Step 8 – Environmental Checklist

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Preparation of this document can alert applicants to consideration of location, design, or construction actions that will help to avoid potential adverse environmental impacts or expensive mitigation or construction costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it would result in significant adverse impact after mitigation.

Please complete the environmental checklist below. If an Environmental Assessment has been completed for the proposed project, you may include it instead of completing the checklist.

Environmental Checklist

Complete the environmental checklist for the preferred alternative found on the following pages. For each resource:

1. Begin by identifying the impact code, as one or more of the following:

No Impact – No impact to the resource is anticipated or this is not applicable to this project

Beneficial – Potentially beneficial impact to the resource

Adverse – Potentially adverse impact to the resource

> A resource may have more than one impact. Please identify all possible impacts to the resource and use the space provided to explain.
>
> For example, the preferred alternative may have a short-term direct negative impact and a long-term direct and indirect positive impact on the resource. The applicant should check all boxes that apply and use the space provided to explain.

2. Identify the type(s) of impact to the resource. Impacts may be direct, indirect or cumulative

Direct impacts are those that occur at the same time and place as the proposed project.

Indirect or secondary impacts are those that occur at a different location or later time than the proposed project.

Cumulative impacts are the collective impacts on the environment when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions related to the proposed project. Cumulative impact analysis includes a review of all state and nonstate activities that have occurred, are occurring, or may occur that have impacted or may impact the same resource as the proposed project.

3. Environmental Narrative: In the space provided in the checklist, summarize the following information:

- Describe the environmental resources of the affected area.
- Identify any reasonable cumulative impacts 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 or permitted review by any state agency.
- Describe the impact or indicate why there is no impact from the project. **If a potentially adverse impact is identified for the preferred alternative, the applicant must provide the following:**
    - An analysis of the severity, duration, extent and frequency of the impact. Please specify and describe the following for each:

        - Severity: negligible, minor, or major
        - Duration: short-term or long-term
        - Extent: local, regional, or statewide
        - Frequency: non-recurring or recurring
    - An explanation of short-and/or long-term measures to mitigate the impact and a discussion of the effects of those mitigative measures on the proposed project.
    - Identify any permits that may be needed.

For assistance in preparing the environmental checklist, contact DNRC at 444-6668.

Environmental Checklist

Environmental Checklist Prepared by:

Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date _____

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
2. Hazardous Facilities (example: power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
7. Wetlands (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project and state potential impacts.)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*

8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farmland Protection (example: grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Resource**
1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (aircraft, highways and railroads.)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*

6. General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
7. Businesses or Residents (for example, loss of, displacement, or relocation)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
8. Public Health and Safety		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
9. Local Employment - Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
10. Income Patterns - Economic Impact		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (for example: educational facilities; health and medical services and facilities; police; emergency medical services; and parks, playgrounds and open space)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production and Activity, Growth or Decline		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
14. Social Structures and Mores (Standards of social conduct/social conventions)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
16. Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*

17. Solid Waste Management		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
18. Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
20. Community Water Supply		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
21. Fire Protection – Hazards		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
27. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
22. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (example: rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
23. Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (example: conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*
24. Private Property Rights (Is there a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property?)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Environmental Narrative:*

List all sources of information used to complete the environmental checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the individuals, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance. For individuals, groups, or agencies please include a contact person and phone number. List any scoping documents or meetings, and/or public meetings during project development.

MEPA Analysis Resource List

Abandoned Mines (DEQ): https://deq.mt.gov/Land/abandonedmines/bluebook

Agricultural Statistics (USDA):
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=DATA_STATISTICS

Air Quality
- Nonattainment Areas: http://deq.mt.gov/Air/airquality/planning/airnonattainmentstatus
- Citizens' Guide: http://deq.mt.gov/Air/airmonitoring/citguide

Army Corps of Engineers: http://www.usace.army.mil/Home.aspx

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, UM: http://www.bber.umt.edu/

Cadastral (for property ownership info): http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral

Census Information, MT Dept. of Commerce: http://ceic.mt.gov

Conservation Districts, MT: http://macdnet.org/

Cultural Records
- Montana Historical Society: http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/culturalrecords.asp

DEQ data search tools: http://svc.mt.gov/deq/dst/#/home
Including Clean Water Act Info Center, Hazardous Waste Handlers, Petroleum Release Fund Claims, Unpermitted Releases, Underground Storage Tanks, Source Water Protection

EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online http://echo.epa.gov/

Farmland Classification: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Fish (Also See Wildlife)
- Montana Fisheries Information System: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/mFish/
- Aquatic Invasive Species:

http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/ais/speciesId/default.html

Floodplain Maps, FEMA: https://msc.fema.gov/portal

Geographic Information, Natural Resources Information System: http://nris.mt.gov/gis

Maps of Montana for species observations, land cover, wetland and riparian areas, land management:
http://mtnhp.org/Tracker/NHTMap.aspx

Montana Department of Transportation Environmental Manual:
http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/preface.pdf

MEPA training for state employees and other MEPA resources: http://leg.mt.gov/mepa

MEPA documents database, searchable index: http://leg.mt.gov/css/Publications/MEPA/mepa.asp

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Information System:
http://bogc.dnrc.mt.gov/webApps/DataMiner/

NEPAssist, Environmental Protection Agency: http://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist (a compilation of GIS data for MEPA and NEPA projects)

Plants

Plant database, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: http://plants.usda.gov/java
Plant Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx
Plant Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=p
Threatened and endangered plants, USDA: http://plants.usda.gov/threat.html

Soils

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service database:
https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
Montana soil and water conservation districts: http://swcdmi.org/

State Historic Preservation Office: http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo

Tourism, UM – Institute of Tourism & Recreation Research: http://www.itrr.umt.edu

Tribal Resources:

Blackfeet Tribal Environmental Permits: http://www.blackfeetenvironmental.com
CSKT Natural Resources Department: http://nrd.csktribes.org/
Montana Office of Indian Affairs: http://tribalnations.mt.gov/
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer List http://nathpo.org/wp/thpos/find-a-thpo/

Vehicle Traffic Count (MDT):http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/traffic.shtml

