CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Hagenbarth Land Montana LP Stock Water Pipeline LUL Request 2026
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring / Summer, 2026
Proponent:	Hagenbarth Land Montana LP
Location:	T5S R9W Sections 23 & 24
County:	Beaverhead

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proponent is requesting to construct a new buried pipeline in the above-described Montana Trust Lands Sections to provide livestock water to their adjacent private lands. The pipeline is proposed to begin at an existing stock water pipeline on state trust land that is held under easement by Hagenbarth Land Montana LP. The existing line is located on Trust Land in the E½SW¼ of Section 24, T5S R9W. The portion of the proposed project on Trust Lands would include approximately 6,560' of buried pipeline from the SESW of Section 24 and exiting onto private in the NESW of Section 24, see attached aerial photo. Construction would occur during the Spring of 2026 and would be short duration of less than a week.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Vanna Boccadori, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Biologist
Jim Hagenbarth, Hagenbarth Land Montana LP Member, Lessee & Proponent
Montana Natural Resource Information Service
Patrick Rennie, DNRC Archaeologist

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

No other government oversite or agencies with Jurisdiction or permits needed for this request.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A) Allow construction of the proposed Land Use License for a stock water pipeline
Alternative B) No action, stock water pipeline construction would be denied.

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 project area is located in foothill terrain. Topography is rolling. Due to the low impact nature of the buried water pipeline project on soils, the proposal would not cause cumulative effects. No special reclamation is expected. If the project is approved, the site will be assessed after construction by Dillon Unit staff prior to grazing lease expiration and alterations may be required if significant impacts are noted.

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 nearest surface water source is over 2 miles to the Northwest of the proposed project. The proposed project is a buried stock water pipeline. No water quality impacts would occur as a result of this project's construction. Water distribution would be positively affected. The proposed project will provide water to a currently dry site.

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

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.

No cumulative effects to vegetation are expected to result from this proposed project.

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 is used by pronghorn and as a nesting area for burrowing owls and long billed curlew. The proposed project consists of a buried water pipeline through the state tracts and will not affect wildlife use of the area. Vanna Boccadori, Montana DFWP Biologist, was solicited for comments regarding wildlife concerns. She responded requesting that weeds be monitored along the pipeline route for 2 years post construction to ensure weeds do not become established along the disturbed pipeline route.

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.

A query was made on the Montana Natural Heritage Program site regarding endangered or sensitive species located in the vicinity of the project area. The resulting Species of Concern Data Report included 10 species listed - 6 of which are not found within the project area due to habitat constraints. These six species include Brewer's Sparrow, sage thrasher, silver-haired bat, greater sage grouse, spotted bat, and great blue heron. The four species that are associated with habitat surrounding the project area include:

Long-billed Curlew - (*Numenius americanus*) – Long-billed curlews are known to nest and summer in and around the project area. The project would be completed during the spring when curlews are not present in the area. Grasses and forbs other than prickly pear would not be affected by the proposed project. Nesting and summer habitat would not be affected by the proposed project.

McCowan's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) – McCowan's longspur is listed as both a USDI BLM and State of Montana sensitive species. There is little information on this species at the MNHP site. The site does infer that the species is a seasonal inhabitant to the area during nesting season. Nesting season begins in early May and runs through July. This project is slated for construction in the Spring (April) when the species is not

considered to be present in the area. Increased human presence and equipment use would be of short duration and the project as proposed would be completed by the time McCowan's longspurs return to the area to nest.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) – Burrowing owls prefer nesting sites in short grass areas and have been documented using the area within and around the project site. The owls' primary use of the area is May through August. Construction of the buried pipeline would occur in April to May of 2026 - outside of prime use times.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – Loggerhead shrikes are listed as a Montana State and BLM sensitive species. The NRIS site has little habitat information other than they like short vegetation including pastures with fence rows, mowed roadsides, agriculture fields, riparian areas, and open woodlands. It states that in Idaho, nests are found in sagebrush, bitterbrush, and greasewood. This site contains scattered occasional low rabbitbrush with primarily low to mixed grasslands components. This site does not conform to known habitat of the shrike. Most sightings of the shrike in Montana have occurred in May through July. Construction of the buried pipeline is slated for April. No impacts to this species would result from this project.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

The proposed area was inventoried by Patrick Rennie and Chuck Maddox on February 26, 2026. Patrick submitted the following comments after the field inspection:

"The DNRC archaeologist conducted a Class III cultural and paleontological resources inventory of the areas of potential effect (APE) on Montana trust land. Despite a detailed examination of the APE, no cultural or fossil resources were identified and no additional archaeological or paleontological investigative work is recommended. Authorization of the proposed stockwater development will have No Effect to Antiquities as defined under the Montana State Antiquities Act. A formal report of findings has been prepared and is on file with the DNRC and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer:"

Rennie, Patrick
2026 Cultural and Palaeontologic Resources Inventory of the Proposed Hagenbarth Stock Water Pipeline: Beaverhead County, Montana. Report prepared by Patrick Rennie for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Report dated March 2026.

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 proposed project is located in a remote part of Beaverhead County. The project is a buried stock water pipeline and would not be detrimental to aesthetic values of the area.

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 limited resources would be required. The proposed project would not alter or affect other activities in the area. No cumulative effects to environmental resources are expected as a result of this project.

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.

No other studies or reviews were reported during scoping for this project.

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.

No human health or safety risks are expected to result from this project.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The proposed project would not significantly alter agricultural activities or production.

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 project would not affect the employment market, construction of the project will last 1 to 2 days total. No positive or negative cumulative effects to the employment market would result from this project.

