Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

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Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD)

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Monthly Categorial Exclusions and Adoption Decision Notices

July 2023

Prepared By:
Samantha Treu, CARDD MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
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PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Clyde Park Water System Improvements
July 2023
Town of Clyde Park
45.886961, -110.598807
Park County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Town of Clyde Park (Town) water system consists of four water sources: two public water supply groundwater wells located west of Town and two springs (Terry and O'Leary) located northeast of Town. Both sources supply water to the 350,000-gallon buried concrete water storage tank. The wells pump up to the storage tank and the springs flow by gravity to the tank. Both sources are disinfected with sodium hypochlorite injection. Water is distributed from the tank to the distribution system. Many of the original components of the water system were installed in 1915.

While most of the Town's distribution system was replaced during previous projects, there are still some original mains from that are significantly leaking and undersized. One of these leaking 4-inch cast-iron mains is located on First Street between East Avenue and Taft Avenue in the Town of Clyde Park. This main is aging and undersized. Also, the Town's high school is connected to the water main in this location and currently does not receive an adequate water supply.

This project will make necessary improvements to the Clyde Park drinking water system to provide safe, reliable drinking water to the community. The project work will include funding administration, asbestos inspection, engineering design, bidding, construction inspection and administration, and construction of the Clyde Park Water System Improvements Project. ARPA Competitive Grant funds will reimburse eligible expenses for construction activities.

Construction of the Clyde Park Water System Improvement Project includes:

- Replace approximately 350 linear feet water main with 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) main;
- Reconnect 4 water service connections;
- Install 1 water main connection within existing water system; and
- Add fire hydrant assembly.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and must meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Schedule:

- Project planning and design phase estimated to be completed December 2023.
- Project bidding phase estimated to be completed April 2024.
- Project construction phase estimated to be completed September 2024.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Clyde Park Water System Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

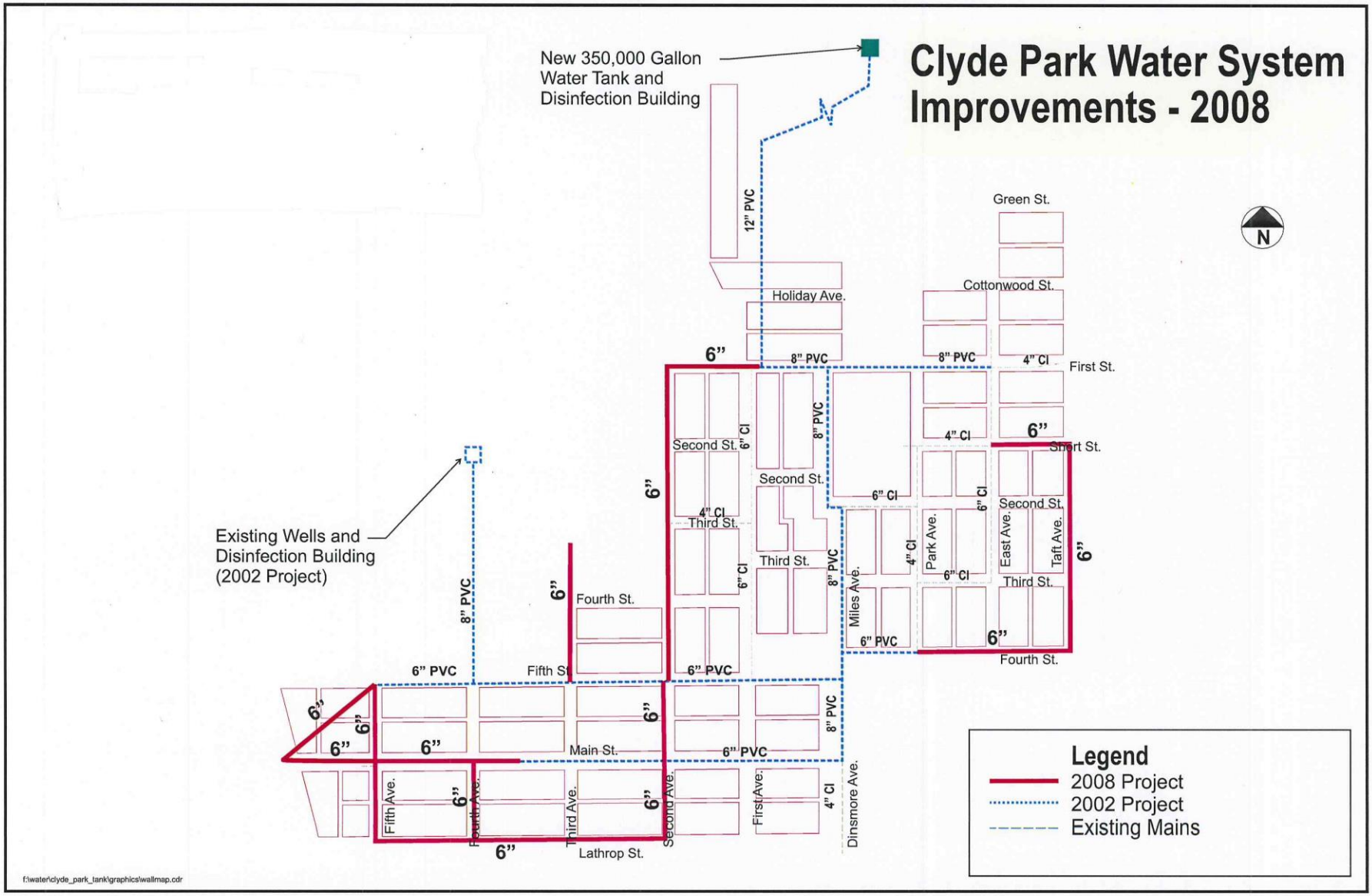
ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Michelle McNamee		
	Title: ARPA Program Manager	**Date:**	7/12/2023
	Email: mmcnamee@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:40:52 AM MDT	



DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Clyde Park Water System Improvements

Brief Description: Replace approximately 350 linear feet water main with 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) main; reconnect 4 water service connections; install 1 water main connection within existing water system; and add fire hydrant assembly.

Agreement Number: AM-23-0254

Date: 7/12/2023

Preparer: Michelle McNamee

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Mich L McNamee

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 3:24:39 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Greenfields Irrigation District Tunnel No. 3 Pishkun Supply Canal Rehabilitation
October 2023
Greenfields Irrigation District
47.6509278, -112.605675
Teton County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) covers a large portion of the Sun River Watershed serving over 83,000 acres of irrigated agriculture. The gravity irrigation system includes an extensive canal layout (500 miles of canals) and drains (250 miles of drains). Irrigation water is sourced primarily from stored snowmelt in Gibson Reservoir, released to the Sun River, and then diverted to the Pishkun Supply Canal (PSC). The PSC conveys 1,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow and all water to the GID irrigation delivery network. Major structures along the PSC include a siphon under the Sun River, two tunnels, overflow emergency relief structures, dewatering drains, and several underdrains.

On April 5, 2021, GID staff discovered a structural failure within the PSC. The observed failure involves a portion of the roof section of Tunnel No. 3 and the PSC are extremely critical to GID. Without the PSC, diverted water from the Sun River cannot be delivered to GID. This would impact all 83,000 acres of irrigated farm and ranch land, which includes over 550 individual producers and landowners. The effects on irrigated agriculture would be disastrous and crops grown within the district may be severely damaged or completely lost.

Failure to address the failing tunnel liner could result in a catastrophic or even partial collapse that would form a dam in the tunnel to block the water flowing through the tunnel. If sections of the roof and sidewalls of the liner collapse, the flow area within the tunnel would become restricted and would not allow the full flow of water to be transported through the tunnel section. There is a 200 - foot long section of the tunnel that needs immediate repairs. In a very short time, the canal embankment upstream of the tunnel could be breached resulting in a release of water over the banks of the canal causing considerable environmental damage and erosion from the overland flow as the water would make its way back to the Sun River.

The project consists of installing a steel liner within the 200 feet of Tunnel No. 3 that has already failed and adjacent sections of the tunnel that may fail soon. Construction is expected to begin in October 2023 and be completed by May 2024.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Tunnel No. 3 Pishkun Supply Canal Rehabilitation Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

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ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

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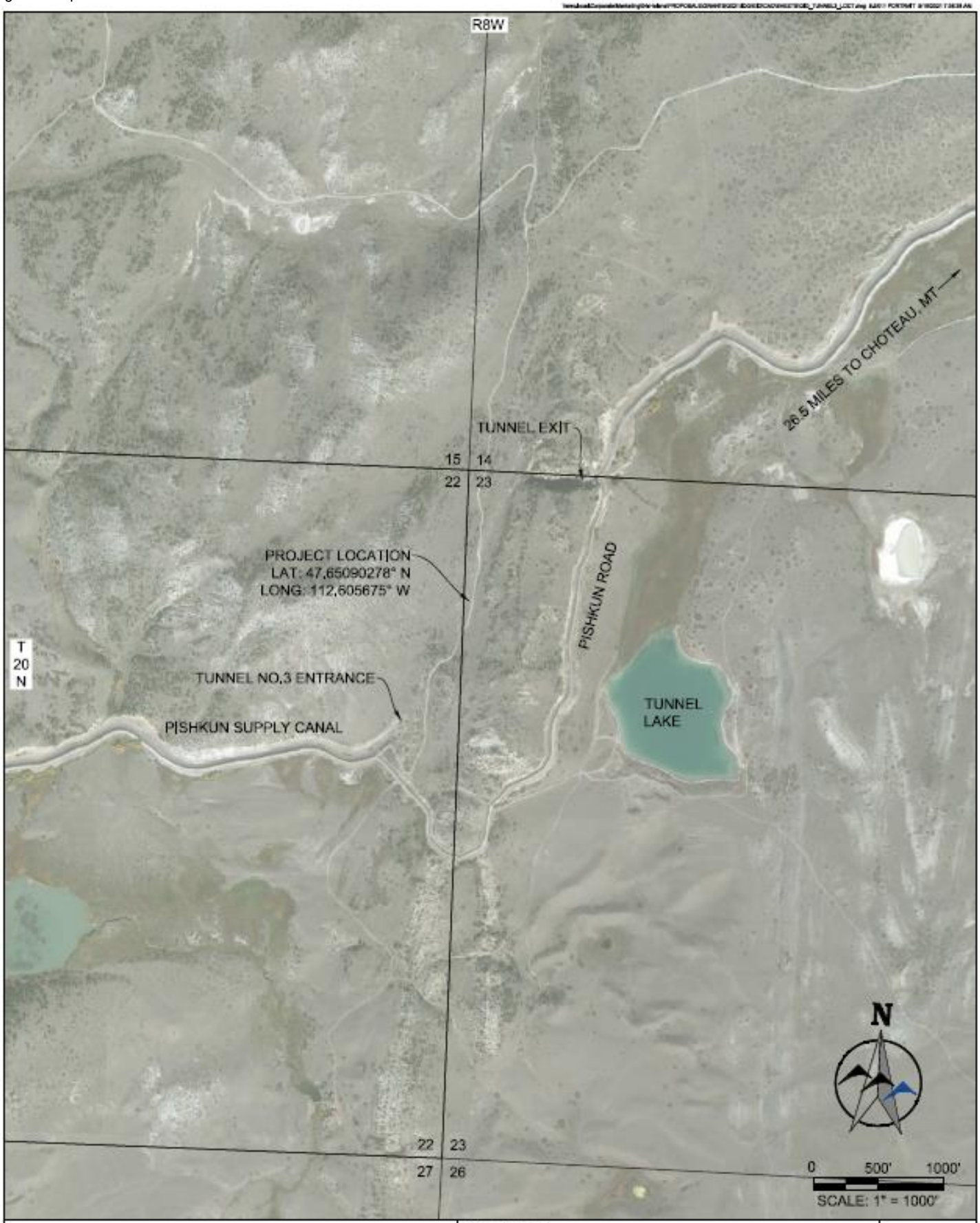
The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Erin Wall		
	Title: ARPA Program Specialist	**Date:**	7/17/23
	Email: Erin.wall@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:51:06 AM MDT	



