United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA
(DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0140-EA)

October 7, 2015

BICKERDYKE PIPELINE
Range Improvement Project

Location: Carter County Montana

T.5 S. R.61 E. Sec. 29
T.5 S. R.60 E. Sec. 35

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

OFFICE/AREA: Miles City Field Office	**DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA** DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0140-EA
	DATE POSTED: July 29, 2015
NAME: Bickerdyke Pipeline	**DATE DUE:** August 30, 2015
	FUNDING: L1020 *LXRIE018394*
LOCATION: Bickerdyke Allotment #10177 Carter County Montana T.5 S.,R.61 E. Sec. 29 T.5 S.,R.60 E. Sec. 35	

ORIGINATOR DATE/INITIALS	TITLE	ASSIGNMENT
J. Dean Dolatta	Rangeland Management Specialist	ALL

REVIEWERS	TITLE	ASSIGNMENT	DATE/INITIALS
Dale Tribby	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	***8/14/14 dct 5/12/16 KU***
Doug Melton	Archeologist	Cultural/Paleontological Resources	08/24/2015 DM Cultural Report Mt-020-15-92
Reyer Rens	SRMS	Review	RR 5/16/16

/s/ Kathy Bockness **5/17/2016**
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR **DATE**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0008-EA **GR#**2503455

PROPOSED ACTION/TITLE TYPE: Improvement Project

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Bickerdyke Allotment #10177
Carter County Montana
T.5 S.,R.61 E. Sec 29
T.5 S.,R.60 E. Sec 35

PREPARING OFFICE: Miles City Field Office

DATE OF PREPARATION: July 29, 2015

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN: This proposed action is in accordance with the BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP), The ARMP states on page 3-11, Livestock Grazing Authorization, MD LG 7 "Approximately 2,700,000 acres and an estimated 546,496 animal unit months (AUMs) are available for livestock grazing; and page 3-10, MD LG 2: "The BLM will follow the BLM's 1997 Record of Decision for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement for Montana and north and South Dakota, as amended by table 2-6 (Miles City Field Office RMPGRSG Habitat Objectives) on Page 2-15 of Miles City Field Office ARMP."

BACKGROUND: The Bickerdyke Allotment (#10177) is located in Carter County Approximately 5 miles south and west of Capitol, Montana. The allotment consists of 5,409 acres of BLM- Public Domain, 8,041 acres of private land and 640 acres of state land. There are 1,013 active AUMs permitted in the allotment.

This allotment is located within a larger area delineated as Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA or "core" habitat) for sage grouse (IM No. 2012-043). While this project is in PHMA, the ground survey of this project indicated that it is not located in nesting, brood-rearing, or winter habitat for the greater sage grouse. No sage grouse leks are located within the allotment.

Butte LLP submitted a warranty deed for the base property for the Bickerdyke Allotment. In addition, they submitted Form 4130-1 (Grazing Application-Grazing Schedule), Form 4130-1a (Grazing Application/Preference Summary), Form 4130-1b (Grazing Application-Supplemental Information), and Form 41202-8 (assignment of Range Improvements).

In January 2014, a Miles City Field Office interdisciplinary team initiated an Environment Assessment (DIO-BLM-MT-C020-2014-0064-EA) to analyze the issuance of the grazing permit to Butte LLP. for the above mentioned allotment. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by the authorized officer on April 14, 2014

The area of analysis for the proposed project was created by buffering the newly proposed pipeline by a distance of 3.1 miles from where it crosses BLM land. Buffering these new projects by the 3.1 miles will help define the area likely affected by ground disturbance as it relates to sage grouse seasonal habitat use. This project has the potential to affect seasonal habitat use on seven adjacent allotments as well.

SCOPING: This project was posted on Montana/Dakotas BLM webpage on 07/29/2015 for public information requests. Internal scoping identified the issues below. No issues were brought forth by the public.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH SCOPING:

- Cultural:
  - Effects to cultural sites, paleontological localities, or sacred sites of interest to Tribes
- Livestock Grazing:
  - Effects to level of permitted use
- Grazing Administration:
  - Effects to livestock management on the allotment
- Vegetation:
  - Effects to vegetative condition and meeting Standards for Rangeland Health
- Visual Resource Management:
  - Effects to the visual view shed
- Wildlife:
  - Effects to habitats of game and nongame wildlife species
- Riparian:
  - Effects to riparian condition and function

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose and need for this project is for BLM to authorize additional water sources on the Bickerdyke Allotment that will help to improve livestock use patterns and enhance upland vegetation, while ensuring the habitat needs for the greater sage grouse are met. Additional water sources will spread forage utilization by livestock throughout the allotment and alleviate the concentration of livestock around a limited number of water developments. The proposed location for the water tanks on the Bickerdyke pipeline are located on private land, further reducing forage use on BLM managed lands.

