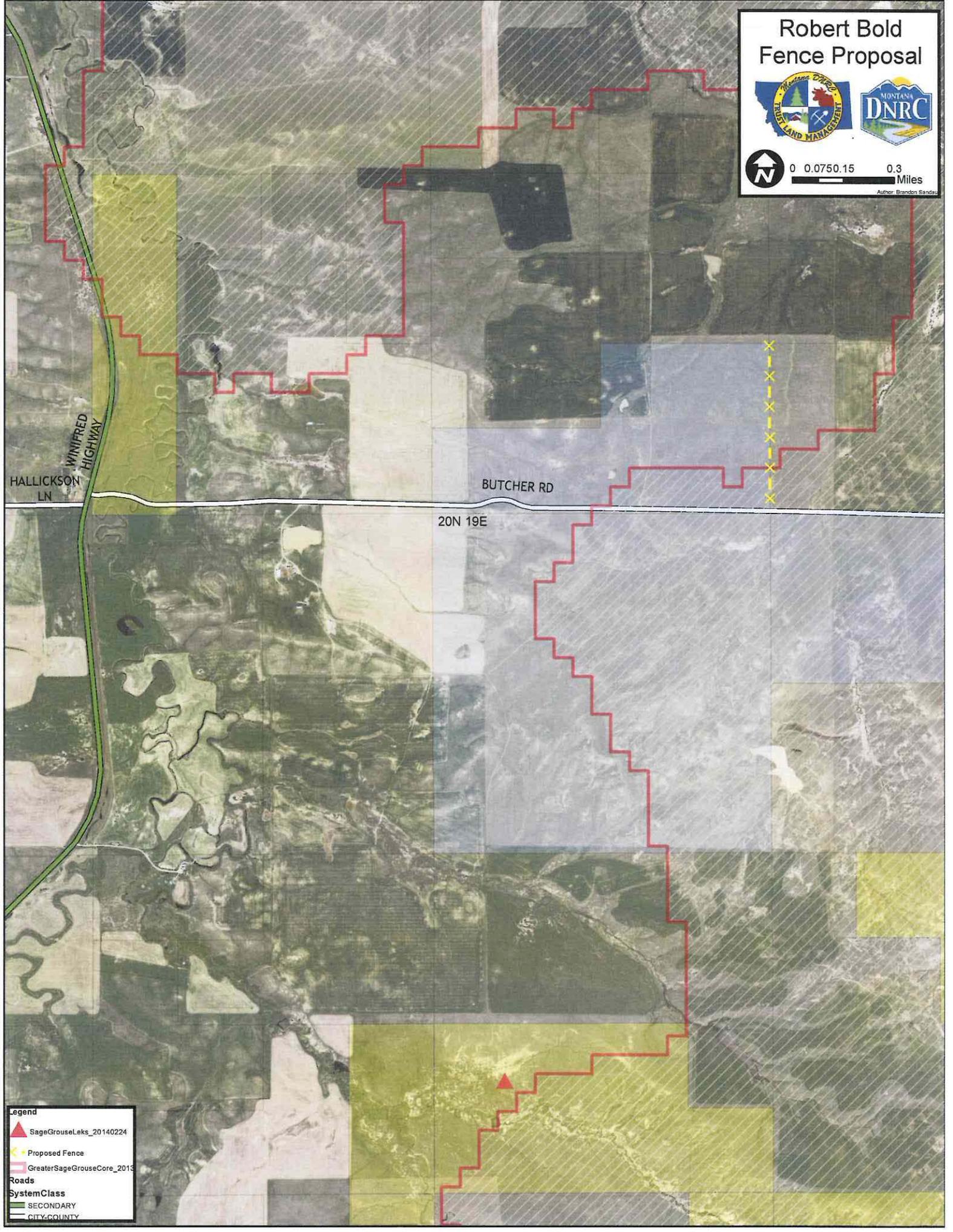
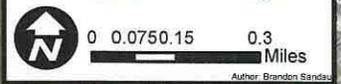
TOWNSHIP = 20 N RANGE = 19 E (BASED ON MAPPED SPECIES OCCURRENCES)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<b>Centrocercus urophasianus</b> Greater Sage-Grouse	<b>Phasianidae</b> Upland Game Birds	G3G4	S2		SENSITIVE	SENSITIVE	SGCN2	17%	75%	Sagebrush
<b>Species Occurrences verified in these Counties:</b> Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										

Citation for data on this website:

Montana Animal Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Retrieved on 1/4/2016, from <http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=a>

# Robert Bold Fence Proposal



**Legend**

- SageGrouseLeks\_20140224
- Proposed Fence
- GreaterSageGrouseCore\_2013

**Roads**

- SECONDARY
- CITY-COUNTY