PISHKUN SUPPLY CANAL TUNNEL NO.3 REHABILITATION

PROJECT MAP

TETON COUNTY, MT

PREPARED FOR

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 157
FAIRFIELD, MT 59436

DESIGNED BY: DDP
DRAWN BY: MJS
CHECKED BY: DDP
DATE: 5/6/21

PREPARED BY

WWC ENGINEERING

1275 MAPLE STREET, SUITE F
HELENA, MT 59601
(406) 443-3962
www.wwcengineering.com

FIGURE

1

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Greenfields Irrigation District Tunnel No. 3 Pishkun Supply Canal Rehabilitation

Brief Description: Installation of steel liner and grout injection

Agreement Number: AC-22-0182

Date: 7/17/2023

Preparer: Erin Wall, ARPA Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. No - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

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(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Erin Wall, ARPA Program Specialist

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 3:26:23 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Hamilton Third Street Water Main Replacement
August 2023
City of Hamilton
46.2487, -114.1589
Ravalli County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Background

The City of Hamilton drinking water system is experiencing excessive water loss from our aging distribution system. The City's 2010 water facility plan identified several renewal/replacement projects that the City has completed. Since 2014, the City has replaced approximately 7,020 feet of water main and abandoned 4,200 feet of older leaking main. Even with the current rate of replacement, the amount of water loss remains high.

This project will provide safe reliable drinking water for the City of Hamilton water users by replacing the City's Third Street water main from Pinckney to Pennsylvania. Completion of this project will replace aging infrastructure, reduce water loss, reduce treatment and pumping costs, and reduce the potential of contamination due to lead service connections and leaking water mains. In addition, this replacement will provide a backbone of appropriately sized water mains to improve peak day and fire flows on the north side of Hamilton.

Scope of Work

This project will replace water mains in the City of Hamilton's distribution system to provide safe and reliable drinking water for the City of Hamilton water users. This project will use City of Hamilton and ARPA Minimum Allocation Grant funds for construction associated with the following activities:

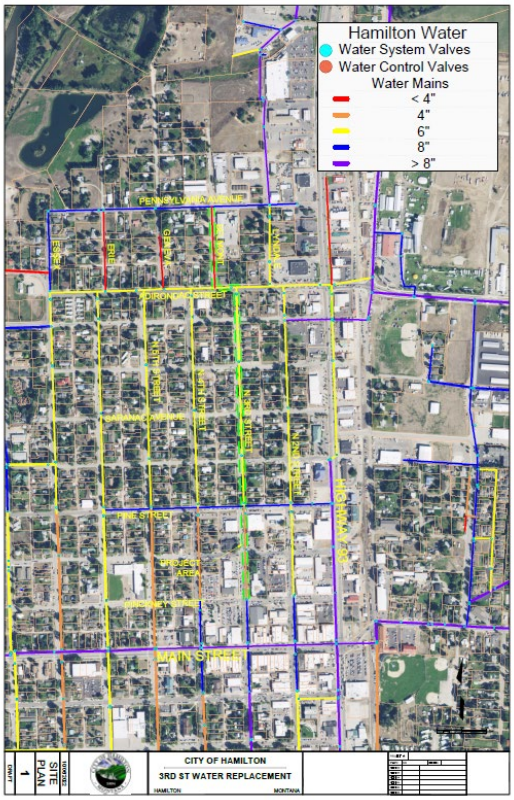
- Water main replacement on Third Street from Pinkney to Adirondac (ARPA MAG funds)
  - Replace 754 feet of existing 4" steel water main and 1,774 of existing 6" Cast Iron water main with 12" ductile iron or PVC main.
- Water Main Replacement on Adirondac Street from 3rd to Belmont
  - Replace 174 feet of existing 6" cast iron main with 12" ductile iron or PVC main.
- Water Main Replacement on Belmont from Adirondac Street to Pennsylvania Avenue
  - Replace 659 2" galvanized iron water main with 12" ductile iron or PVC main.

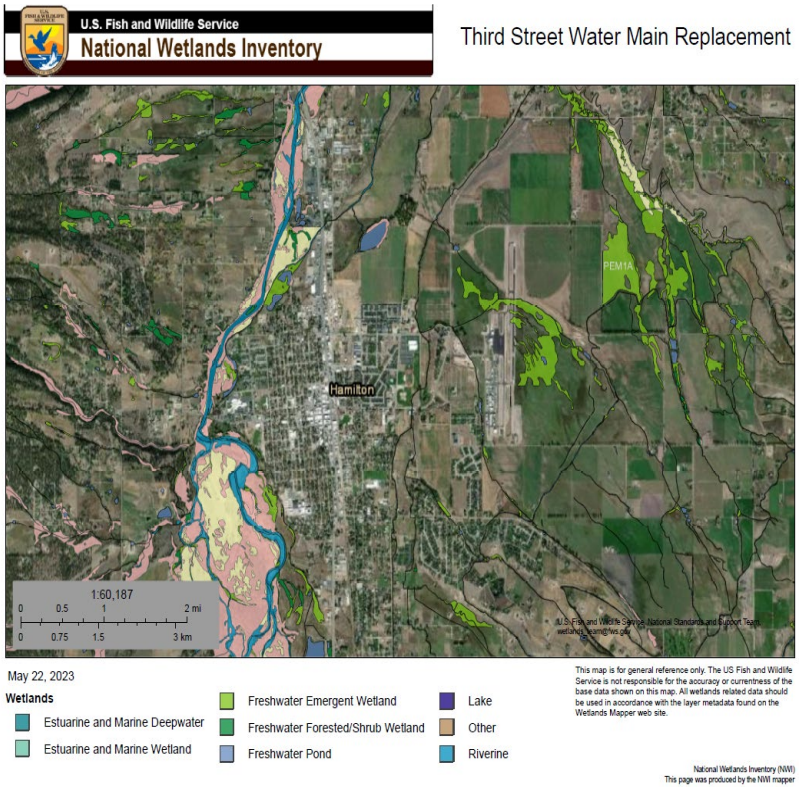
Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and will meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Schedule

Project Planning and Design Phase estimated to be completed December 2023
Project Bidding Phase estimated to be completed February 2024
Project Construction Phase estimated to be completed August 2024

Map





DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Hamilton Third Street Water Main Replacement Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

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The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Lindsey Glastetter		
	Title: ARPA Grant Program Specialist	**Date:**	6/28/2023
	Email: Lindsey.Glastetter@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC0304D1...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:55:03 AM MDT	

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Hamilton Third Street Water Main Replacement

Brief Description: Replacing water mains for distribution system

Agreement Number: AM-23-0275

Date: 6/28/2023

Preparer: Lindsey Glastetter – ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. No - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum;
   or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

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Lindsey Glastetter – ARPA Grant Program Specialist
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator
DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
Hardin Water/Sewer/Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements Projects
July 2023
City of Hardin, Montana
Latitude 45.435106 | Longitude -107.390635
Big Horn County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The City of Hardin (City) is located in Big Horn County, Montana. The City water treatment plant was originally constructed in 1920 with upgrades to keep the plant in functioning condition in the 1950's, 1990's, and 2000's. Additionally, the City's original wastewater collection system was constructed in 1916. There is ongoing wastewater collection system rehabilitation. Flooding issues on the access road to the City's wastewater treatment plant are addressed with replacement of a deteriorated culvert.

The identified water, sewer, and stormwater projects will improve water quality, help avoid groundwater and surface water contamination, and improve safety of the physical infrastructure where it is accessed by City staff and the public.

This project will include upgrades to the City's water treatment and storage facilities, wastewater collection system, and stormwater management systems.

Construction-related activities will include:

1) Water System
   a) Install a high service pump variable frequency drive (VFD).
   b) Install Water Tank Mixers and Liner.
   c) Replace aged, existing 6-inch asbestos cement pipe water main with 8-inch PVC main on 1st Street.
2) Wastewater System
   a) Replace an existing 48-inch sanitary sewer manhole located on 6th Street West between North Custer Avenue and North Crow Avenue.
   b) Remove blockage from sewer mains found to have restricted flow and causing back up in manholes.
3) Stormwater System
   a) Replace a 48-inch culvert on the access road to the City's wastewater treatment plant and the raw water intake location.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Hardin Water/Sewer/Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements Projects.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. - Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Shawna Swanz		
	Title:	ARPA Grant Program Specialist	**Date:**	July 5, 2023
	Email:	shawna.swanz@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**:	Autumn Coleman
	Title:	Bureau Chief
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:41:27 AM MDT

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Hardin Water/Sewer/Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

Brief Description: The City of Hardin Water/Sewer/Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements project will replace aging infrastructure and provide equipment upgrades. **Water system** infrastructure improvements include 1) install a new high service pump variable frequency drive (VFD) at the water plant in July 2022. 2) replace aged 6-inch asbestos cement pipe water main with 8-inch PVC on 1st Street. **Wastewater** improvements include 1) replace an existing manhole on 6th Street W., 2) remove blockage from sewer mains. **Stormwater infrastructure** improvements address potential flooding issues caused by a deteriorated culvert on the access road to the City's wastewater treatment plant and the raw water intake location. One of the City's drainage system ditches crosses that access road. The existing culvert had become severely deteriorated and was replaced in October 2022 to avoid the potential to cut off access to the treatment plant and water intake.

