

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Twin Bridges Fairgrounds Water Main Extension
Proposed Implementation Date:	Fall 2019
Proponent:	Town of Twin Bridges
Location:	Section 27, Township 3 South, Range 6 West (Navigable Waters)
County:	Madison

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Town of Twin Bridges has applied for a Land Use License to place rip-rap along the western bank of the Beaverhead River adjacent to the Madison County Fairgrounds. The proposal will cover approximately 115 lineal feet of bank and will extend from the top of the bank to the toe of the channel, plus an additional 5 feet into the channel for a key-in.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: <i>Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</i>
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Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, (MTFWP) Matt Jaeger, Fisheries Biologist
MT DNRC Archeologist, Patrick Rennie

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:
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Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks -124 permit
Army Corps of Engineers- 404 permit
Montana Department of Environmental Quality- 318 Authorization

(All permits secured by proponent, and are available upon request.)

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Proposed Action Alternative: Grant the town of Twin Bridges a Land Use License (LUL) to install rip-rap armoring along 115 lineal feet of bank on a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds.

No Action Alternative: Deny the town of Twin Bridges a Land Use License (LUL) to install rip-rap armoring along 115 lineal feet of bank on a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>
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4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: <i>Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.</i>
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Action Alternative: This alternative would cause some disturbance along the banks of the Beaverhead River where the rip-rap will be installed. Approximately 115 lineal feet of river bank will be disturbed. No long term or cumulative effects to soils or geology of the area would be anticipated except along the river bank where the rip-rap will be installed. Mitigation measures to reduce streambank erosion will include planting dormant willow cuttings and integrating them into the rock rip-rap to help hold and stabilize the river bank and reduce introduction of soil into the Beaverhead River. Once the bank is stabilized long term and cumulative effects to soils are not anticipated.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no disturbance of geology or soils along the banks of the Beaverhead River.

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: Under this alternative impact to the Beaverhead River could occur during the installation of the rip-rap into the river bank. The turbidity generated from the project is expected to be short-term and have only temporary and minor impacts on the physical and biological environment. Mitigation measures to reduce sediment introduction and water quality standards include the following 124 mitigation measures:

Stream Protection Act 124 Permit General Conditions

1. Complete work affecting a streambed or stream bank in an expeditious manner to avoid unnecessary impacts to the stream.
2. Limit the clearing of vegetation to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the project. Take precautions to preserve existing riparian vegetation. Salvage and reuse native vegetation where possible.
3. Install and maintain erosion control measures where appropriate to protect aquatic resources. Do not clear and grub land adjacent to streams prior to installing proper erosion and sedimentation controls. Conduct all work in a manner that minimizes turbidity and other disturbances to aquatic resources.
4. Plan temporary construction facilities to:
 - a. Minimize disturbance to stream banks, stream bank vegetation, and the streambed by locating staging or storage facilities at least 50' horizontally from the highest anticipated water level during construction;
 - b. not restrict or impede fish passage in streams; and
 - c. not restrict any flow anticipated during use.
5. Provide sediment controls for drainage from topsoil stockpiles, staging areas, access roads, channel changes, and instream excavations.
6. Isolate work zones from flowing and standing waters to prevent turbid water and sediments from being discharged into streams or other drainages that flow directly into the stream. Divert flowing waters around the work zone.
7. Do not spill or dump material into streams. Store and handle petroleum products, chemicals, cement and other deleterious materials in a manner that will prevent their entering streams.

8. Do not permit wash water from cleaning concrete-related equipment or wet concrete to enter streams.
 9. Do not operate mechanized equipment in any stream or flowing water unless special authorization is obtained. If special authorization is granted, the following conditions apply:
 - a. Powerwash all equipment allowed in a stream prior to entering the stream channel.
 - b. Clean and maintain all equipment so that petroleum-based products and hydraulic fluids do not leak or spill into the waterway.
10. Reclaim streambeds and stream banks as closely as possible to their pre-disturbed condition.
11. Restore disturbed stream banks to their natural or pre-disturbed configuration to match adjacent ground contours or as specified in the project plans. Stabilize, reseed, and re-vegetate disturbed areas. Install and maintain long-term biodegradable erosion-control measures to protect these areas until adequate vegetation has been established.
12. Restore temporary access routes and any temporarily disturbed areas to original conditions, including original contours and vegetation.
13. Dispose of any excess material generated from the project above the ordinary high-water mark and in an area not classified as a wetland.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative no disturbance of the Beaverhead river will occur and there would be no changes to water quality or quantity.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would have any long term or cumulative effects on air quality. The action alternative could cause a small increase in air particulates during the installation of the rip-rap armoring.

