

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Improvements Request for an Agricultural Lease
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	February 21, 2017
<b>Proponent:</b>	Raymond Stinnett
<b>Location:</b>	Township 5S Range 9E Section 16
<b>County:</b>	Park
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proposed Improvements Request is for the construction of a fence along Elbow Creek and installation of a water line for stock water.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program – Animal species of Concern

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

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Grant Improvements – Allow for the construction of the fence and installation of the water line for stockwater.

No Action – Do not allow for the construction of the fence or installation of the water line for stockwater, leaving the parcel as is.

### 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 soils are comprised of the Cozdome-Vendome-Vendome, extremely Stony complex. No adverse effects would be expected.

#### 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.*

Currently Elbow Creek is not protected from grazing cattle and the banks have been degraded by cattle use.

Action: The fencing and water supply proposed would protect the banks of Elbow creek and allow them to revegetate and stabilize.

No Action: Impacts to the stream banks of Elbow creek would continue under the current grazing regime.

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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.*

None

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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 fence line would be cleared of vegetation and boulders with equipment and a trench would be excavated for the pipe line. No lasting effects would be expected

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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 area in which this parcel is location is traveled by pronghorns, elk and deer. Fencing can limit the mobility of these species and be potentially life threatening. If the fencing is constructed to wildlife friendly standards the limitations and hazards to pronghorns, elk and deer can be reduced.

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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 Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear and Wolverine as species of concern

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

No cultural resources have been identified on the track.

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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.*

No effects to aesthetics would be expected.

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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.*

None

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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

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**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.*

None

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

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

None

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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.*

None

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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.*

None

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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*

None

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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.*

None

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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.*

None

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

None

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

None

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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 fence would enable more efficient management of the livestock on this parcel of school Trust Land leased for grazing.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Katie Svoboda/s/	<b>Date:</b> 2/28/2017
	<b>Title:</b> Bozeman Unit Office Manager	

**V. FINDING**

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:** Allow for the construction of the fence and installation of the water line for stock water, with stipulations as follows;

- The top to be less than 42 inches in height.
- The bottom wire to be smooth and greater than 16 inches in height.

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:** No significant impacts would be expected.

**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> 3/1/2017	