Agreement Number: AC-23-0025

Date: 7/5/2023

Preparer: Shawna Swanz, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve: *[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]*

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or

2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or

3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or

4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or

5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or

6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or

7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may not be granted for a department action if:
[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:
   (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
   (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:
[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. No - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

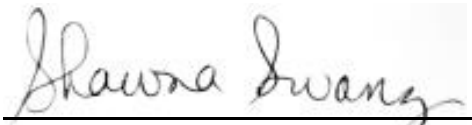
(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:
[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.



DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 1:53:04 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
High Line Canal Company – Canal Bank Repairs
June 26, 2023
Gallatin Conservation District
Lat 45.6146 Long -111.2317
Gallatin County

PURPOSE AND NEED

High Line Canal Company operates an irrigation water delivery system that dates to 1889 when it was part of the West Gallatin Irrigation Company. The Canal is 29 miles long and its diversion point is approximately 3.25 miles south of Gallatin Gateway on the west side of the Gallatin River. The canal runs high above a county road along the contour of a hillside. The are 43 water users on the Canal.

The past winter left a substantial amount of snowpack on the hillsides above the Gallatin Gateway area. During the second week of April warm temperatures and sunny days generated substantial runoff down the hillsides into the canal. The canal started flowing when it was still full of snow and ice. On April 11th, 2023, ice, snow, and debris blocked the flow of the water which overtopped the canal bank in 3 areas. The overtopping gouged and washed-out parts of the ditch banks down the hillside. One was very close to a house below the canal.

The Canal Company hired a contractor to make the repairs. The canal banks were repaired starting at the bottom of the slope and compacted in layers to the top of the ditch bank. Approximately 500 linear feet of impermeable ditch lining was installed at the location above the house. The contractor started the repairs on May 11th and finished May 25th.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding to the Gallatin Conservation District to assist the High Line Canal Company for the Emergency Grant Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

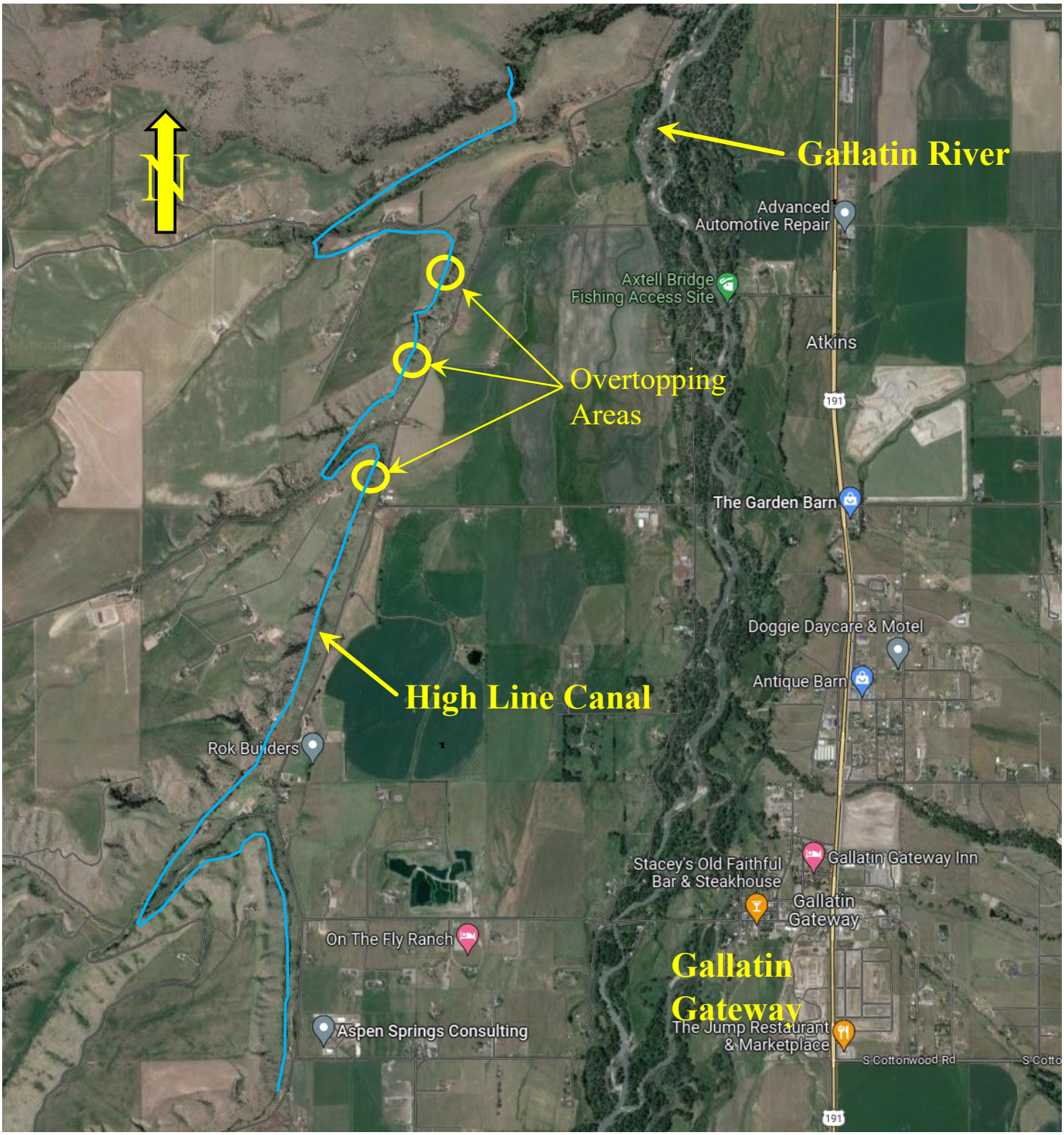
☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	**Name:** David C Larson, P.E.		
	Title: CARDD Engineer/RGL Grant Mgr.	**Date:**	June 26, 2023
	Email: dclarson@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 7/21/2023 | 12:58:19 PM MDT	

High Line Canal - General Location Map



High Line Canal Company – Canal Overtopping Repairs

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION
Conservation and Resource Development Division

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
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PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Hysham Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrades
June 2023
Town of Hysham
Treasure County, Montana

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Town of Hysham drinking water source is an infiltration gallery that receives water from the Yellowstone River. Water is collected through two infiltration lines located in the alluvial sand and gravel below a normally dry flood channel of the Yellowstone River and extend to the main river channel, the surface water source is classified as highly sensitive to contamination. The Hysham treatment plant uses a Contact Absorption Clarifier (CAC) filtration system.

Hysham was under a DEQ Boil Water Order in December 2022 and January 2023 and a Do Not Consume order in May 2003 for failure to treat surface water. Hysham must address its water treatment plant to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and provide safe drinking water to the town.

The ARPA grant funds will reimburse Hysham for costs associated with professional services for grant administration, engineering services to prepare a preliminary engineering report, design and oversee construction, and construction of the water treatment plant upgrades. All work will occur within the existing water treatment plant.

Scope of Work:

- Preliminary Engineering Report Comprehensive Evaluation of Hysham's Drinking Water System
- Upgrade CAC/Mixed Media Filter system
- Upgrades and repairs to the SCADA system

Schedule:
Project Planning and Design Phase estimated to be completed June 2023.
Project Bidding Phase estimated to be completed July 2023.
Project Construction Phase estimated to be completed September 2023.
Preliminary Engineering Report to be completed December 2024

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Hysham Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrades Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

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Prepared By:	**Name:** Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief	**Date:**	5/9/23
	Email: Autumn.coleman@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Mark W Bostrom	
	Title: Division Administrator	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Mark W Bostrom BF7A1C50B2AF4DE...	**Date**: 7/18/2023 | 1:50:11 PM MDT	

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Town of Hysham Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrades

Brief Description: Project work includes: Preliminary Engineering Report Comprehensive Evaluation of Hysham's Drinking Water System, Upgrade CAC/Mixed Media Filter system Upgrades and repairs to the SCADA system

Agreement Number: AM-23-0285

Date: 5/9/2023

Preparer: Autumn Coleman

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. No - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on- site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

   (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
   (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. NA - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. No - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. No - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. No - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. No - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. No - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Autumn Coleman

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 1:49:11 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
Musselshell County Fairgrounds Water Supply Extension
July 2023
Musselshell County
46.44, -108.53
Musselshell County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Musselshell County Fairgrounds does not currently have potable water available to the public. The Fairgrounds property is open to the public and people from around the county and beyond use the property for picnicking, camping, and enjoying the many activities that occur at the Fairgrounds from 4-H to the annual rodeo events. Community members who have poor water quality wells or low producing wells do not have a place to find potable water to offset their lack of clean water. The project will extend the City of Roundup's public water supply to serve the Fairgrounds. The looped water main system will add two fast-filling water stations and 24 split service potable water sites which will provide potable water to 48 RV sites.

The Musselshell County Fairgrounds Water Supply Extension project will extend the public water supply from the City of Roundup to the Musselshell County Fairgrounds. This will increase the community's access to a reliable, potable drinking water source.

Construction activities associated with this project will include:

1. Construct a 2,890-ft long 4-inch Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) looped water system within the Musselshell County Fairgrounds property.
2. Install two fast-filling water stations, one potable and one non-potable water.
3. Install split-service potable water access sites in 24 locations to serve 48 RV sites within the Fairgrounds property.

Schedule

- Project planning and design phase estimated to be completed August 2023.
- Project bidding phase estimated to be completed August 2023.
- Project construction phase estimated to be completed November 2023.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Musselshell County Fairgrounds Water Supply Extension Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

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☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

