

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Hydra Montana LLC. temporary water pump site and pipeline
Proposed Implementation Date:	2018
Proponent:	Hydra Montana LLC
Location:	T26N-R59E-Sec16
County:	Richland County

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Hydra Montana, LLC (Henceforth referred to as proponent) has requested to install a temporary pump site and temporary water pipeline upon state owned trust land. This pump site and pipeline would be used to provide temporary water for several nearby proposed oil well drilling projects. The anticipated length of temporary pipeline on the tract is approximately 4000 feet. The expected duration of use of this license is expected to be 25 days per project on average, with the proponent removing the equipment when not in use. The proposed license would be written for a period of 2 years, with actual use periods varying.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The proponent has filed a DS-401 Land Use License application with the DNRC Eastern Land Office. A field inspection of the requested site was conducted by ELO staff on August 21st, 2018.

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

DNRC Water Resources Division- Beneficial Use Permit

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Issue a Land Use License to the proponent for a temporary installation and use of a pump site and water line

Alternative B- No Action

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.

Alternative A- Soils on the site are not excessively fragile, compactable or unstable. No direct soil disturbance is proposed by this project. The proposed pipeline would be installed above ground upon the surface.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- The proponent is in the process of procuring a beneficial use permit for removing water from the Missouri River. The quantity of water is unknown at this time. The proposed pump site and pipeline installation should not result in runoff or increased particulates in surface or groundwater sources. DNRC Water Resources Division would have to issue a beneficial use permit for the use of water from the Missouri River.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- Minimal impacts expected. Increased pollutants from pump operations should only be minor and temporary.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No significant impact. Licensee would be required to place catchment tarps below all pumping equipment to contain any potential spills or leaks.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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.

Alternative A-. This project may temporarily disrupt wildlife habitat for a number of species due to temporary pump operations. Species which may have habitat in the area of the project may include but are not limited to deer, antelope, rodents, coyotes, foxes, amphibians, reptiles, fish, raptors, migratory and prairie birds. Upon project completion habitats and wildlife utilization should return to normal levels.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database shows the following species of concern in the general project area.

American White Pelican - *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Black-billed Cuckoo - *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Red-headed Woodpecker - *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Blue Sucker - *Cycleptus elongatus*

Paddlefish - *Polyodon spathula*

Pallid Sturgeon - *Scaphirhynchus albus*

Sauger - *Sander canadensis*

Sicklefin Chub - *Macrhybopsis meeki*

Sturgeon Chub - *Macrhybopsis gelida*

While these species may be present in the general area of this proposed license, impacts should be limited due to the small scope and temporary nature of the project. Pump suction lines would be equipped with screens to prevent fish from entering the lines. This proposed project is not located within Greater Sage Grouse Core, Connectivity or General Habitat.

Alternative B- No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Alternative A- A search of the TLMS Database shows 2 recorded historical sites in the general area of the requested license. These sites are comprised of the BNSF rail spur (24RV0746) and the Snowden Bridge (24RL0086), no impact to these sites are expected. A field review of the proposed project area showed no findings of historical, archeological or paleontological resources within the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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.

Alternative A- A slight and temporary change to the aesthetics could be expected, due to temporary use for above ground pump site and pipeline. This use would be temporary with no lasting impacts after the project is completed. Noise levels may be increased during times of use, this impact should be temporary and only during times of use

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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.

Alternative A- The proposed project would have an impact to water resources. A beneficial water use permit from DNRC Water Resources Division would be required. The amount of water requested is unknown at this time. The DNRC Eastern Land Office does not have regulatory authority over this permit and it is not part of this land use license request.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A- There may be potential health and safety risks associated with this project. These risks are accepted by trained employees as occupational risks. These risks can be mitigated with proper training and on site safety protocols.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Alternative A- This project should have a positive impact to the industrial, commercial, activities and production in the area. Impact to agricultural activities and production should be neutral.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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.

Alternative A- This project has the potential to create jobs with further development possibilities. The number of jobs created is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- This project has the potential to increase local tax revenues the amount of which is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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

Alternative A- No impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- The requested pump site and pipeline are temporary and should not have a long-term effect on recreational and wilderness activities. The proposed pipeline is designed in such a way to not impede foot or vehicular travel. Vehicular crossing is allowed by use of ramped flat segments of pipe to be installed where needed.

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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.

Alternative A- This project has the ability to generate revenue for the trust through the purchase of a land use license. This price of this LUL will be set at \$20,000.00 (\$10,000 per year)

Alternative B- No Impact

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Scott Aye	Date: 9-5-2018
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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The proposed land use license for approximately 4000 feet of temporary above ground water pipeline and pump site use should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts should be adequately mitigated through the DNRC terms and conditions contained within the land use license. For these reasons an environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. The proposed land use license for the temporary above ground water pipeline and pump site would satisfy the trust fiduciary mandate.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Chris Pileski
	Title: ELO Area-Manager
Signature: 	Date: 9/5/18