

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a temporary electric fence across State land.	Proposed Implementation Date: 2015
Proponent: A & J Christofferson Farms LP, 4227 Swedes Square, Malta, MT 59538	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to install a temporary electric fence across approximately 2/3 of a mile of State land in order to separate part of a pasture dominated by tame grasses from another part of the pasture dominated by native grasses. This will allow greater control over grazing activity on the rangeland.	
Location: S2N2SW4NE4, S2SW4NE4, W2SE4, S2NW4, SW4 Section 32, Township 30N, Range 30E	County: Phillips

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	A management plan was developed for the lease during a meeting with the lessee/applicant, and was approved by Matt Poole, Glasgow Unit Manager. This plan involved separating part of the grazing land that was dominated by tame grasses from the part that was dominated by native grasses by installing a temporary electric fence. This project required an Improvement Request by the lessee, and GUO staff will review and approve/deny the request.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	DNRC manages the surface of these lands and no other agencies have jurisdiction over the project. No additional permits needed.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to the applicant to install a temporary electric fence across State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to the applicant to install a temporary electric fence across State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains loam soils that are not unusual, fragile or unstable. The proposed fence would have very minimal impact on soils on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no changes to soils on the State land.</p>
<p>5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed fence would not negatively impact the quality, quantity and distribution of water.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed fence will have no impact on air quality, nor is it influenced by air quality regulations.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The current vegetative community consists primarily of native and non-native (tame) grasses, forbs and shrubs. The project is intended to provide greater control over livestock grazing of the land. This fence will positively impact the vegetative communities. There are no rare plants present.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plant communities on the State land.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The State land provides habitat for upland birds, mule deer and antelope. There is</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>potential for recreation on this State land. Greater sage-grouse may be seasonally present in the impacted area, but the temporary fence will have very minimal impact on any wildlife species present.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the possible use of the State land as wildlife habitat.</p>
<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The trail will have no impact on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. Greater Sage-Grouse are seasonally present, but the temporary fence will have very minimal impact on any wildlife species present.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no archaeological or paleontological resources. There is an historic homestead on this tract of State land, but it will not be impacted by the fencing project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impact to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed fence will have minimal impacts on the aesthetics of the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics associated with the State land.</p>
<p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed fence would place no demands on any environmental resources in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demands</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	placed on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action Alternative: This project will not impact any other plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the State land.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed fence will not add to human health and safety risks in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to human health or safety.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>Action Alternative: The fence will improve rangeland quality by providing greater control over livestock grazing use of the pastures. The management plan agreed upon with the lessee/applicant included installation of this fence.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to agricultural activities on the State land.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not create nor impact any jobs in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impact to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p>

<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impact to the local and state tax base under this alternative.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not create an additional demand for government services, nor will it impact traffic along existing roads.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will need to clear State (GUO) management plans before implementation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this type of alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</p>
<p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There is slight potential for recreation within the tract and surrounding areas. The fence would have very minimal impact on these opportunities.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the State land under this alternative.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution of population and housing.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be</p>