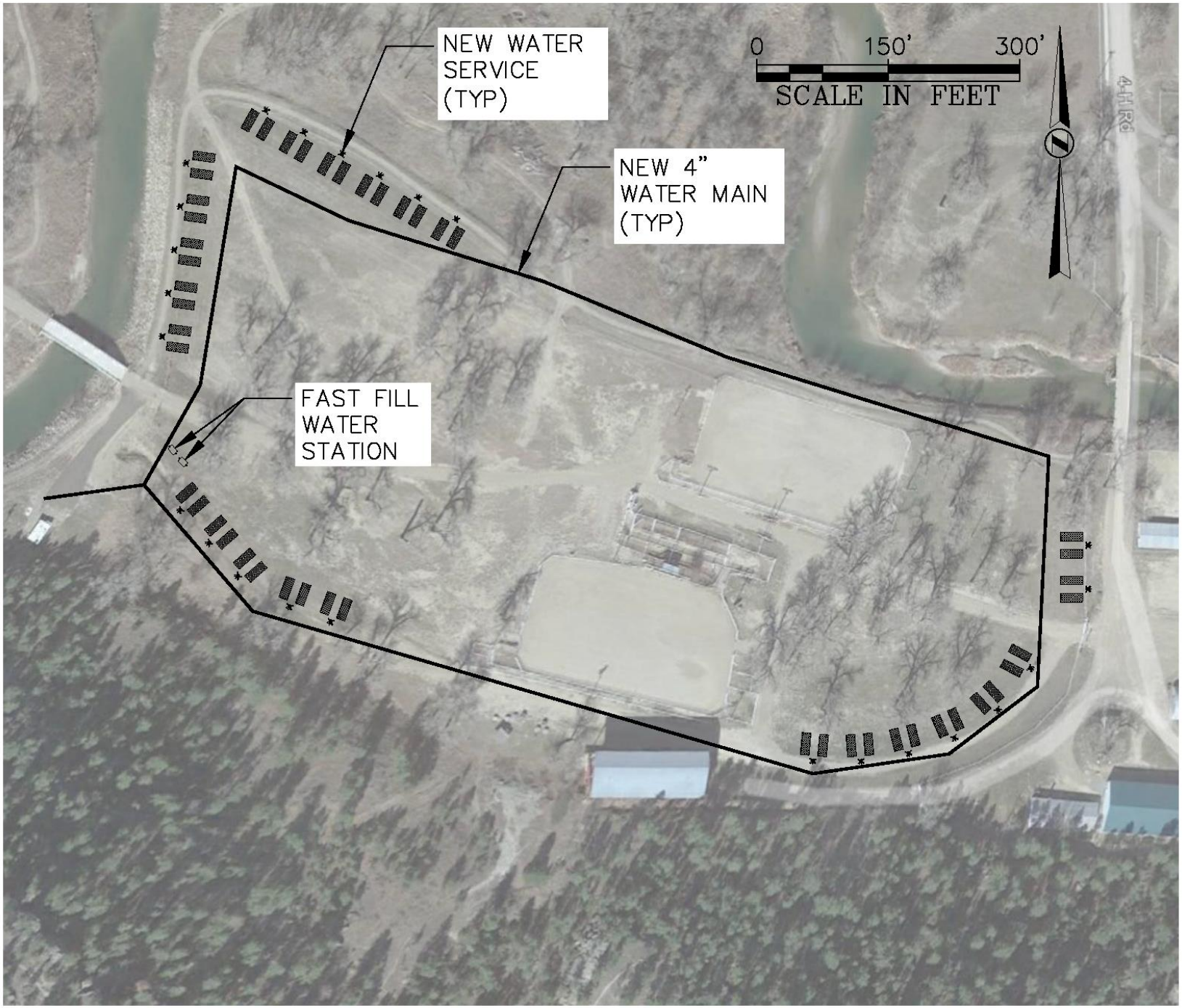
☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Grant Manager please fill in your information in the prepared by field below:

Prepared By:	**Name:** Michelle McNamee		
	Title: ARPA Program Manager	**Date:**	7/17/2023
	Email: mmcnamee@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**:	7/21/2023 | 7:32:57 AM MDT



MUSSELSHELL COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS WATER SYSTEM

MUSSELSHELL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
ROUNDUP, MONTANA
MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

DESIGNED: KLT
DRAWN: KLT
CHECKED: NW
DATE: OCTOBER 2022

SHEET
T1.0

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2223 MONTANA AVE. STE. 201
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851 BRIDGER DR. STE. 1
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
Phone: (406)522-9526

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Musselshell County Fairgrounds Water Supply Extension

Brief Description: Construct a 2,890-ft long 4-inch Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) looped water system within the Musselshell County Fairgrounds property. Install two fast-filling water stations, one potable and one non-potable water. Install split-service potable water access sites in 24 locations to serve 48 RV sites within the Fairgrounds property.

Agreement Number: AM-23-0304

Date: 7/17/2023

Preparer: Michelle McNamee

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. No - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/20/2023 | 9:22:08 AM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Musselshell County Musselshell Water System Improvements
July 2023
Musselshell County
46.52, -108.09
Musselshell County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Town of Musselshell Water and Sewer District aims to improve the quality of drinking water to three residences currently serviced by a 2-inch dead-end water main. The current residents on this dead-end line have noted the poor quality of the drinking water being provided to their residences. The issue with the water is likely caused by stagnant water in the 2-inch main that services the three residences.

The goal of the Musselshell Water System Improvements project is to improve the quality of drinking water to three residences currently serviced by a 2-inch dead-end water main.

Construction activities associated with this project include:

- Abandon the water main currently servicing the three residences.
- Install 395-feet of ¾-inch Polyvinyl Chloride water service connecting to the three curb stops (within footprint of existing water system).
- Connect the new service to the existing water main on 3rd Avenue in the Town of Musselshell.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and must meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Schedule

- Project planning and design phase estimated to be completed July 2023.
- Project bidding phase estimated to be completed September 2023.
- Project construction phase estimated to be completed by December 2023.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Musselshell County Musselshell Water System Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Michelle McNamee		
	Title: ARPA Program Manager	**Date:**	7/12/2023
	Email: mmcnamee@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:52:48 AM MDT

STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
www.seoeng.com
2223 MONTANA AVE, STE. 201
BILLINGS, MT 59101
Phone: (406)601-4055
3530 CENTENNIAL DR.
HELENA, MT 59601
Phone: (406)442-8594
851 BRIDGER DR. STE. 1
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
Phone: (406)522-9526

No.	DATE	ISSUE/REVISION DESCRIPTION	EOR	QCR
###	###	###		

MUSSELSHELL WSD
WATER IMPROVEMENTS

MUSSELSHELL WSD,
MUSSLESHELL, MT

IMPROVMENTS EXHIBIT

SHEET
C1.0

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Musselshell County Musselshell Water System Improvements

Brief Description: Abandon the water main currently servicing three residences. Install 395-feet of ¾-inch Polyvinyl Chloride water service connecting to the three curb stops within footprint of drinking water system. Connect the new service to the existing water main on 3rd Avenue in the Town of Musselshell.

Agreement Number: AM-23-0305

Date: 7/12/2023

Preparer: Michelle McNamee

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 3:22:56 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Ronan Water System Improvements
July 2023
City of Ronan
47.52844645929227, -114.1003944198581
Lake County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Background
The City of Ronan has spent nearly $5 Million in grants and loans to bring their water treatment system into compliance over the last 10 years. These mandatory expenditures have not allowed for much replacement of the aged distribution system that was installed in the 1950s and 60's. The main line pipes are Cast Iron with Leaded Joints and Leaded Gooseneck transitions to the service lines. There are frequent leaks in the system that can cause many residents and businesses to be out of service during repairs due to a lack of valving. When the water is shut off, there is a risk of negative pressure in the system.

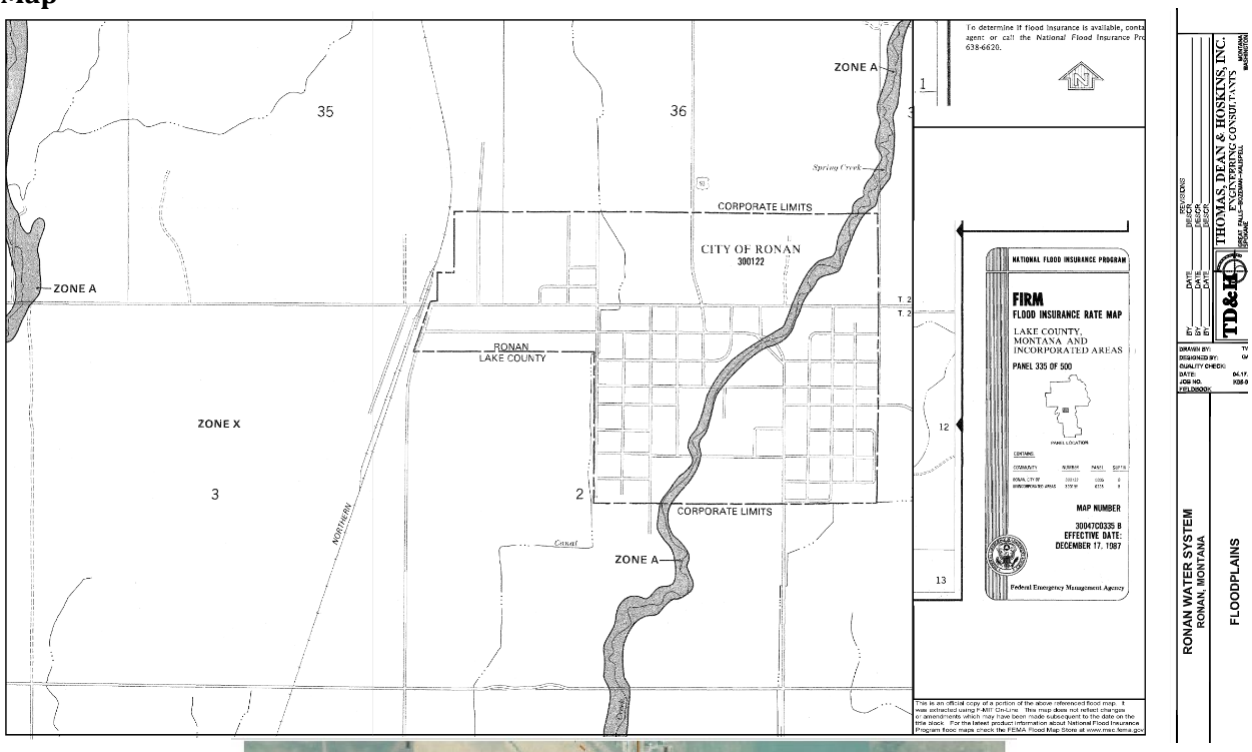
Scope of Work
The Ronan Water System Improvement Project will replace pipes starting with the highest priority areas. The proposed project would replace 6050 LF of pipe with AWWA C-900 pipe. The first project priority area was already designed in a previous project but was unable to move forward due to financial constraints. The DEQ approval is greater than 3-years old and a re-submittal will be necessary. Locations prioritized by the City include: North highway corridor, Adams/First Ave, North highway crossing, Main/First Ave E, Cleveland, and Dayton. To provide flexibility and the ability to stay within budget, the following sections of pipe areas will be bid as separate schedules. This will allow Ronan to award the project to match the funding available. ARPA grant funds will reimburse eligible expenses for engineering and construction associated with the following activities:

