

Potential Impacts of Tongue River Railroad

To Trust Lands

1. Access to general recreational use (Hunting, Fishing and Trapping). Public access to cross the railroad right of way on trust land should not be impeded.
2. Placement of grade crossings and cattle passes should be decided upon by land office staff and surface lessees. Grade crossings should be suitable to handle large agricultural and heavy equipment.
3. Future access potential to mineral resources Oil, Gas, Coal, Aggregate
4. Impacts to long term revenue production in agriculture and grazing.
5. Reimbursement or replacement of surface lessee's improvements and livestock which may be damaged by the construction and operation of the line.
6. Impacts to wildlife migration and habitats.
7. Impacts to surface lessee grazing rotation and water developments (Pastures being split by railroad right of way)
8. Impacts to potential future real estate development.
9. Impacts to endangered, threatened and sensitive species.
10. Potential impacts to health and human safety.
11. Fencing of right of ways (standards and protocol).
12. Reclamation upon termination of the line use.
13. Impacts to fragile soils that may exist on trust lands.
14. Impacts to wetlands and perennial and ephemeral/intermittent streams
15. Erosion control methods.
16. Fugitive dust control during construction and operation.
17. A noxious weed management plan should be instituted with affected county weed districts.
18. Potential impacts of wildfires caused by use of the line and responsibility of the operator.
19. Impacts to existing and future utilities underground and overhead.
20. Location of potential rail siding locations on trust lands.
21. Impacts to trust land timber resources (Removal during construction and future access to resources)
22. Potential for ability to utilize the line for future transportation of natural resources such as timber, oil, small grains, pulse crops, gravel aggregates, livestock. Possibilities and potential economic impact
23. Potential for increased revenue to the school trust through purchase of easements, land use licenses and coal production.