

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
TONGUE RIVER RAILROAD**

**BY
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November 17, 2004

I am Anne McKinney and I live with my family at the 4D Ranch in Birney Montana. My Grandchildren are the 6th generation to live on this ranch. We are ranchers raising cattle for beef.

We have fought the railroad for 25 years or more. Our feeling is why take prime agricultural land and make a railroad that will only have (Wyoming) coal. It has taken 25 years to come up with this Western Alignment which isn't a big improvement on the Four mile alignment plus it will cost more. What will be in it for Montana? We would get the higher taxes for the impact of people to build the railroad. The boom and bust mentality. After the railroad is build the jobs will go and we will end up with the clean up job, and of coarse the railroad.

In looking at your environmental Impact statement I see no new problem only an enlargement of the old ones. The start of the Western Alignment is on our land. It dissects our ranch with our summer range on one side and our hay meadows and winter pasture on the other. We are very skeptical if we can operate with this division of land. We are not sure underpasses work and with 14 trains a day it will be hard for cattle to try them

There are a few things from the study that seem to jump out at me. I go by Decker approximately once or twice a week. I never go by there when there isn't a train waiting. There will have to be sidings for 14 trains a day. Where are they going to be and what are their dimensions?

There is Road Relocation, is that included in the acres

disturbed ? Or will they be added on to ?

Culverts will not accommodate the water or big drainage. Who determines the size on big drainages like Prairie Dog, Spring Creek and Canyon Creek ? Culverts do not work. They plug up and water goes across the county road. Due to the fire of 1988, whole trees have been known to float down the creek.

Construction Camps, do we have a licensed land fill big enough to accommodate this much garbage ?

Cultural Values, Our family was usually a close unit. Everyone in Birney were friends and did things together. But now family and friends are divided.

There are a few problems that will solve themselves. Such as water quality. With all of the construction the sediment will be a problem. The quality of the water in time will kill the fish. Then we would have **no fisheries**.

The migratory habits of the wild game (deer and elk) have always been to come to the river in the mornings and evenings to eat the green feed and migrate to the hills to rest in the day time. They will slaughter themselves trying to keep that pattern alive. So there will be **no hunting**.

The air quality and noise pollution and vibration will **discourage** the **birds** from **migrating** here.

What about the Native Americans ? We took this land way from then once. Now we threaten to carve into their sacred grounds with a railroad. That would in no way benefit them.

It is hard to tell what our future will bring us, but guaranteed we would have a **larger weed problem**.

I think our outfit will support the no-action alternative. We know it will work. ***"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"***.