

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a new culvert on State land.	Proposed Implementation Date: 2015
Proponent: Dirk Kjos PO Box 461, Peerless, MT 59253	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to install a new 12 inch culvert within an intermittent drainage and fill around it with dirt and gravel in order to improve a crossing for farm equipment/vehicles between agriculture fields.	
Location: NW4 Sec. 31, Twp. 36N, Rng. 44E	County: Daniels

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Dirk Kjos, the son of the Lessee of Record, Kenneth Kjos, proposed installation of the culvert to improve access through the tract for farm equipment. Glasgow Unit Office staff inspected the impacted area for purpose of lease renewal this summer, and upon discussion with the proponent, agreed that the culvert would improve the tract.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The impacted tract is under the Common Schools Trust. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation manages the surface and sub-surface of the tract, and would need to grant permission to the proponent to begin installation of the culvert.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to Mr. Kjos to install a new culvert on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to Mr. Kjos to install a new culvert on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS

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<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 silty ustifluvents that are intermittently inundated with water. Installation of the culvert could increase potential for water erosion around the culvert and the crossing over it. These soils are not fragile or unstable. The area of impact would not be reclaimed unless there are significant changes in the management of the tract.</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 culvert does not affect drinking water. With the adequately sized culvert, there should be minimal impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution downstream of the culvert.</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: This type of project on the State land will have minimal impact to the air quality.</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 non-native grasses and native forbs. The project would slightly reduce the quantity of vegetation on the State land. There would be increased potential for noxious weed introduction. No rare plants are present.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts</p>

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	to the plant communities on the State land.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>Action Alternative: The State land provides habitat for upland birds, mule deer and antelope. There is potential for recreation (hunting) on this State land. The impacted area is not within general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.</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>
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>Action Alternative: The proposed culvert will have no impact on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources.</p>
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impact to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The proposed culvert will have minimal impact on the aesthetics of the area. The impacted area is already used as a vehicle crossing by the lessee, and this project is intended to improve the crossing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics associated with the State land.</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	Action Alternative: The proposed culvert would place no demands on any environmental resources in the area.

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affect the project?	No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demands 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: During installation, there may be safety risks associated with the construction. Upon installation, a new culvert will not increase 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 project will have minimal impact on any livestock grazing that may occur on this tract. There will be a benefit to the lessee from having better access through the tract.</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</p>

	no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<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 impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project will not increase traffic nor add to demand for government services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will need to clear State 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>
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>Action Alternative: The proposed culvert will not impact recreation potential on the State land, as there is no legal public vehicle access through the tract.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the State land under this alternative.</p>
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<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>
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or	Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.