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: Some minor disturbance of the river bank vegetation will occur under this alternative. The disturbance will be minor. No long term or cumulative impacts to the Beaverhead River vegetation are anticipated other than the 115 lineal feet of river bank. Proponent will be required to plant dormant willow cuttings with the rip-rap as a mitigation measure.

No Action Alternative: No vegetation disturbance would occur under this alternative.

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: The Beaverhead River corridor is used by a large variety of wildlife, birds and fish. The disturbance caused by the installation of the rip-rap would be small 115 lineal feet of bank, and the work would be done in a timely manner in a short duration of time. Long term or cumulative impacts to terrestrial, avian and

aquatic life or their habitat would not be anticipated from this alternative. Willow cuttings will be planted and interspersed with the rip-rap and eventually will provide wildlife habitat.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative no impacts to terrestrial, avian or aquatic life or their habitats would occur.

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: The Big Hole River and portions of the Beaverhead River near Twin Bridges have documented use by Artic grayling, a sensitive species and species of concern. This alternative, however, should not have any long term affects on the river or fish habitat. No long term or cumulative impacts would occur under this alternative.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative no impacts to sensitive or endangered species would occur.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Neither of the proposed alternatives would impact historical or archeological sites. DNRC Archeologist Patrick Reenie was contacted and no historical or archeological sites were identified in this portion of the river.

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 bank of the Beaverhead River is currently eroding due to high river flows which is affecting the river bank near the Madison County Fairgrounds. Rip-rap armor along the bank should stabilize the bank and stop the erosion which would impact the aesthetics of the fairgrounds.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative the river could continue to erode the river bank and eventually cause damage to the Madison County Fairgrounds.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect demands on environmental resources of water air or energy in the Twin Bridges community.

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.

The MT DNRC, Dillon Unit is unaware of any other environmental documents pertinent to the area.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *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.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect human health or safety in the Twin Bridges community.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Action Alternative: Installing the rip-rap armoring along the bank of the Beaverhead River will allow Madison County to continue use of the fairgrounds into the future without having to worry about the buildings being affected by the eroding river bank.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would not promote the continued use of the County Fairgrounds for agricultural purposes.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect quantity and distribution of employment in the Twin Bridges community.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect local and state tax base or tax revenue.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect the demand for government services.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect any locally adopted environmental plans or goals.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives will affect access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

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.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would affect density and distribution of population and housing.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Action Alternative: This alternative will allow the residents of Madison County to continue to use the Madison County Fairgrounds as they traditionally have in the past. County Fairs for ranching communities are important social and learning experiences and promote continued agricultural traditions in the area.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would not promote traditional structures and mores of agriculture in Madison County.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

Action Alternative: This alternative would allow the residents of Madison County the continued use of the Madison County Fairgrounds and support the cultural uniqueness and diversity of agriculture in Madison County.

No Action Alternative: Choosing this alternative would not support cultural uniqueness and diversity within Madison County.

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.

Action Alternative: This alternative would generate \$150 for the Public Land Trust.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would not generate any income for the Public Land Trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Timothy Egan	Date: August 15, 2019,
	Title: Dillon Unit Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Proposed Action Alternative: Grant the town of Twin Bridges a Land Use License (LUL) to install rip-rap armoring along 115 lineal feet of bank on a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:


As proposed, with the mitigations stipulated in the required permits, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects from the implementation of the selected alternative are anticipated. This alternative was developed to mitigate the impacts of erosion on the bank of the Beaverhead River due to high river flows. Improvement to water quality and streambank stabilization will result from the rip-rap armor. Damage to adjacent improvements will be prevented for the time being.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Andy Burgoyne Title: CLO Trust Land Program Manager
Signature:	 Date: August 15, 2019

Beaverhead River Bank Stabilization
Twin Bridges, MT - Madison County Fairgrounds

