

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Rocking TS Water Lines and Stock Tanks
Proposed Implementation Date:	October 1, 2017
Proponent:	Rocking TS ranch (Jacob Thomas lessee)
Location:	T16N R29E Section 36
County:	Petroleum

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Lack of available water in section 36 has created a situation where cattle are not utilizing the western half of this state lease section. Locating two stock water tanks in the western half should promote an incentive for cattle to move into that area and graze it to the extent allowed by the lease. These two tanks will provide water for wildlife as well.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:
MT DNRC, Rocking TS Ranch lessee Jacob Thomas, MT Sage Grouse Working Group

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

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:
"No action" alternative.

The alternative to construct the water lines and stock tanks.

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:
[N] No unique geology observed, soils are silty clays, clay loams and loams.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:
[Y] The two lines will increase water quantity and distribution.

6. AIR QUALITY:
[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

[N] Vegetation cover type is: Great Plains Ponderosa Pine Woodland and Savannah, Rocky Mountain Foothill Woodland Steppe Transition, Big Sagebrush Steppe, Great Plains Badlands, and Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairie

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

[N] Project Proposal was submitted to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program people, project is deemed consistent with their goals. According to MNHP map viewer, buffers for the hoary bat and little brown myotis overlap onto section 36.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

[N] None known.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

[N] A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

11. AESTHETICS:

[N] This project is in a remote area north of Winnett, Montana just west of the Musselshell River, the line is to be trenched in and aesthetics should not be a concern.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

[Y] Water is being pumped from deeded ground onto the state section.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

[N] None

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:

[N] This project will not affect human health or safety.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

[Y] This project will improve livestock production.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

[N] New jobs will not be created.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

[N] There will be no effect upon the tax base.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

[N] Substantial traffic will not be added. Other services will not be required.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

[N] None

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

[N] Access to this tract is possible through BLM lands.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

[N] Additional housing will not be required.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

[N] Disruption is not likely.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

[N] There should be no shift.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

[N] None

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Richard V. Denning, Land Use Specialist, DNRC Northeast Land Office
	Signature: _____ Date: 8-8-17

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED: The alternative to install the water lines and tanks.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS: Minimal negative impacts are expected with this proposal. Positive impacts should prevail for livestock and wildlife.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Barny D. Smith
	Title: Lewistown Unit Manager, DNRC Northeast Land Office
Signature:	Date: 8-8-17