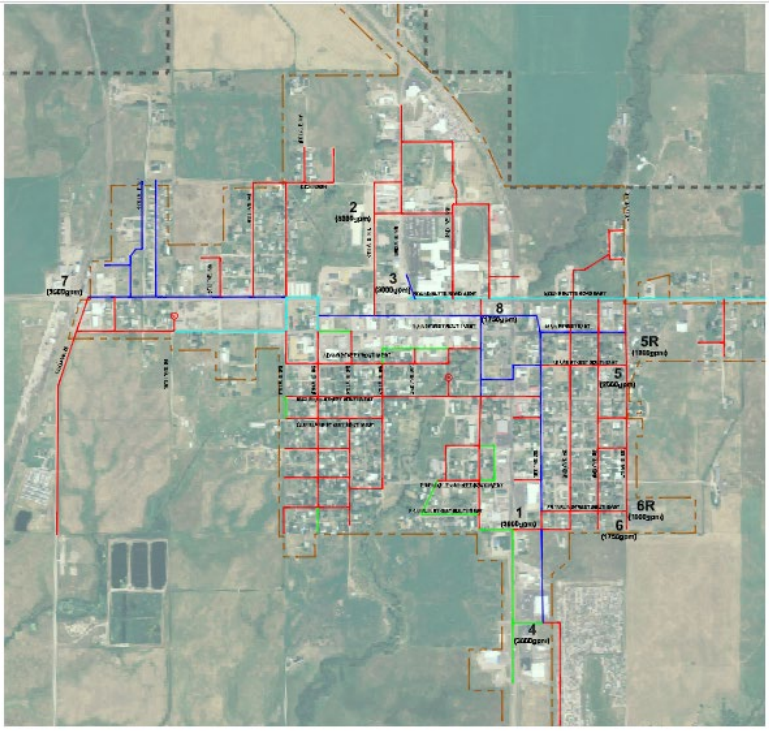
- 1400 LF water main replacement in the new Highway corridor (services loop to high school & fairgrounds) - North Hwy Corridor
- 1400 LF water main replacement – Adams/First Ave
- 1000 LF and a highway crossing – North Hwy Crossing
- 1400 LF water main replacement (no adequate valving) – Main/ First Ave E
- 500 LF water main replacement – Cleveland
- 350 LF water main replacement – Dayton

Facilities will be signed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and will meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Schedule
- Project Planning and Design Phase completed by June 2023.
- Project Bidding Phase estimated to be completed by August 2023.
- Project Construction Phase is estimated to be completed by June 2024.

Map





WATER MAIN COLOR CODING LEGEND

EXIST MAIN COLOR	DIAMETER (IN)
	4.0
	6.0
	8.0
	12.0

LEGEND

EXISTING	DESCRIPTION
	CITY LIMITS
1	TEST NUMBER WITH NEEDED FIRE FLOW
R	RESIDENTIAL

N

0 600' 1200' 1800'

SCALE

RONAN WATER SYSTEM
RONAN, MONTANA

THOMAS, DEAN & HOSKINS, INC.
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Ronan Water System Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Lindsey Glastetter		
	Title: ARPA Grant Program Specialist	**Date:**	07/03/2023
	Email: lindsey.glastetter@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**:	7/20/2023 | 8:55:33 AM MDT

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Ronan Water System Improvements

Brief Description: Main line pipe replacement and upgrades.

Agreement Number: AMC-23-0044

Date: 7/3/2023

Preparer: Lindsey Glastetter – ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Lindsey Glastetter – ARPA Grant Program Specialist
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 1:47:14 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

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FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Stanford Water System Improvements
July 2013
Stanford Water System
47°09'14.3" N | 110°12'07.5" W
Judith Basin County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Stanford (Town) Water System has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized, the interior of the water mains is badly corroded and have experienced a significant amount of tuberculation, leaving them susceptible to leakage. There are also several dead-end mains within the distribution system that cause low pressure and stagnant water.

Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen.

The goal of the project is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to users of the Stanford Water System by replacing and repairing water mains and the elevated storage tank in the Water System. This project will remove and replace the water main, install new fire hydrants, install new gate valves, and make improvements to the existing elevated water storage tank.

Project construction is estimated to begin August 2024 and estimated to be completed in November 2025.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Stanford Water System Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

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adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

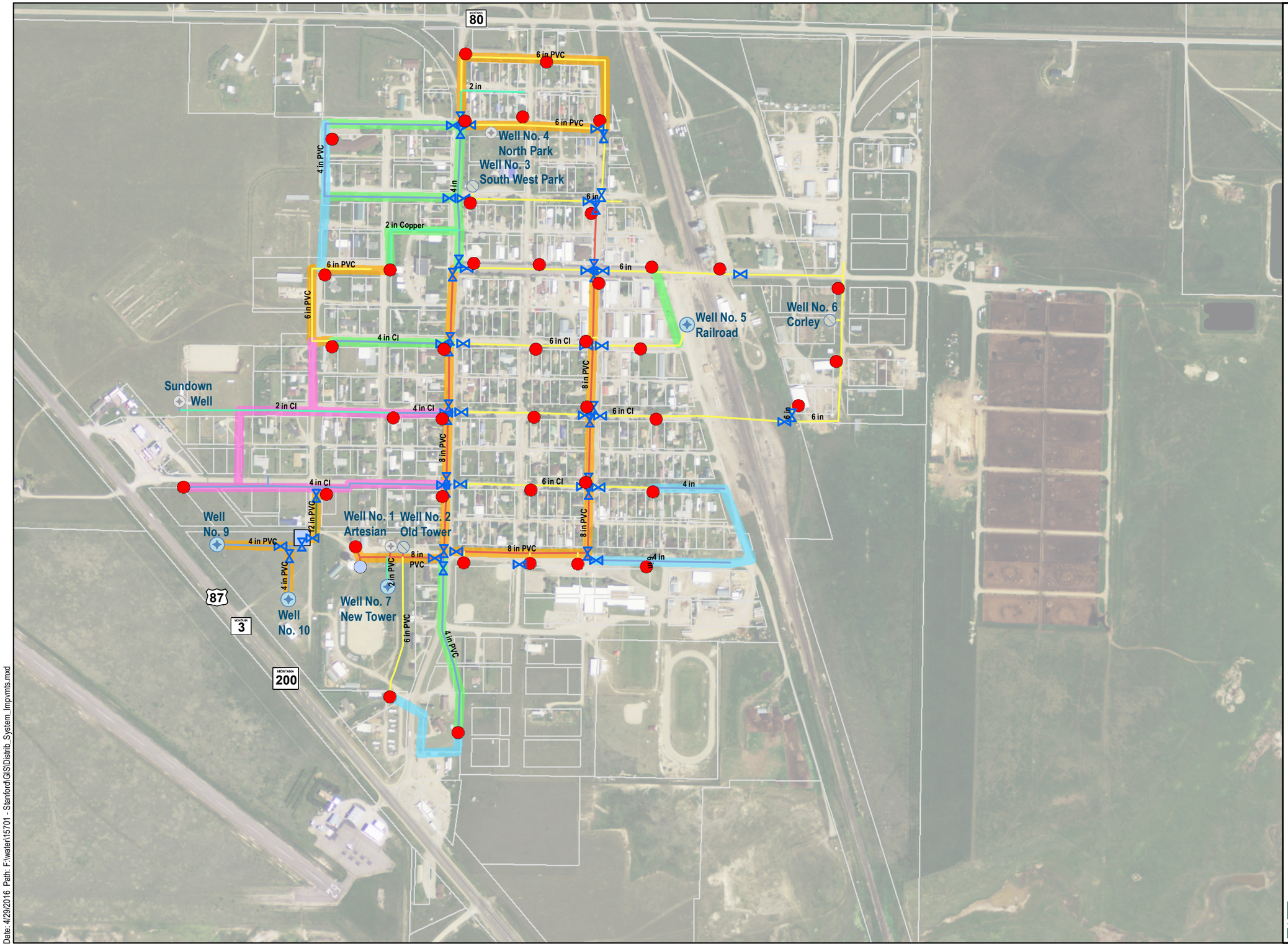
ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Katherine Certalic		
	Title: ARPA Program Specialist	**Date:**	June 29, 2023
	Email: kcertalic@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 877FC22FC0304A1...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:53:25 AM MDT	



Stanford Water System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2016

Legend

- Existing Fire Hydrant
- Existing Water Valve
- Active Water Well
- Inactive Water Well
- Abandoned Water Well
- Water Tower
- Well House

Existing Water Main

- 2"
- 4"
- 6"
- 8"
- 12"
- Unknown
- Recently Replaced (2004) or PVC Watermains
- Phase One Improvements (6" PVC)
- Phase Two Improvements (6" PVC)
- Phase Three Improvements (6" PVC)
- Parcel Boundary

