

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Two Rivers Small Volume Aggregate Permit #S-2100-011
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	July 2020
<b>Proponent:</b>	Dois Chesshir
<b>Location:</b>	Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 20 East (Common School Trust)
<b>County:</b>	Stillwater County

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Mr. Chesshir is requesting that the DNRC Southern Land Office (SLO) issue a Small Volume Aggregate Permit for 300 cubic yards of pit run stockpiled material to be removed from an old gravel site area measuring approximately 4 acres on State Trust land. This aggregate would be used in the construction of a roadway on Mr. Chesshir's personal property. This permit is only for removing stockpiled material and not for any new excavation.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

No formal public scoping was performed by the Southern Land Office (SLO) for this proposed project. Mr. Chesshir is associated with Two Rivers Archery Club who has a recreational use license for the same trust land tract that the permit will be for.

The proposed project area has been visited multiple times Jeff Bollman, SLO Area Manager and Zach Huyser, SLO Land Use Specialist.

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

None.

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Proposed Alternative:** Approve the issuance of a Small Volume Aggregate Permit to Dois Chesshir for 300 cubic yards of stockpiled material to be removed from an old gravel site area measuring approximately 4 acres of State Trust land in Section 36-T2S-R20E in Stillwater County.

**No Action Alternative:** Deny the request by Dois Chesshir to issue a Small Volume Aggregate Permit for 300 cubic yards of stockpiled material to be removed from an old gravel site area measuring approximately 4 acres of State Trust land in Section 36-T2S-R20E in Stillwater County.

### 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.*

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**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 topography of the proposed project area is on a bluff overlooking the Yellowstone River. The soils consist of shallow gravel. No significant impacts are anticipated by the granting of the Permit.

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**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 Yellowstone River is positioned South of the gravel site. Equipment operations will be conducted at a safe distance from the river. The removal of the stockpiled gravel will strengthen environmental health. No significant impacts are anticipated.

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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 significant impact is expected to air quality, although there may be a minor temporary increase in particulate emission during the removal and transporting of the aggregate material. No significant impacts are anticipated.

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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 mining of gravel will result in a temporary disturbance of the vegetative cover. As a part of the pit reclamation, the applicant will be required to re-seed the disturbed area with a seed mix to match the existing grassland. A search of the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) database revealed no unique plants on this section; therefore no significant impacts are 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.*

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats would occur as a result of implementing the proposed 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.*

After consulting the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) database, the only referenced species for this area were the Great Blue Heron and the Bald Eagle. This area is not located within Greater Sage Grouse Habitat, therefore no need for a consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Program. No significant impacts are expected from the proposed project.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

The subject property entails documented stone circles which are located 800 yards from the proposed project site. During a site visit on 7 July 2020 by Dois Chesshir and Zach Huyser, a visual inspection was performed and concluded the stone circles are far enough away from the gravel site boundary to have any negative impacts. No adverse effects to state-owned Historic Properties are anticipated.

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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 permit is only for removing stockpiled material which will enhance overall environmental health. This project will increase landscape productivity when finished. No significant impacts to aesthetics are expected by issuing the proposed Permit.

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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 significant impacts to environmental resources of land, water, air or energy would occur as a result of implementing the proposed 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.*

There are no other known studies or future actions planned for this Trust land parcel.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b></p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul> |
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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

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

No significant adverse impacts to human health and safety would occur as a result of implementing the proposed 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 significant impacts to industrial, commercial and agricultural activities and production would occur as a result of implementing the proposed 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.*

The proposed action will have no significant impact on the quantity and distribution of employment.

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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.*

The proposed action will have no adverse impact on tax revenue.

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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*

The implementation of the proposed alternative will not generate any additional demands on services provided by Stillwater County.

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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.*

Implementation of the proposed alternative will not conflict with any locally adopted plans.

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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.*

The subject Trust land has a recreational use license with Two Rivers Archery Club. Since Mr. Chesshir is associated with Two Rivers Archery Club there will not be any recreational interference. The proposed action will not impact the recreational use access or quality of the tract.

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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 significant adverse impacts to density and distribution of population and housing would occur as a result of implementing the proposed alternative.

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**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 proposed alternative.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

The proposed alternative would not directly impact cultural uniqueness or diversity.

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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 Common Schools Trust received a \$25 application fee for a Small Volume Aggregate Permit and will receive \$450.00 in royalties for the 300 cubic yards of aggregate (\$1.50/yard) that will be removed from the site.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Zach Huyser	<b>Date:</b> 15 July 2020
	<b>Title:</b> Southern Land Office Land Use Specialist	

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<b>V. FINDING</b>
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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

The proposed alternative has been selected and it is recommended that a Small Volume Aggregate Permit for 300 cubic yards of material be granted to Dios Chesshir.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

The potential for significant impacts from the proposed action is minimal based on the type of action proposed, its location and the relatively small area that will be disturbed by the action. Additionally, there were no plant species of concern identified on the tract and the only animal species, Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagle are not likely to be impacted during the short time frame of the project. Additionally, there were no other areas that were identified that would produce adverse impacts from the proposed action that will not be mitigated as listed below.

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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> Jeff Bollman
	<b>Title:</b> Southern Land Office Area Manager
<b>Signature:</b> /s/ Jeff Bollman	<b>Date:</b> 15 July 2020