This action will also fully analyze the effects of the proposed range improvements in accordance with all applicable regulations, and policies and in accordance with Title 43 CFR § 4120.3-1, Conditions for range improvements.

PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to authorize the installation and maintenance of a half mile of pipeline across BLM administered land and to place tanks on private land away from BLM. The pipeline will be supplied by an existing well on private land. See map for specific locations. Work will be paid for and completed by the permittee and will be in accordance with BLM specification where the pipeline crosses BLM administered lands.

The pipeline is approximately 2,640 feet in length on BLM lands and will be constructed with 2 inch HDPE SDR 11 pipe. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 3 feet. Permittee will rip the line, and then lay the pipe. After pipe is set in the ground, the Permittee will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves on private lands where water tanks will be located. No backhoe work is expected to occur on BLM land, only ripping and laying of pipe. Pipelines are identified below and specifics are described.

The pipeline routes will follow existing path laid out and GPSed by the BLM. Where possible the pipeline will follow two-track roads, natural contours and cow trails to provide minimal disturbance to the natural landscape. The pipeline will be ripped to a depth of 1 to 3 feet, and immediately backfilled to start the reclamation process.

Tanks: Hydrants will be installed at the locations identified on the attached map and will provide water to the tank locations identified on the map. Once authorization for this project is completed the permittee will install the pipeline and hydrants as described above. The grazing permittee will be required to set up the pump at the existing well and install tanks on private land.

All work should be completed within 2016.

ALTERNATIVE 1- NO ACTION: The “no action” alternative would be to not allow the construction of

the pipelines or tanks. The existing water sources; primarily pits/reservoirs (that are becoming shallow due to sediment) and no wells with pipelines, would continue to supply water for livestock on the allotment as they currently do. Patterns of use by livestock would remain the same as under current management.

If the pipeline wasn't constructed and the tanks installed on the private ground, the landowner would develop pits and reservoirs in low-lying areas on the private ground. This would result in no disturbance to BLM land, however, it would have impacts to the landscape. These water developments would be located in drainages to capture water running off during melting and high-flow events throughout the year. These low lying areas are also brood rearing habitat for the greater sage grouse.

COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:
The public lands in the project area will continue to be monitored according to the Miles City Field Office Monitoring Plan and GRSG Monitoring Framework. Monitoring is consistent with BLM Core Terrestrial Indicators and Methods, BLM Technical Reference Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health and the Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework. There are currently 10 established monitoring sites from which data is collected and analyzed at established intervals to ensure Land Health Standards and Habitat Objectives are met and which enable a timely response to changed conditions.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:
The following critical resources have been evaluated in this EA:

ELEMENTS		
Determination*	**Resource**	**Rationale for Determination***
NI	Air Quality	No direct impacts are anticipated because there is no physical disturbance with this permit modification. The allotment continues to meet the air quality standard. The current activities which exist on the allotment follow the Section 176 Clean Air Act.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no areas of critical environmental concern in the project area.
NI	Cultural Resources	MT-020-15-92
NI	Environmental Justice	Environmental justice concerns associated with this permit modification are not anticipated. Full analysis is not needed.
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There are no prime or unique farmlands on this allotment.
NI	Fire	Wildfire potential or severity will not be affected.
NP	Floodplains	The allotment does not contain any 100-year floodplains.
NP	Forestry	The Custer National Forest known as the Long Pines located northwest of Camp Crook, SD and southeast of Ekalaka, MT is the closest forest to the allotment. It is located approximately 15 miles to the north.
NI	Geology/Minerals	There will be no direct impacts to fluid minerals or solid minerals associated with this permit modification.
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Invasive, Nonnative species are inventoried, monitored, and treated using Integrated Weed Management.
NI	Lands and Realty	No impacts would occur to existing land use authorizations.
NP	Lands With Wilderness Characteristics	This unit has been inventoried and no wilderness characteristics were found to be present at time of the current inventory.