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.

Tax revenue would not be affected by this project.

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

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

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 proposed project would not alter any unique quality or diversity of the area.

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

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

None

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed project would not alter any unique quality or diversity of the area.

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 purpose of this environmental document is to assess a Land Use License request to place a buried stock water pipeline starting from an existing pipeline located on Montana State Trust Land to adjacent private land. The purpose of the request is to provide dependable upland livestock water sources on adjacent private lands to the North of the involved Trust Lands. Livestock distribution would benefit from improved access to water. If approved and issued, the land use license would create a monetary return to the Pine Hills School Trust of $300.00 (one-time fee).

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Charles Maddox	**Date:**	April 3, 2026
	Title:	Land Use Specialist		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Proposed Action Alternative A - Allow construction of the proposed Land Use License for a stock water pipeline

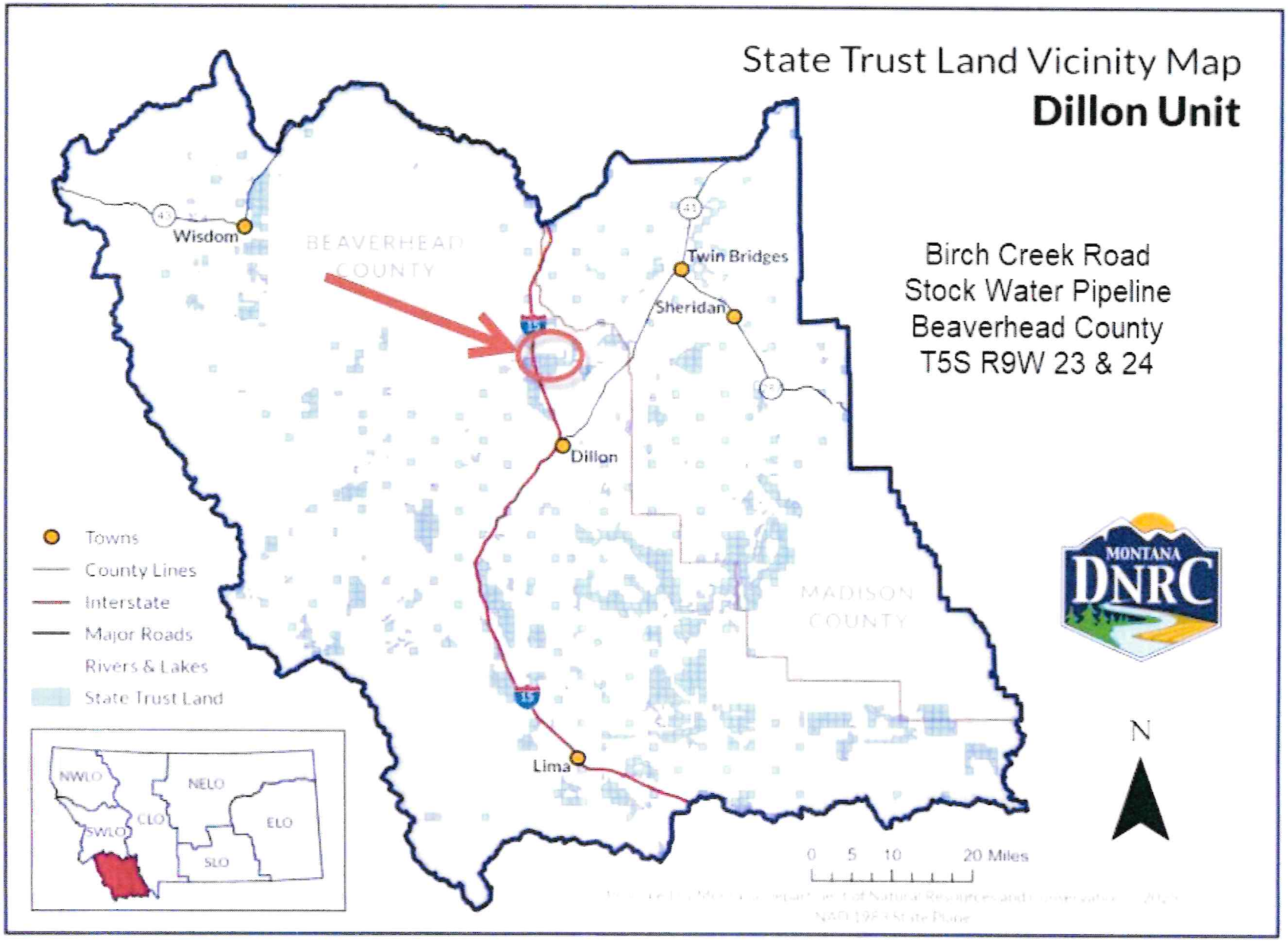
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The project will have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts because of the seasonality and scope of the activities. Monitoring and mitigations are in place to prevent potential impacts.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Scott MacDonald		
	Title:	Dillon Unit Manager (Detail)		
Signature:	Scott MacDonald		**Date:**	4/10/2026


State Trust Land Vicinity Map
Dillon Unit
Birch Creek Road
Stock Water Pipeline
Beaverhead County
T5S R9W 23 & 24
Wisdom
Twin Bridges
Sheridan
Dillon
Lima
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
MADISON COUNTY
Towns
County Lines
Interstate
Major Roads
Rivers & Lakes
State Trust Land
NWLO
NELO
CLO
ELO
SWLO
SLO
0 5 10 20 Miles
N
MONTANA
DNRC

Map Area 1

GPS accuracy 41.1 ft · 30 ft required