

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Denton Gulch Access LUL
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	June 2014
<b>Proponent:</b>	Phil Wirth
<b>Location:</b>	Section 8 T15N R5W
<b>County:</b>	Lewis and Clark
<b>Trust:</b>	Pine Hills Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Phil Wirth is proposing to use existing roads across 0.28 miles of State land in Section 8, Township 15N, Range 5W to access a road construction site on adjacent private land. The LUL would allow access to walk or move an excavator and a bulldozer across state land to adjacent private land on existing roads.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Agencies, Groups or Individuals Scoped:	Response:
DNRC, Landowner	Neutral
KEVIN RAGLAND-Surface lessee	Neutral by phone on June 20, 2014
Phil Wirth-Proponent	Proponent is in favor of the project

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

There are no other government agencies with jurisdiction or necessary permits.

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Action alternative: Issuing the Land Use License as proposed

Non-action alternative: Not issuing the Land Use License

### 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.*

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. Standard LUL stipulations would address maintenance. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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*

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. Standard LUL stipulations would address maintenance. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated to water quality or quantity.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: The small scope of the proposed use would limit impact.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: No rare plants or communities have been identified. Use will be restricted to existing roads. Standard LUL stipulations address weeds and vegetation.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: Deer and elk commonly use the general area. The small scope of the proposal would limit impact.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: A review of the Montana Natural Heritage website indicates the presence of these species of concern: Wolverine, Canada Lynx, and Fisher. Potential Species of Concern include: Boreal Owl. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated due to use of existing roads and short time duration of the access.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

Action alternative: No sites have been identified. Use would be restricted to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: The area is not on a prominent feature and is remote with limited access. The small scope of the proposal will limit impacts.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: The state tract is leased for grazing. No impacts are expected.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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 projects or plans being considered on the tract listed on this EA.

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

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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

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

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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*

Action alternative: Use will be confined to existing roads. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.

No Action Alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: Currently section 8 is not legally accessible. No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

No Action Alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

Action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

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

Proposed Alternative: No native or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity would be impacted by the proposal.

No Action Alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

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

The proposed project area represents a typical rural community found in this geographic area in Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

Action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts are anticipated to cultural uniqueness and diversity.

Non-action alternative: No significant adverse, direct or cumulative impacts will occur.

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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.*

If issued the LUL would provide income of approximately \$200.00 to the trust. This Land Use License should not impact future uses or income potential to this tract of state trust land.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Andy Burgoyne	<b>Date:</b> 6/20/14
	<b>Title:</b> Helena Unit Manager	

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

The action alternative is selected.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

There are no significant impacts that will result from issuance of the license.

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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> Gavin Anderson
	<b>Title:</b> Forest & Lands Program Manager, Central Land Office
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 6/23/14