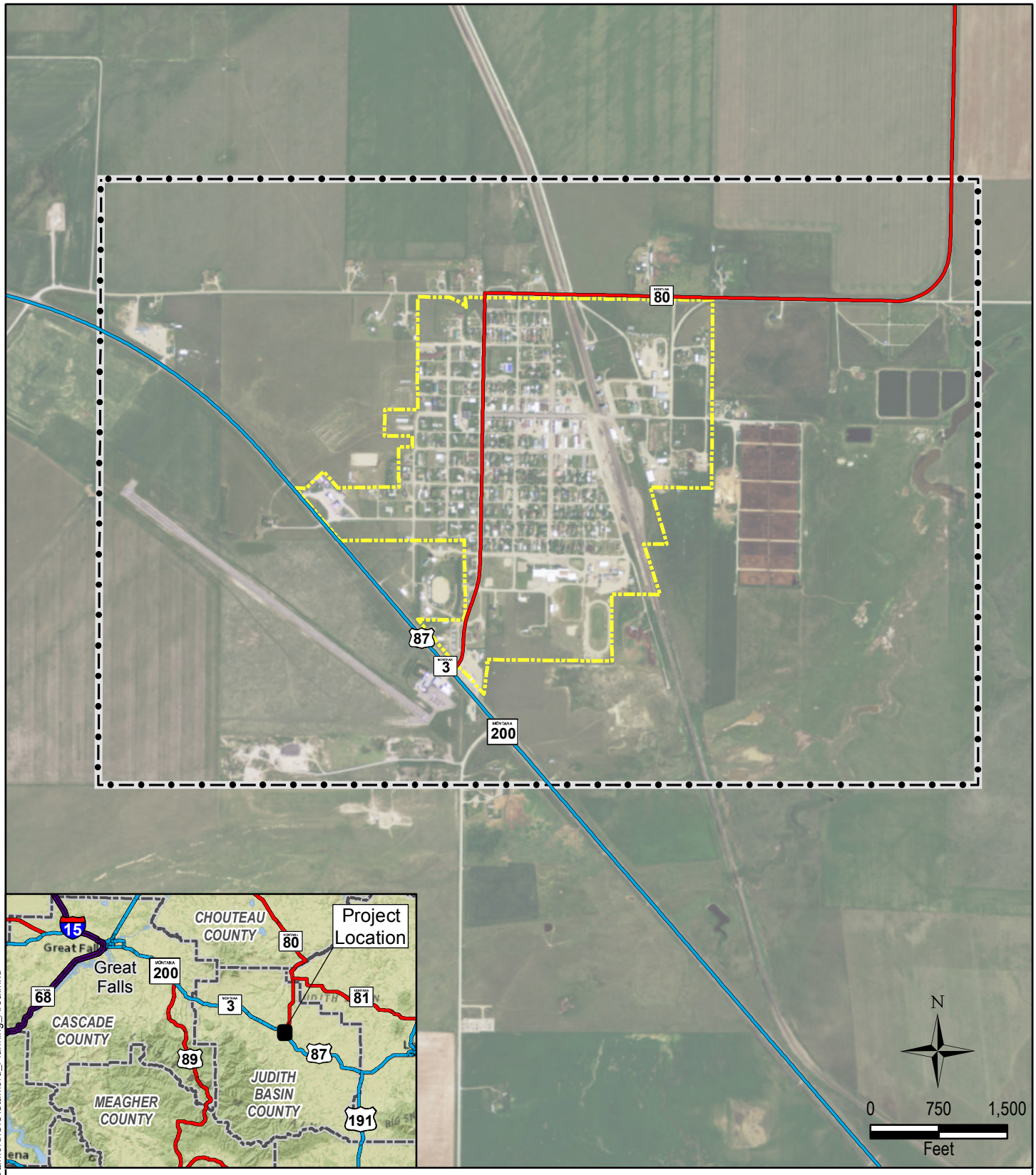
N

0 250 500
Feet

Figure 2.C.5
Distribution System Improvements

RPA
Robert Peccia & Associates

Date: 4/29/2016 Path: F:\water\15701 - Stanford\GIS\Distrib_System_Impvmts.mxd



Legend

City of Stanford Boundary

Planning Area Boundary

Robert Peccia & Associates

Date: 4/29/2016 Path: F:\water\15701 - Stanford\GIS\Stanford_Planning_Area.mxd

Stanford Water System
Preliminary Engineering Report – 2016

Figure 1.A.1
Planning Area

Environmental Checklist

Stanford Water System Improvements

Environmental Checklist Prepared by: On: June 27, 2023

Trisha Bodlovic — Name of Person 1
Robert Peccia & Associates — Organization
406-447-5000 — Phone Number
tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com — Email
Chris Hayes, P.E. — Name of Person 2
Robert Peccia & Associates — Organization
406-447-5000 — Phone Number
chayes@rpa-hln.com — Email

List additional people above. Include organization, phone number and email for all.

Physical Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: No topographic, or geological conditions are likely to affect the proposed Stanford Water System Improvements project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No soils, topographic, or geological conditions are likely to affect the Stanford Water System Improvements project.
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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: According to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's *Discover DEQ* web mapping (https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f554f421c3e64f5599e76b5cb8dd3391), there are 4 petroleum release sites within 0.5 miles of the project area. Four of these sites are resolved and one site is still open. There is also one State Superfund (SSU) WQA Facility, MDT Stanford MgCl Release. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: While there is a hazardous waste sites listed within 0.5 miles of the project area, there are no known hazardous waste sites located within the project limits. Therefore, no involvement with hazardous materials is anticipated as part of this project. If

			previously unknown contaminants are encountered during construction, MDEQ would be notified, and the materials would be removed and disposed of properly. The project will have no involvement with main electrical transmission lines.
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Air quality within the Stanford water improvements project area can be described as good. No violations of state or federal air quality standards are known. The proposed action is located in an unclassifiable/attainment area for air quality under 40 CFR 81.327, as amended. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project may result in a temporary increase in air quality in construction zones. This impact will be short-term and generally confined to the area where construction equipment is operating. Mitigation. The application of water or chemicals to control dust in areas subject to heavy vehicle traffic can be included, if deemed necessary, during the construction of the project. Newly disturbed areas would be promptly reseeded or restored when construction activities are completed.
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford's water source consists of 3 active wells (Railroad #5, #9, and Madison Well) and an emergency well (New Tower #7). New Tower Well #7 and well #9 are above the limits for secondary drinking standards in iron and manganese. The water in both wells is also considered very hard water (as CaCO3). New Tower Well #7 is only used if the other three are not able to fulfill the system demand. This well produces water with orange coloring due to the high percentage of iron in the water. With aging water main in the distribution system, pipe breaks are common. Leakage from a pipe break would force the operators to utilize the New Tower Well #7. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have no adverse effects on groundwater resources or aquifers in the area. The project includes the replacement of water mains that have aged and are a continuous leakage problem. Replacement of these water mains will reduce leakage from the Town's water system and conserve the water that is pumped from the groundwater wells and used for the Town's drinking water. In addition, installing gate valves at intersections will help operators isolate leaks and minimize water loss if a main were to break.

5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☒ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: A small ephemeral stream, Skull Creek, flows just east of the Town of Stanford. Skull Creek is a tributary of Coyote Creek, an intermittent stream, which in turn discharges to Wolf Creek in Denton, Montana approximately 25 miles downstream. Skull Creek is typically dry most of the year but will have flowing water for brief periods in response to rainfall. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The proposed project would have no effect on surface waters in the area. Construction activities will temporarily disturb soil and could increase the potential for erosion and transport of sediments to surface waters. Permitting: Storm Water Discharge Permit. If construction disturbs more than 1 acre, a General Discharge Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) must be obtained. As a requirement of the Storm Water Discharge Permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) form including a storm water erosion control plan specifying the measures that would be employed during construction to control erosion and sediment transport by storm runoff must be prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. A storm water discharge permit would be obtained by the contractor. Mitigation. Measures to control runoff and erosion from disturbed areas will be required of the Contractor to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction.
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no floodplains within one mile of the proposed Stanford water system improvements project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Civil Engineering Specialist Ryan Murphy was contacted on May 12, 2023. No response has been received as of this writing.
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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: According to the National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper (https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/), freshwater pond and freshwater emergent wetlands are located within 1 mile of the proposed project.

			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: It is not anticipated that any designated wetlands will be impacted as part of this project.
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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is located not located in an area that is classified as Prime Farmland and the project is located in an area that has been previously disturbed. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was advised of this project by letter dated May 12, 2023. There has been no response as of this writing. The project is not expected to result in the direct conversion of prime farmland.
9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford's vegetation is dominated by lawns and residential landscaping with a variety of plants. Many species of non-game birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles may occur in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: This project would not cause any long-term adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat. Short-term impacts on small mammals and bird species may occur during construction. Temporary displacement due to noise or construction activities could affect such species. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) was contacted on May 12, 2023 regarding potential impacts on wildlife and fisheries resources. There has been no response as of this writing. Mitigation. The Contractor will be required to implement erosion control measures and surface areas disturbed by construction will be promptly re-vegetated where needed.
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The following paragraphs discuss unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in the project area: o Threatened or Endangered Wildlife and Plants - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted on May 12, 2023 regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species in the project area. No response has been received as of this writing.

			In addition, the Department's online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website was consulted for information on the planning area. According to IPaC, there is one proposed threatened species and one candidate species (the North American Wolverine and the Monarch Butterfly) that may occur in the project area as well as the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle and migratory birds. There is no designated critical habitat in the planning area. ○ Species of Special Interest or Concern - The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 40 animal species of concern, 10 animal potential species of concern, 1 animal of special status, 5 plant species of concern, and 1 potential species of concern that have been observed within the Stanford area. ○ Sage Grouse - According to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Map, the project is not located in sage grouse habitat designated as core, general, connectivity habitats or BLM priority areas. Therefore, no further coordination regarding sage grouse is required. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Based on the nature, scope, and location of the recommended improvements, no adverse impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are expected. Mitigation. If active eagle nests are present within 0.5 mile of the project during construction, seasonal restrictions and construction / development distance buffers specified in the 2010 Montana Bald Eagle Management Guidelines: An Addendum to Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (1994) should be followed in order to avoid/minimize the risk for eagle take.
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no known unique natural features located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There are no known unique natural features that are anticipated to be impacted as a result of this project.
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways (including Federally Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers), and Public Open Space			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Access to recreational and wilderness activities, public land and waterways, or public open space do not occur in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not affect access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities, public lands and waterways, and public open spaces.

Human Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project would have no long-term adverse effects on the visual quality of the area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Land surfaces would be temporarily disturbed during construction but will be returned to pre-project conditions after construction.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are currently no nuisances in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There are no anticipated nuisances associated with the project.
3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (example: aircraft, highways and railroads.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There is currently suitable separation between housing and other noise sensitive activities within the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Temporary increases in noise would be expected during the construction of the project. Such impacts would be localized to the area of construction and short-term in nature.
4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The installation of the new water main will occur in areas that have been previously disturbed. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office was contacted on May 12, 2023 for information regarding previous cultural resource surveys completed and for a listing of previously recorded historical and archaeological sites in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: In correspondence dated May 22, 2023, SHPO stated that there have been several previously recorded sites within the requested search locale that included the project area. SHPO also stated that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and if any structures are located within the Area of Potential Effect and are over fifty years of age, they should be recorded and a determination on their eligibility be made prior to any disturbance taking place. SHPO also stated that they feel there is a low likelihood that

			cultural properties will be impacted as long as the project is kept within previously disturbed right-of-way and utility easements. Therefore, a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. Mitigation. If structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered, SHPO will be contacted, and the site investigated.
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Changes in demographic characteristics are not anticipated. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not have a major impact on the location, distribution, density or growth rate of the area's population. The project would not adversely affect any social or ethnic groups and will not isolate or divide existing residential areas.
6. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Housing conditions vary in the vicinity of the project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not have any impact on general housing conditions in the project area including quality, quantity, and affordability.
7. Businesses or Residents (example: loss of, displacement, or relocation)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is located in a residential and commercial area of Stanford. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not displace or relocate any businesses or residents in the Stanford area. The replacement of leaking water main and installation of fire hydrants will provide the residents and businesses in this area with adequate and reliable water service and adequate fire protection.
8. Public Health and Safety			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. A substantial section of the distribution system consists of 4-inch and 2-inch mains. These mains are either cast iron or PVC pipe. Water mains this small do not meet MDEQ design standards and cannot provide adequate volumes and pressures during high demands. With aging water main in the distribution system, pipe breaks are common. Leakage from a pipe break would force the operators to utilize the New Tower Well #7 which is above the limits for

			secondary drinking water standards in iron and manganese. Breaks in the water main can also lead to contamination in the distribution system. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: By upsizing undersized mains, eliminating leaks, and installing brand new pipe, the distribution system will see increased pressures with very little leakage and eliminate the potential for contamination in the distribution system and the need to utilize New Tower Well #7.
9. Local Employment – Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the project will temporarily create jobs and the need for local goods and services. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Completion of the project will not cause any long-term changes in local employment.
10. Income Patterns – Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the project will result in short-term economic benefits to the Town of Stanford. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Completion of the project will not cause any long-term changes in income pattern in the area.
11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project will benefit the Town of Stanford's local tax base and revenues as well as the State's. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will allow the City's water system to continue to operate efficiently and serve the City's current and future tax base.
12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Community and Government Services and Facilities are located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not adversely affect educational facilities, health and medical services and facilities, police, emergency medical services, or any parks or playgrounds.