ELEMENTS		
PI	Livestock Grazing	Will be analyzed
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	There are no known or anticipated Native American Religious Concerns for this allotment.
NI	Recreation	There would be no significant impact to recreation associated with this permit modification.
NI	Socio-economics	The proposed action would not affect the economy of the community in ways that would result in impacts to its character. Full analysis in not needed.
NI	Soils	The proposed action will maintain the current conditions to meet this standard.
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	There have been no known inventories for special status plant species completed on the allotment.
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	T&E species habitat does not exist within this area.
PI	Vegetation	Will be analyzed in affected environment and environmental impacts.
NI	VRM	The Bickerdyke Allotment is located within a VRM Class IV. The objective of VRM Class IV is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	There is no potential for hazardous or solid waste concerns associated with this permit modification. Full analysis is not needed.
NI	Water Quality (drinking/ground)	The allotment continues to meet the water quality standard. The current activities (surface & groundwater) support designated beneficial uses and meet State water quality standards.
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The proposed action will maintain current conditions and continue to meet standards.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	The closest wild & scenic river is the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument which is located approximately 262 miles to the northwest.
NP	Wilderness	The closest WSA is the Terry Badlands WSA which is located approximately 110 miles to the northwest.
PI	Wildlife	Will be analyzed in affected environment and environmental impacts.
NP	GRSG Habitat (General)	There is no General Habitat for Greater Sage Grouse in this allotment.
PI	GRSG Habitat (Priority)	Will be analyzed in affected environment and environmental impacts.
NP	GRSG Habitat (Restoration)	The allotments are not located within a Restoration Habitat Management Area.

*NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
*NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
*PI = present and may be impacted to some degree. Will be analyzed in affected environment and environmental impacts. (NOTE: PI does not mean impacts are likely to be significant in any way).

Cultural: The proposed pipeline was inventoried for cultural and paleontological resources on 05/27/2015. No cultural resources or scientifically important paleontological resources were observed in the inventoried areas (See BLM Cultural Resources Report MT-202-15-92). The proposed action would have no effect to historic properties or impact scientifically important paleontological resources.

Grazing Administration: *Bickerdyke Allotment*- The Bickerdyke Allotment contains approximately 9,626 private land acres, 640 State of Montana acres, and 8,320 public land acres with 1,495 active animal unit months. The allotment is currently managed under an active use authorization.

Livestock Grazing: This allotment is historically grazed by cow/ calf pairs and sheep. Only cattle utilize the summer pastures on the west end of the allotment (Floyd, Clyde, Butte, and East and West Yearling Pastures). Cattle winter near ranch headquarters in the winter pastures. Sheep did not graze far from ranch headquarters due to predation. Due to weather, natural causes, and management, this allotment has been under stocked for the past 5-7 years.

Soils: Ecosites identified along the pipeline route are clay based, varying in depth from a few inches (claypan) to greater than 20 inches (clayey). The soils types identified in the project area have high erodibility ratings and have good potential for revegetation where good soil development does occur. Slopes in the project area are 0 to 5% through most of the area with some steeper grades.

Vegetation: In July 2006, the Bickerdyke Allotment was evaluated for Standards and Guidelines of Rangeland Health by a Miles City Field Office interdisciplinary team. The allotment was determined to meet all standards for rangeland health. The majority of the allotment is a clayey ecological site. Grass was estimated to be 70-80% of current year growth. Forbs were estimated to be 5-10% and shrubs were estimated to be 1-5% of current year growth. Western wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, and prairie junegrass are the dominant grass species present. Forbs were present in variety, but not in abundance. Big sagebrush is the dominant shrub species present on the site. There is some greasewood present, but not distributed evenly throughout the allotment. Canada thistle is scattered through the allotment, primarily located around livestock water locations and in draws. Overall, the allotment is in fair to good condition with an upward trend.

Visual Resource Management: The proposed project falls within one VRM class. The Bickerdyke Pipeline is within a VRM Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Wildlife: This allotment provides habitat for wildlife including pronghorn, mule deer, sage grouse, raptors, songbirds and numerous other non-game species. A portion of the public lands within this allotment is located within crucial winter range for mule deer and pronghorn, however only the western portion of the project area is within crucial pronghorn winter range. None of the project area is within crucial mule deer winter range.

This allotment is located within a larger area delineated as priority habitat for sage grouse (IM No. 2012-043). No sage grouse leks are located within the allotment; however, one sage grouse leks is located within 3 miles of the project area.

Golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, and prairie falcon nests have been documented in an adjacent allotment to the southwest. Habitat for T&E species does not exist in this area. The entire project area provides nesting habitat for many neo-tropical birds, which are protected via the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Several species of these birds, as well as other wildlife species are designated as BLM Special Status Species. These include; great plains toad, plains spadefoot, bald eagle, Brewer's sparrow, chestnut-collared

longspur, Ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, greater sage-grouse, long-billed curlew, loggerhead shrike, McCown's longspur, sage thrasher, Sprague's pipit, and greater short-horned lizard.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

DESCRIPTION OF IMPACTS FROM PROPOSED ACTION:

Grazing Administration: The permit for the Bickerdyke Allotment is not affected by the proposed Bickerdyke pipeline.

Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing would be similar to as described within the affected environment. The proposed pipeline would increase the distribution of watering sources for livestock. Both proposed water tanks would provide more reliable, clean water preferred by livestock and would reduce impacts from livestock congregation at the few reservoirs on and adjacent to public lands. Management flexibility will be gained by being able to graze individual pastures during varying seasons of use allowing for deferment of pastures annually. These changes in season of use would allow for longer vegetative recovery periods following grazing or deferring use in a given pasture, which would be expected to improve vegetation conditions on the allotment.

Locations of both water tanks are further from currently existing water sources on or near BLM managed public lands in their respective pastures. These proposed tanks would draw livestock impacts and use patterns away from habitats on public lands.

Soils: The process of ripping the soil will cause disturbances that result in soil mixing, compaction, and removal of ground cover. Compaction of soils will occur due to equipment operation. Compaction will expose the soil to accelerated erosion by wind and water, decrease nutrient cycling, and increase runoff until the site returns to natural rates due to freeze–thaw cycles. Mixing and compaction will potentially affect surface and subsurface biota, specifically reducing productivity and biodiversity. Accelerated soil erosion from wind and water could occur during and shortly after project construction. Water erosion is expected to be minimal since much of the project area is less than 5% slope. Project area soils are resilient to disturbance and would recover natural rates of erosion, compaction, and productivity within two to five years following construction.

Vegetation: Localized vegetative disturbance will occur within the ripped area; however this impact will heal itself and become less evident with time, usually within two growing seasons (See Figures 1 and Figure 2). These areas may become weedy with annual vegetation as a result of construction activities; however the disturbance is considered minimal and will repair itself over time. The potential for spread of weeds would increase under the proposed action, and additional monitoring for new weed infestations would be needed. Spreading use patterns among more water sources and deferred use by livestock will result in improved conditions on the allotment, especially in those areas of the allotment adjacent to currently existing water sources.

Figure 1: An example of the impact of ripping in a pipeline.

Figure 2: Same pipeline after natural revegetation.

Visual Resource Management: The proposed action would cause short term impacts to the viewshed as the pipeline is installed and after plowing has occurred. Soil will be disturbed which will cause the color of the landscape to change. Vegetation will also be disturbed and removed which will change the texture of the landscape along the pipeline route. After re-vegetation occurs, the landscape texture and color should not be visible to the casual observer.

Wildlife: During construction, wildlife in the area would be temporarily displaced; however, most species would likely return after the construction activity concluded. The excavation and construction process may eliminate some slow-moving, burrowing, or ground nesting animals. A timing restriction from April 15 to July 15 would be applied to protect bird nesting activities. It is expected that the majority of nesting activities would be completed by July 15; however, the potential exists for late nests or re-nesting activity after this timeframe. If this occurs, ground nesting migratory bird nests, eggs, or chicks may be destroyed if nesting within the area of proposed disturbance.

The construction of new water sources would create a shift in livestock utilization within the affected pastures. Additional utilization would occur on vegetative habitats adjacent to new water sources on private lands. This would lead to a reduction in vegetative cover and ultimately residual cover in these areas of increased utilization. With the development of additional water, lower levels of utilization would be expected adjacent to the existing water sources and in areas of current high use. An improvement in residual cover and plant vigor would be expected in these areas. Greater residual cover is known to lead to increased nesting success of ground nesting upland game birds. With the small amount of BLM administered lands within the pastures where the tanks are located, impacts to habitats occurring on BLM administered lands will be minimal and overall effects to wildlife including sage-grouse should be positive.

Wildlife habitat conditions are expected to continue to meet Standards and Guidelines which includes habitats providing for healthy, productive, and diverse native plant and animal populations. The habitat objectives for GRSG habitat (Table 2-6, ARMP) should continue to be met with potential increases in vegetative diversity and cover within the subject allotment and the proposed action would not be expected to have an effect on those sage-grouse habitats within the Yellowstone Watershed Population which is

located within Management Zone 1.

Breeding, Nesting and Early Brood-Rearing (March 1- June 15)
Cattle grazing will have little to no impact on the actual breeding activity of sage grouse. The grazing allocation with terms and conditions attached will not impact the physical nature of the leks, which is typically an area with little to no vegetation adjacent to sagebrush with adequate cover for nesting hens as well as protection from avian predators. Leks are generally located in flat or gently sloping terrain typical of valley bottoms or draws. There would be no effect to the lek within 3 miles of the project since the lek lies within an adjacent grazing allotment and livestock use patterns would be improved in the Bickerdyke allotment.