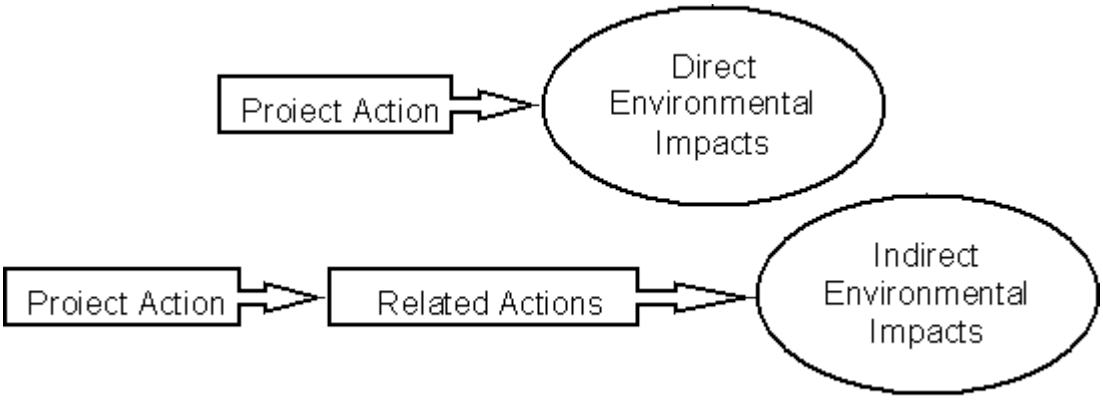
Water

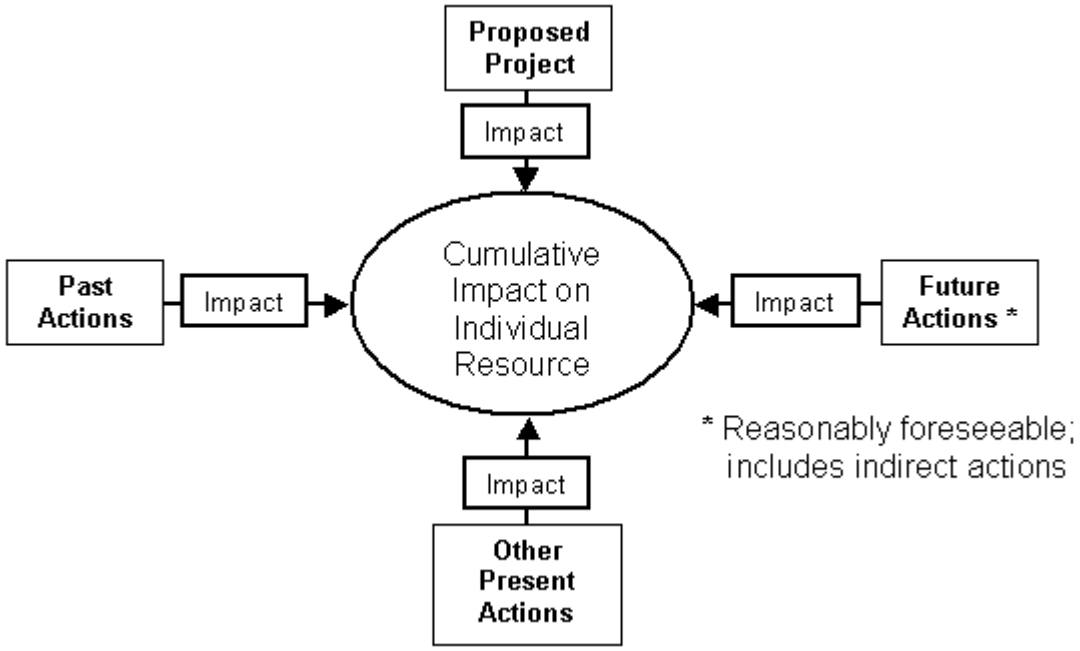
Stream Record Extension Facilitator, USGS:
http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1362/cd_links/WebPart.htm
Streamstats basin characteristics, USGS: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/
Water Resources Division, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water
Water Rights Bureau, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights
Water Right Query System, DNRC: http://nris.mt.gov/dnrc/waterrights/default.aspx Wetlands database, USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html
Wild and Scenic Rivers: http://www.rivers.gov/montana.php

Wildlife

Animal Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx
Animal Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=a
Aquatic Invasive Species: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/ais/speciesId/default.html
Critical Habitat Mapper, USFWS: http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
Crucial Areas Planning System/Habitat Assessment Tool:
http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/conservationInAction/crucialAreas.html
FWP Contact Map: http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/contactUs/ (includes biologist responsibility areas)
Maps and GIS Data, FWP: http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/reference/maps/
Sage grouse management, FWP: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/sageGrouse/
Sage grouse habitat conservation program, DNRC: http://sagegrouse.mt.gov/
Sage grouse habitat map: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/ProgramMap
State Wildlife Action Plan

http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/conservationInAction/actionPlan.html
Threatened and Endangered Species:
USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/Endangered_Species/Listed_Species.html FWP, threatened species: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/threatened/default.html FWP, endangered species: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/endangered/default.html





Determining the Significance of Impacts

Impact	Type of Impact	Mitigation Measures	Severity	Duration	Extent	Frequency	Probability	Other Significance Factors	Resource Factors
IMPACT on each RESOURCE			***For each ADVERSE IMPACT, determine the SIGNIFICANCE**						
None	Direct: Occurs at the same time and place as the action	Not required	Negligible: Not expected to be detrimental to the resource	Short term: During the term of the project	Local: Within project area	Seldom	Unlikely: The resource impact is not expected to be detectable or measurable	Growth-inducing aspects of the impact	Quantity of each RESOURCE affected
Beneficial	Secondary: Occurs at a different location or later time as the action	May be necessary to mitigate impact	Minor: Minimally detrimental to the resource	Medium term: Intermittent	Regional or localized: Within the area adjacent to the project	Intermittent	Possible: The resource impact may be detectable or measurable	Growth-limiting aspects of the impact	Quality of each RESOURCE affected: Uniqueness Fragility
Adverse*	Cumulative: Collective impacts when considered in conjunction with past, present, and future actions	May be required to mitigate impacts	Moderate: Moderately detrimental to the resource	Long term:	Large or statewide: Impacts are measurable far outside the area of the project	Often	Probable or Likely: The resource impact is expected to be detectable or measurable	Precedent: Commit the Department to future actions with significant impacts	Importance of the RESOURCE: State Society
Both Beneficial and Adverse*	Residual: Impacts that are not eliminated by mitigation measures	Mitigation measures will not reduce the impacts	Major: Highly detrimental to the resource					Precedent: Decision in principle about such future actions	
								Conflict with laws, requirements or plans: Local State Federal	
An impact may be adverse, beneficial, or both. If none of the adverse effects of the impact are SIGNIFICANT, an EIS is not required. An EIS is required if an impact has a SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE effect, even if the agency believes that the effect on balance will be beneficial. ARM36.2.524									