13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities – Production and Activity, Growth or Decline			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Commercial facilities are located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The replacement of leaking water main and installation of fire hydrants will provide the residents and businesses in this area with adequate and reliable water service and adequate fire protection.
14. Social Structures and Mores (example: standards of social conduct/social conventions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Social structures can include culture, social class, social status, roles, groups, and social institutions. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not affect social structures or community mores.
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Existing land use in the project area is a mix of residential and commercial businesses. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Any new developments within the community are subject to existing land use plans and land use controls.
16. Energy Resources – Consumption and Conservation			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is not expected to adversely impact energy resources. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Energy use would increase for a short time during construction of the project due to the need for construction equipment. This project will eliminate sections of leaking mains, eliminate potential leaks from sections of aging pipes and optimize the existing system to lessen the chance of having to utilize water from the New Tower Well #7. Achieving this will improve water use efficiency within the water system and save on well pump energy costs.
17. Solid Waste Management			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Solid waste management occurs within the Town of Stanford. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not affect the generation or management of solid waste within the community.

18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford owns and operates the wastewater system that serves the Town. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The proposed water system improvements would not affect the community's wastewater system.
19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town's stormwater conveyance system includes gutters, and ditches. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have no long-term effects on storm water and surface drainage in the area.
20. Community Water Supply			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. A substantial section of the distribution system consists of 4-inch and 2-inch mains. These mains are either cast iron or PVC pipe. Water mains this small do not meet MDEQ design standards and cannot provide adequate volumes and pressures during high demands. With aging water main in the distribution system, pipe breaks are common. Leakage from a pipe break would force the operators to utilize the New Tower Well #7. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: By upsizing undersized mains, eliminating leaks, and installing brand new pipe, the distribution system will see increased pressures with very little leakage, resulting in significantly improved water use efficiency and power conservation. Replacing these old mains will not only increase the water efficiency through the system, but it will help reduce leaks, further reducing the need for system operators to utilize New Tower Well #7. Installing gate valves at intersections will help operators isolate leaks and minimize water loss if a main were to break. Installing gate valves at each side of an intersection enables operators to isolate small sections of the distribution system for repairs, while maintaining operation of the rest of the distribution system. This is very cost effective and efficient when there is a main that needs repair. With gate valves in place, the town can minimize the widespread need for temporary water.

21. Fire Protection – Hazards			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Stanford provides fire protection to local residents. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project includes the addition of fire hydrants along mains that currently do not have fire protection which will allow the Town to continue to provide adequate and reliable fire protection to the community.
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no cultural facilities within the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not affect cultural facilities or the cultural uniqueness and diversity of Stanford or Judith Basin County.
23. 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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the recommended improvements may cause temporary disturbances to vehicle traffic on local streets and roads in the area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Traffic control plans will be implemented to ensure that alternate routes within the community are available and that work areas are marked to ensure that local traffic is safely accommodated during construction.
24. 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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is consistent with the Town of Stanford's local ordinances, resolutions, and plans. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not conflict with any other local ordinances, resolutions, or plans.
25. Private Property Rights (example: a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project would not involve the use of private property. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not involve any regulatory actions that would affect private property rights.

26. Environmental Justice (example: does the project avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The proposed project will not be located in an area where environmental degradation occurs. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not involve any regulatory actions that would affect private property rights.
27. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos (example: does the project replace asbestos-lined pipes? Do any structures qualify as containing lead-based paint?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Asbestos-containing materials are any materials such as buildings, vaults, structures, manholes, water and sewer mains, etc. that contains more than 1 percent asbestos. Lead-based paint is not known to occur in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will include an asbestos identification inspection to be completed in order to determine if there are any asbestos-containing materials that will be encountered during the project. If asbestos-containing materials are encountered, the materials would be removed and properly disposed of by an asbestos abatement certified contractor. Lead-based paint will not be included in the project components.

Additional Information

****If no cultural survey has been performed, or is not expected to be needed, applicant must agree tothe following statement:**

☒ I hereby agree that, to my knowledge, there are no cultural or paleontological materials in the proposed project site. If previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, the DNRC grant manager will be notified, and all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

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.

The following agencies were contacted about the recommended improvements and for any comments and permitting requirements they may have on the improvements:

- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Wetlands Inventory https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/
- Discover DEQ https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f554f421c3e64f5599e76b5cb8dd3391
- Web Soil Survey https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
- FEMA Flood Map Service Center https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home
- Montana Natural Heritage Program https://mtnhp.org/
- IPaC https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/
- MT Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Sandy Moisey Scherer, Executive Assistant
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Director's Office
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Ms. Scherer:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. Old and undersized mains make up almost 40% of the water distribution system. The condition of the remaining old water mains is very poor. The interior of the pipes is badly corroded or has experienced a significant amount of tuberculation, leaving the pipes susceptible to leakage.

This project would replace sections of undersized piping with 6-inch PVC water mains as funding allows. A figure showing the locations of the possible distribution main replacements is attached. This project also includes new fire hydrant installations, water service reconnections, and the installation of new gate valves. The possible new fire hydrant locations are also shown on the attached figure.

Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen. As part of this project, upgrades to the existing water tank will be completed. The interior of the water tank be re-coated, the existing mushroom vent will be replaced with a 16" frost proof vent, a submersible Gridbee GS-9 mixer will be installed, and single-phase electric service will be brought to the tank from the City Shop located North of the tank. The water tank location is shown on the figure provided.

Helena
3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Mr. Zerrenner:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. Old and undersized mains make up almost 40% of the water distribution system. The condition of the remaining old water mains is very poor. The interior of the pipes is badly corroded or has experienced a significant amount of tuberculation, leaving the pipes susceptible to leakage.

This project would replace sections of undersized piping with 6-inch PVC water mains as funding allows. A figure showing the locations of the possible distribution main replacements is attached. This project also includes new fire hydrant installations, water service reconnections, and the installation of new gate valves. The possible new fire hydrant locations are also shown on the attached figure.

Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen. As part of this project, upgrades to the existing water tank will be completed. The interior of the water tank be re-coated, the existing mushroom vent will be replaced with a 16" frost proof vent, a submersible Gridbee GS-9 mixer will be installed, and single-phase electric service will be brought to the tank from the City Shop located North of the tank. The water tank location is shown on the figure provided.

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3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for such species that occur or may occur in the project area. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Sage Joyce, P.E.
Montana Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
10 West 15th Street, Suite 2200
Helena, MT 59626

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Ms. Joyce:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. Old and undersized mains make up almost 40% of the water distribution system. The condition of the remaining old water mains is very poor. The interior of the pipes is badly corroded or has experienced a significant amount of tuberculation, leaving the pipes susceptible to leakage.

This project would replace sections of undersized piping with 6-inch PVC water mains as funding allows. A figure showing the locations of the possible distribution main replacements is attached. This project also includes new fire hydrant installations, water service reconnections, and the installation of new gate valves. The possible new fire hydrant locations are also shown on the attached figure.

Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen. As part of this project, upgrades to the existing water tank will be completed. The interior of the water tank be re-coated, the existing mushroom vent will be replaced with a 16" frost proof vent, a submersible Gridbee GS-9 mixer will be installed, and single-phase electric service will be brought to the tank from the City Shop located North of the tank. The water tank location is shown on the figure provided.

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To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Ryan Murphy
Civil Engineering Specialist
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Lewistown Regional Office
613 NE Main, Suite E
Lewistown, MT 59457

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Stanford has sections of their water distribution system that are 60 years old and undersized. Old and undersized mains make up almost 40% of the water distribution system. The condition of the remaining old water mains is very poor. The interior of the pipes is badly corroded or has experienced a significant amount of tuberculation, leaving the pipes susceptible to leakage.

This project would replace sections of undersized piping with 6-inch PVC water mains as funding allows. A figure showing the locations of the possible distribution main replacements is attached. This project also includes new fire hydrant installations, water service reconnections, and the installation of new gate valves. The possible new fire hydrant locations are also shown on the attached figure.

Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen. As part of this project, upgrades to the existing water tank will be completed. The interior of the water tank be re-coated, the existing mushroom vent will be replaced with a 16" frost proof vent, a submersible Gridbee GS-9 mixer will be installed, and single-phase electric service will be brought to the tank from the City Shop located North of the tank. The water tank location is shown on the figure provided.

Helena
3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Damon Murdo, Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201802
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Mr. Murdo:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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Stanford's existing water tank, constructed in 2004, is approximately 145 feet tall and has a 318,000-gallon storage capacity. A tank inspection completed in 2022 determined that the interior of the tank has several areas of delaminated coating, surface corrosion, and corrosion on the vent lip beneath the screen. As part of this project, upgrades to the existing water tank will be completed. The interior of the water tank be re-coated, the existing mushroom vent will be replaced with a 16" frost proof vent, a submersible Gridbee GS-9 mixer will be installed, and single-phase electric service will be brought to the tank from the City Shop located North of the tank. The water tank location is shown on the figure provided.

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Helena, MT 59601
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In an effort to help us identify any historical or archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, we would like to request a cultural resource file search for the following areas:

T-16-N, R-12-E, Section 16 and 17

Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Region 4
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

To Whom it May Concern:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
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Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any wildlife or fisheries concerns or other issues important to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

May 12, 2023

Pam Linker
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
Stanford Service Center
121 Central Ave
Stanford, MT 59479

