

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Ron Schara Productions Filming
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	Autumn 2025
<b>Proponent:</b>	Scott Fransen for Ron Schara Productions
<b>Location:</b>	T11-R38E Sec 16, T11N-R40E-Sec 36, T10N-R40E-Sec 16 and multiple tracts within The State-owned Tongue River Ranch. Please see attached sheet for legal Descriptions.)
<b>County:</b>	Rosebud and Custer Counties

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Ron Shara Productions, heretofore referred to as proponent, has requested permission for the purpose of outdoor filming and camping on State Trust Land tracts reference above.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Proponent has requested permission for a three-person crew to film and camp on the above referenced state tracts. Due to the location and small scope of the project no public comment was sought.

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

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Grant request for the project.

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- No impact expected.

Alternative B-No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts Expected.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- Current plant species which occupy the construction area include Western Wheatgrass (*Agropyron Smithii*), Green Needlegrass (*Stipa Viridula*), Needle and Thread (*Stipa comata*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koleria pyramidata*), Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Fringed Sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and Threadleaf sedge (*Carex filifolia*).

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed the following species of concern in the general area:

Black-tailed Prairie Dog(*Cynomys ludovicianus*)  
Little Brown Myotis(*Myotis lucifugus*)  
Long-eared Myotis(*Myotis evotis*)  
Northern Hoary Bat(*Lasiurus cinereus*)  
Silver-haired Bat(*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)  
Townsend's Big-eared Bat(*Corynorhinus townsendii*)  
American White Pelican(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Bobolink(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)  
Brewer's Sparrow(*Spizella breweri*)  
Burrowing Owl(*Athene cunicularia*)  
Chestnut-collared Longspur(*Calcarius ornatus*)  
Golden Eagle(*Aquila chrysaetos*)  
Great Blue Heron(*Ardea herodias*)  
Greater Sage-Grouse(*Centrocercus urophasianus*)  
Green-tailed Towhee(*Pipilo chlorurus*)  
Loggerhead Shrike(*Lanius ludovicianus*)  
Red-headed Woodpecker(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)  
Sharp-tailed Grouse(*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)  
Greater Short-horned Lizard(*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)  
Snapping Turtle(*Chelydra serpentina*)  
Spiny Softshell(*Apalone spinifera*)  
Great Plains Toad(*Anaxyrus cognatus*)  
Northern Leopard Frog(*Lithobates pipiens*)  
Sauger(*Sander canadensis*)  
Sturgeon Chub(*Macrhybopsis gelida*)

While the above listed species have been identified as having been found within the tract as a whole, there should be minimal impact from this project due to the location, timing, scale, and nature of the project. This project is located within Sage Grouse Core and General Habitat areas, but due to the proposed activity, the project was not submitted to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program to ensure compliance with EO-12-2015 and EO-21-2015.

Alternative B- No Impact

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## 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Alternative A- Upon field inspection and a review of the TLMS database, no cultural or historical sites were identified in the project area. A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards confirmed the information as noted. Due to the nature of this activity, no disturbance is expected. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A-No impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

None

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<b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>
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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.*

Alternative A- No impacts expected.

Alternative B- No impact

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

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

Alternative A- No Impacts Expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No impacts expected.

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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*

Alternative A- No Impact expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

Alternative A- No Impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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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.*

Alternative A- The issuance of a Land Use License for filming on this State Tract will return \$1,775.00 to the trust.

Alternative B- No Impact

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Aaron Kneeland	<b>Date:</b> 10-9-2025
	<b>Title:</b> Land Use Specialist	

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

Alternative A

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

The granting of the requested action on state owned trust lands for Ron Schara Productions filming project does not impact the long-term productivity of the land. An environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

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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> Scott Aye
	<b>Title:</b> ELO Land Program Manager
<b>Signature:</b> /s/ Scott Aye	<b>Date:</b> 10-9-2025