Grazing cattle also have little physical impact on nesting sage grouse as multiple studies have reported little to no evidence of trampling of nests (Foster et al. 2010), Patterson 1952). However, high intensity grazing and trampling can impact sage grouse during nesting and brood rearing, potentially leading to nest abandonment (Greer 1990) and increased harassment by livestock and competition for forbs (Autenrieth 1981). Within the nesting and brood rearing habitats, this deferred grazing system is expected to leave adequate herbaceous understory that serve as a deterrent to potential predators of eggs and chicks (Connelly et al. 2000). This remaining herbaceous understory also becomes the following year's residual cover. Holloran et al. (2005) stated that sage grouse select for areas of higher residual cover compared to randomly selected sites and that taller and thicker residual grass cover characterized successful greater sage grouse nesting habitat.

On those portions of the allotment that is on a year round grazing permit, cattle grazing will have little to no impact on the actual breeding activity of sage grouse. However, impacts to nesting or early brood rearing can be influenced by numbers of livestock and duration of grazing. As mentioned previously, high intensity grazing and trampling can impact sage grouse during nesting and brood rearing, potentially leading to nest abandonment (Greer 1990) and increased harassment by livestock and competition for forbs (Autenrieth 1981).

Brood Rearing/Summer (June 16-October 31)
Heath et al. (1998) stated that grazing management practices that promote increased height and cover of grass will increase chick survival. With time, a deferred grazing system will provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, and/or restoration of vigor of existing plants. This practice will promote increased height and coverage of grass and ultimately, chick survival. This growth will provide for brood security cover as well as microsites suitable for foraging opportunities. Grouse are closely associated with forbs and the foraging opportunities with associated insects. Although adults can forage on sage brush, forbs and insects, diets of developing young consist primarily of insects (Greer, 1990). Most pastures within the Bickerdyke allotment contain low lying mesic areas that will remain succulent longer in the year. These areas are crucial to brood rearing success. In mesic or riparian brood-rearing habitat, sage-grouse prefer the succulent forb growth stimulated by moderate livestock grazing (Evans, 1986) whereas heavily grazed mesic areas meadows are avoided by sage grouse broods. The Bickerdyke pipeline will create an opportunity to develop water away from these mesic areas used for brood rearing, thus reducing impacts to greater sage grouse habitat.

On those portions of the allotments that are on a year round grazing permit, potential exists for impacts to brood rearing and summer habitat. These impacts will be influenced by numbers of livestock and duration of grazing. Moderate levels of grazing can stimulate succulent forb growth (Evans, 1986) while increased numbers of livestock and lengthened duration of grazing can greatly reduce forbs and the associated insect community. This reduction in forbs and insects limits foraging opportunities for young chicks.

Winter (November 1-February 28)
Impacts to grouse wintering habitat can be seen when livestock begin to shift toward woody species such as sagebrush to fulfill nutritional requirements later in the growing season or during winter months. The removal of sagebrush can limit foraging opportunities as well as reduce thermal and roosting cover for grouse.

On those portions of the allotments that are on a year round grazing permit, potential exists for impacts to winter habitat. These impacts will be influenced by numbers of livestock and duration of grazing. Livestock often select woody species such as sagebrush during winter months to fulfill nutritional requirements. The removal of sagebrush can limit foraging opportunities as well as reduce thermal and roosting cover for grouse. Under past management, winter grazing was not occurring and is not expected to occur into the future; therefore, impacts to winter habitat are not expected.

DESCRIPTION OF IMPACTS FROM ALTERNATIVE 1- No Action:

Grazing Administration: The grazing permit for the Bickerdyke Allotment is not affected by this alternative.

Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing would continue under the current management. Livestock would continue to use the areas that are currently receiving heavier use. Also, the private land owner would develop pits and reservoirs to improve distribution, allow access to additional forage throughout the allotment and alleviate the concentration of livestock around a limited number of water developments. These pits and reservoirs will have to be located in low-lying areas to capture surface runoff from precipitation.

Over-all the allotment would be expected to continue meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health. However, additional impacts are expected in low-lying areas where new pits and reservoirs would be developed on private land while impacts to already existing water developments would be less. Over time, these private pits and reservoirs would fill with sediment, possibly becoming shallow-water breeding grounds for West Nile transmitting mosquitos.

Soils: The soil will not be disturbed on public land. Compaction of soils will not occur due to equipment operation and existing soil conditions will remain as they occur today.

Vegetation: Vegetation would not be disturbed on public land. Use patterns, including heavy use in areas currently receiving heavy use would continue, and species composition would be expected to shift over time to one dominated by less desirable species. The threat of spreading noxious weeds would be present, but not as great as it would if a pipeline is installed along the proposed route.

Wildlife: The no-action alternative would result in no direct habitat loss or wildlife disturbance on public lands.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: There will be no other cumulative impacts from this project in addition to those identified in the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management EIS completed in August of 1997. Those cumulative impacts include population increase or decrease, agricultural subsidies, economic competition, and restructuring, wildlife use, management practices and land use changes such as increase recreation use. A detailed discussion of these cumulative impacts can be found on Pages 27 and 28 of the Standards and Guidelines EIS.

MITIGATION: Construction will not occur between March 1 to June 15th on public lands in order to protect upland game bird strutting, nesting, and early brood rearing activities. Construction will not occur between December 1 and March 31 in order to protect overwintering big game. Construction activities

will not occur between April 15 and July 15 in order to protect migratory bird species. Given these restraints, **construction is permitted from July 15th until December 1st**.

Cultural Resources: The individual/contractor shall immediately bring to the attention of the BLM Field Manager any and all antiquities or other items of cultural or scientific interest, including but not limited to historic or prehistoric ruins, fossils, artifacts or burials discovered as a result of his operations, and shall leave such discoveries intact until told to proceed by the BLM Field Manager

CONSULTATION/COORDINATION: Denver Gilbert, Authorized Representative of Butte LLP.

LIST OF PREPARERS:
J. Dean Dolatta – Rangeland Management Specialist;
Dale Tribby – Wildlife Biologist;
Doug Melton – Archeologist;
Reyer Rens – Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist;
Kathleen Bockness – Environmental Coordinator.

Literature Cited:

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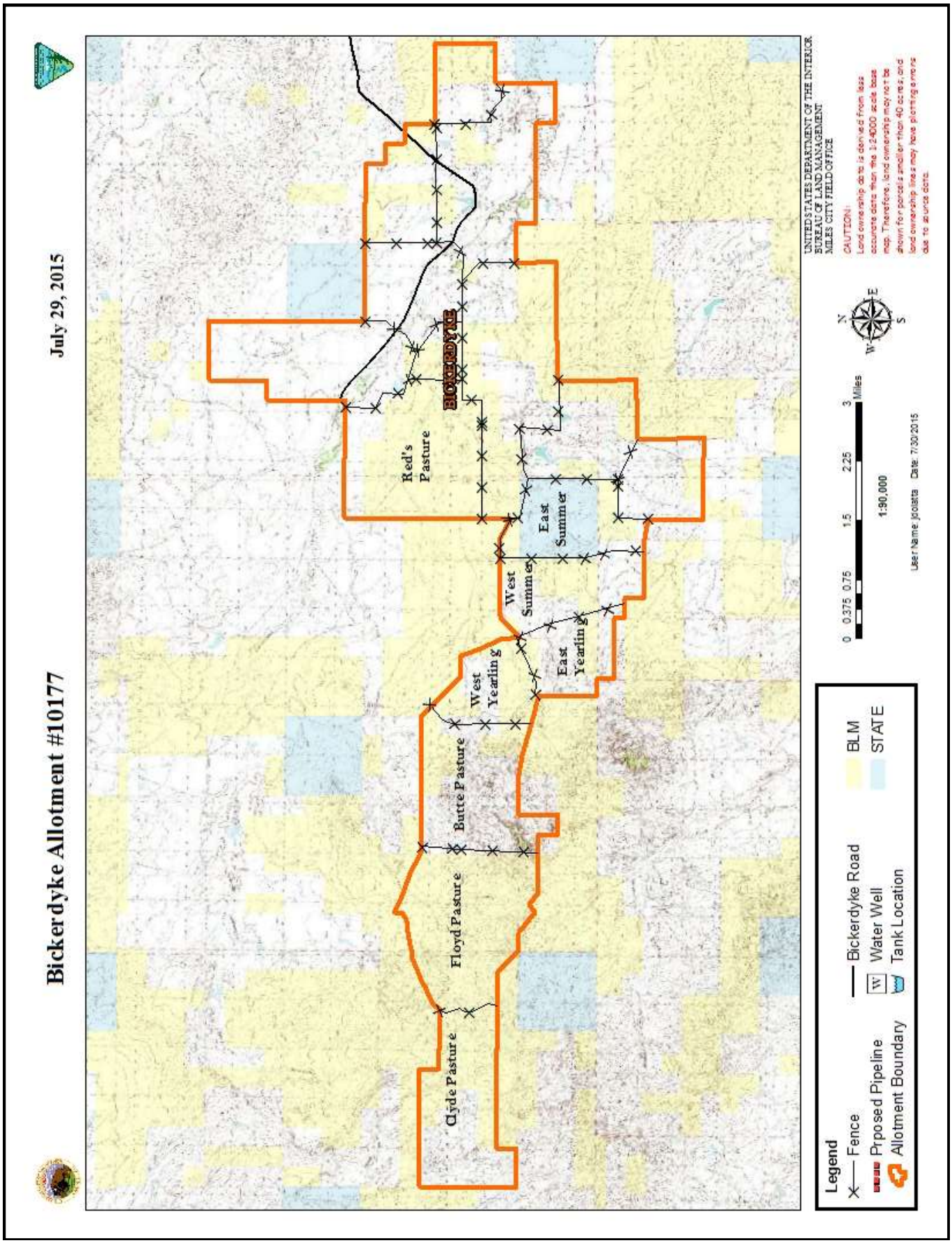
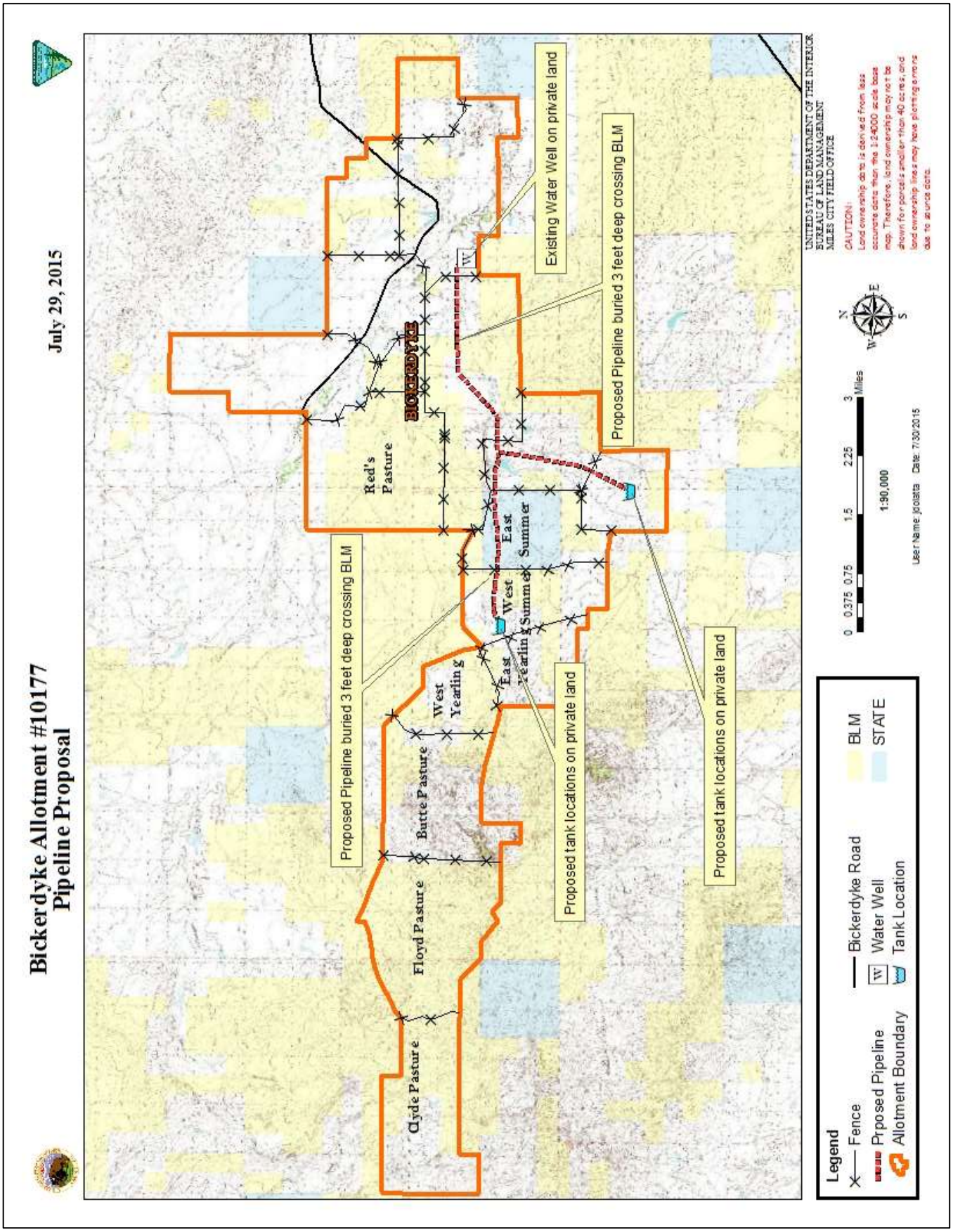
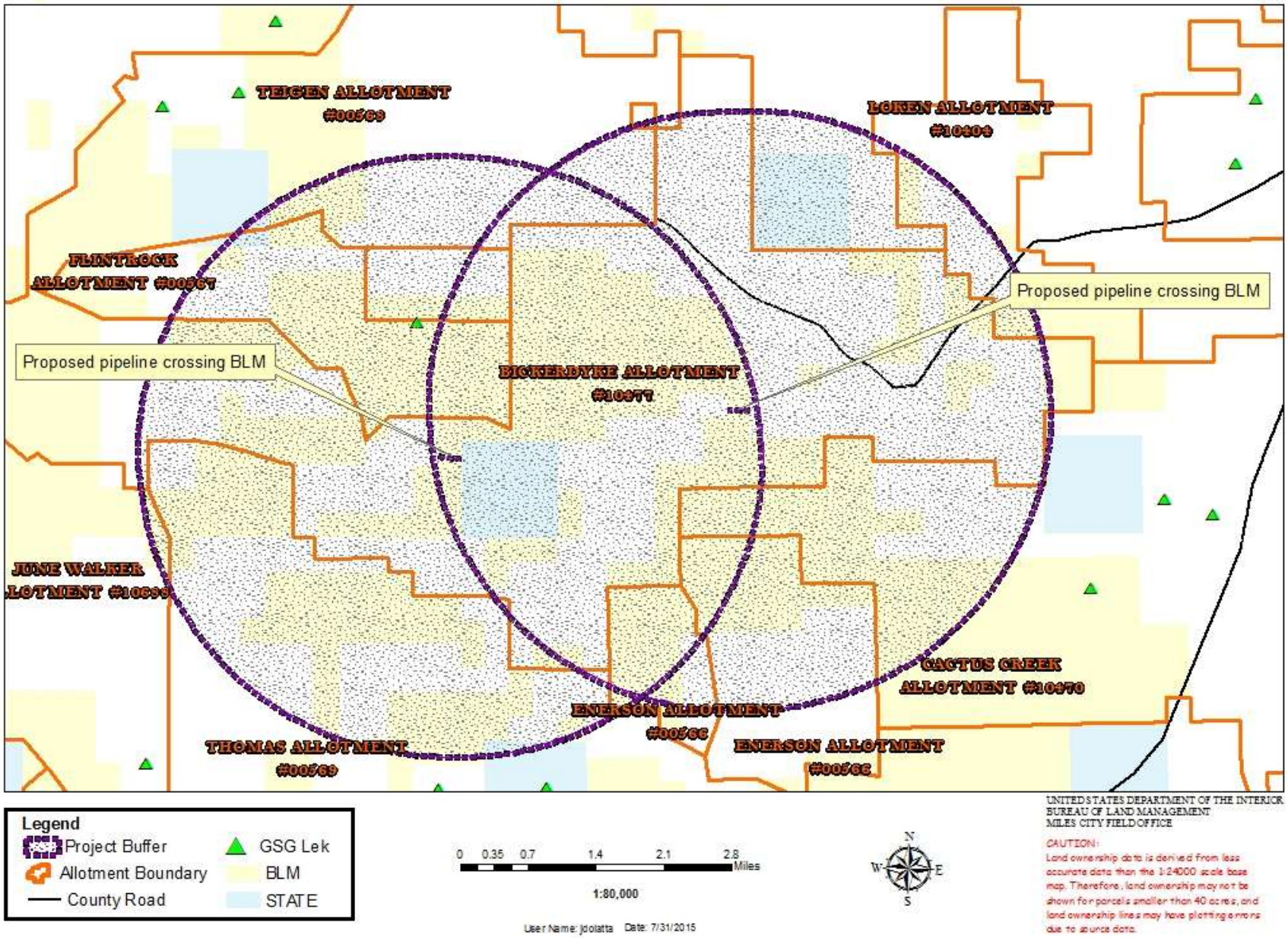

Bickerdyke Allotment #10177
July 29, 2015
Red's Pasture
Bickerdyke
East Summer
West Summer
West Yearling
East Yearling
Butte Pasture
Floyd Pasture
Clyde Pasture
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE
CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.
0 0.375 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles
1:90,000
User Name: jpolsta Date: 7/30/2015
Legend
Fence
Prposed Pipeline
Allotment Boundary
Bickerdyke Road
Water Well
Tank Location
BLM
STATE


Bickerdyke Allotment #10177
Pipeline Proposal
July 29, 2015
Existing Water Well on private land
Proposed Pipeline buried 3 feet deep crossing BLM
Proposed Pipeline buried 3 feet deep crossing BLM
Red's Pasture
East Summer
West Summer
West Yearling
East Yearling
Butte Pasture
Floyd Pasture
Clyde Pasture
Proposed tank locations on private land
Proposed tank locations on private land
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE
CAUTION!
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.
0 0.375 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles
1:90,000
User Name: jcolista Date: 7/30/2015
Legend
Fence
Prposed Pipeline
Allotment Boundary
Bickerdyke Road
Water Well
Tank Location
BLM
STATE

3.1 Mile Buffer Around Proposed Pipeline

July 29, 2015



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