Subject: Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Stanford, Montana

Dear Ms. Linker:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Stanford to complete the *Stanford Water System Improvements* project. The Town has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for this project. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist and review to meet the key environmental requirements that ARPA recipients must comply with as part of their contracts with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Guidelines for this process require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
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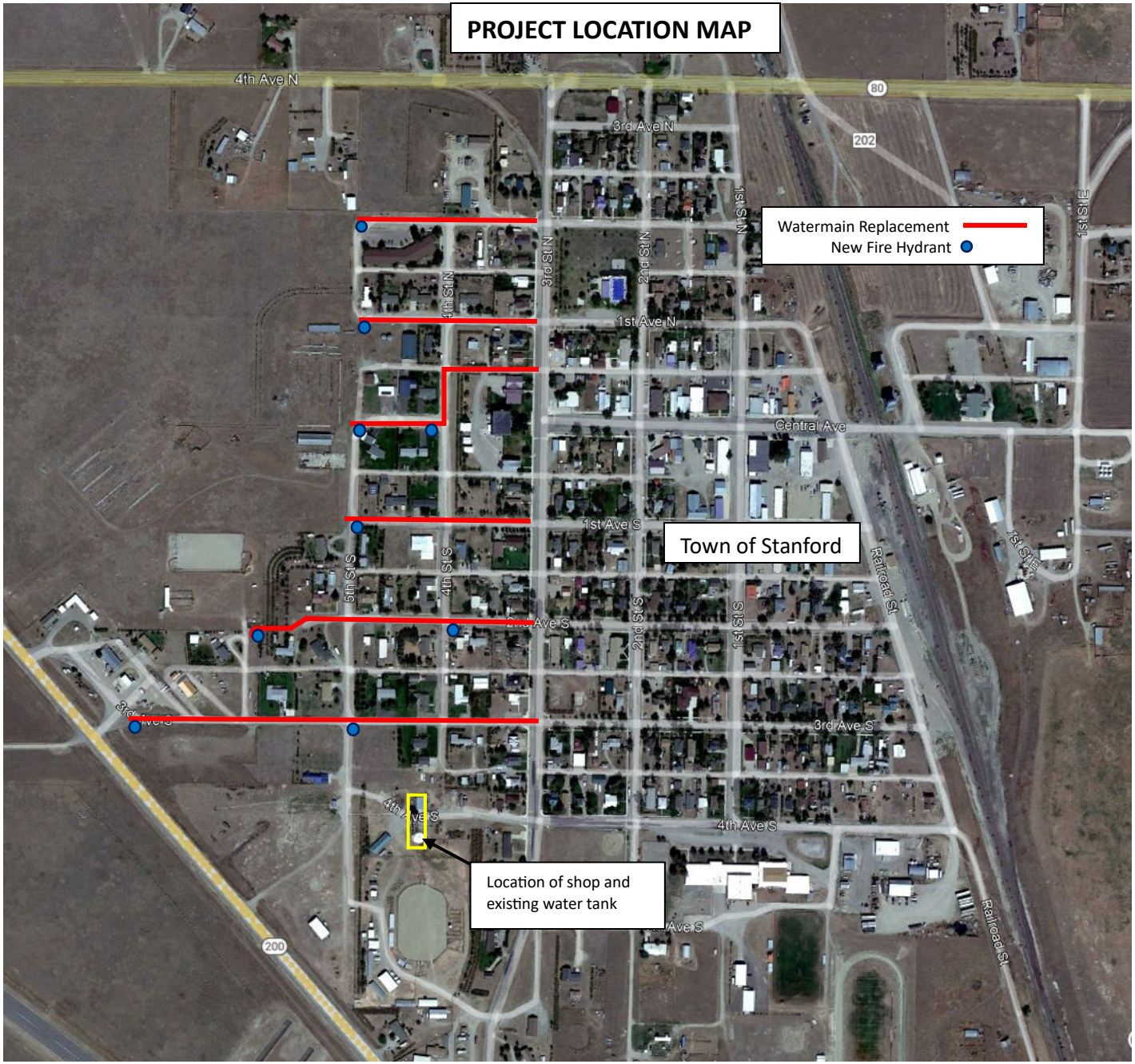
To satisfy our requirements, please identify any additional environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Koenig, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure



From: Murdo, Damon
To: Trisha Bodlovic
Subject: STANFORD WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 4:35:32 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Reports.pdf
Sites.pdf
2023052203.pdf

May 22, 2023

Trisha Bodlovic
RPA
3147 Saddle Drive
Helena MT 59601

RE: STANFORD WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. SHPO Project #: 2023052203

Dear Trisha:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 16, 17, T16N R12E. According to our records there have been several previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. I've attached a list of the sites and reports. If you would like any further information regarding the sites or reports, you may contact me at the number listed below.

It is SHPO's position that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If any structures are within the Area of Potential Effect, and are over fifty years old, we would recommend that they be recorded, and a determination of their eligibility be made prior to any disturbance taking place.

As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age and ground disturbance will be kept within previously disturbed right-of-way, we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials are inadvertently discovered during this project, we would ask that our office be contacted, and the site investigated.

If you have any further questions or comments, you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. I have attached an invoice for the file search. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 17

CAYWOOD JANENE M., ET AL.

3/11/1991 EVALUATION OF REGION 1 FOREST SERVICE-OWNED BUILDINGS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 1 13017 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 17

WOOD GARVEY C.

1/5/1993 EMPIRE SAND AND GRAVEL - SCHMIT GRAVEL SOURCE - STANFORD EAST & WEST

CRABS Document Number: JT 4 14694 Agency Document Number: 00

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 16

RENNIE PATRICK J., ET AL.

5/2/1994 FORT BENTON TO MOORE BURIED FIBER OPTIC CABLE

CRABS Document Number: CH 6 15881 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 17

WOOD GARVEY C.

12/17/2003 CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY OF THE TOWN OF STANFORD-WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT IN JUDITH BASIN MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: JT 6 26479 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 16

BRUMLEY JOHN H.

11/1/2005 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS' 2005 DENTON AND STANFORD EXCHANGES IN JUDITH BASIN COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: JT 6 28161 Agency Document Number: ID: ROC27 M93939-06-MT-068-006

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 17

BRUMLEY JOHN H.

11/1/2005 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS' 2005 DENTON AND STANFORD EXCHANGES IN JUDITH BASIN COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: JT 6 28161 Agency Document Number: ID: ROC27 M93939-06-MT-068-006

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 16

FRENCH SANDRA L., et.al.

7/10/2007 ANNUAL PA REPORT FOR PROJECTS CONDUCTED IN 2006 ON THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 1 29494 Agency Document Number: 07-LC-00-007

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 17

FRENCH SANDRA L., et.al.

7/10/2007 ANNUAL PA REPORT FOR PROJECTS CONDUCTED IN 2006 ON THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 1 29494 Agency Document Number: 07-LC-00-007

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 16

KEIM KELLY

5/22/2007 STANFORD HOUSES DECOMMISSIONING

CRABS Document Number: JT 1 36532 Agency Document Number: 06-LC-04-094

Township:16 N Range:12 E Section: 16

THOMPSON MARTIN

2/27/2015 JUDITH BASIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE GENERATOR INSTALLATION

CRABS Document Number: JT 6 37721 Agency Document Number:

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Cultural Resource Information Systems
CRIS Township, Range, Section Report
Report Date:5/22/2023

Site #	Twp	Rng	Sec	Qs	Site Type 1	Site Type 2	Time Period	Owner	NR Status
24JT0680	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Church		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0679	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0678	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0613	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0605	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0604	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0603	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0610	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0609	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Undetermined*
24JT0608	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0607	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Undetermined*
24JT0606	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0614	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0612	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0775	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0629	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0628	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0627	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0626	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0625	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0624	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0611	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0633	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0632	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0631	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0630	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0710	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0709	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0708	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0707	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0706	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0705	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0704	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0766	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0765	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0764	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0763	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0762	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0761	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0759	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0677	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0758	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0757	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0756	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0755	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0754	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0753	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0774	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0773	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0772	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible

24JT0771	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0770	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0769	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0767	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0815	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0810	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0809	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0807	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0806	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0804	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0803	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0802	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Grain Elevator	Historic Agriculture	1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0801	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Grain Elevator	Historic Agriculture	1910-1919	Private	Undetermined*
24JT0800	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0790	16N	12E	17	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0799	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0798	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0797	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0796	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0795	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0672	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0671	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0670	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0669	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0668	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0667	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0666	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0665	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0664	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0663	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0662	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0661	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0703	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0702	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0701	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0700	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0699	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0698	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0697	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0696	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0695	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0694	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0693	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0692	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0691	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0690	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0689	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible

24JT0623	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0622	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0621	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0620	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0619	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0618	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0617	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0616	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0615	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0660	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0659	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0658	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0657	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0656	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0655	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0654	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0653	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Undetermined*
24JT0652	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Undetermined*
24JT0651	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0650	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0649	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0648	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0647	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0646	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0645	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0644	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0794	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0792	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0814	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Political/Government		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0812	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0811	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0826	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Bar/Saloon		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0825	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0824	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0823	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0822	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0821	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0820	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Political/Government	Historic Agriculture	1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0819	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0818	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0817	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Political/Government		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0835	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0834	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0833	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible

24JT0832	16N	12E	17	SE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0831	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Hotel/Motel	Historic Commercial Development	1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0830	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0829	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Gas Station	Historic Commercial Development	1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0827	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Church		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0688	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0687	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0686	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0685	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0684	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0683	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0682	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0730	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0729	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Church		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0727	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0726	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0725	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0724	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0723	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0722	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0721	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0720	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0719	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0718	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0717	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0716	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0715	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0714	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0713	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0712	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0711	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0752	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0751	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0750	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0748	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0747	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0746	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0745	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0744	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0743	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0742	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0741	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0740	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0739	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0738	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0737	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0736	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0735	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0734	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0733	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible

24JT0732	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0731	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0789	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0788	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0787	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0786	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0643	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0676	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0675	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0674	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0673	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0642	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0641	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0640	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0639	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0638	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0637	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0636	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0635	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0634	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0681	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0785	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0784	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0783	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0782	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0781	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0780	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0779	16N	12E	17	SE	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0778	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0777	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0776	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0601	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1950-1959	Private	Ineligible
24JT0602	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0188	16N	12E	17	NE	Historic Ranger Station		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Ineligible
24JT0212	16N	12E	16	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24JT0816	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Commercial Development		1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0842	16N	12E	16	SW	Historic School		1950-1959	Private	Ineligible
24JT0843	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Political/Government		No Indication of Time	Private	Ineligible
24JT0844	16N	12E	17	SE	Historic Political/Government		No Indication of Time	Private	Ineligible
24JT0845	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Structure		1920-1930	Private	Eligible
24JT0846	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Outbuildings		No Indication of Time	Private	Ineligible
24JT0847	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Library		No Indication of Time	County	Ineligible
24JT0848	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Courthouse		1920-1930	County	Eligible
24JT0849	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Structure	Historic Communication	1910-1919	Private	Eligible
24JT0852	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence	Historic Political/Governmen t	Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Ineligible

24JT0851	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence	Historic Political/Governmen t	Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Ineligible
24JT0760	16N	12E	16	NW	Historic Residence		1910-1919	Private	Ineligible
24JT0940	16N	12E	17		Historic Road		1950-1959	County	Undetermined*

From: Murphy, Ryan
To: Trisha Bodlovic
Cc: Hamilton, Steven
Subject: DNRC Comments for the Stanford Water System Improvements Project
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 3:52:37 PM

Trisha,

After review of your letter about the Stanford water system improvements project the DNRC has no water rights or floodplain related comments. The DNRC recommends that the project be done with the least environmental impacts possible.

Best of luck on the project and please do not hesitate if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Ryan Murphy, EI
Civil Engineering Specialist
Lewistown Regional Office
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
613 NE Main, Suite E
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ryan.Murphy@mt.gov
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Cell: (406) 533-9124

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Judith Basin County, Montana

Local office

Montana Ecological Services Field Office

(406) 449-5225
(406) 449-5339

585 Shephard Way, Suite 1

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
North American Wolverine Gulo gulo luscus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123	Proposed Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list,click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey

effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

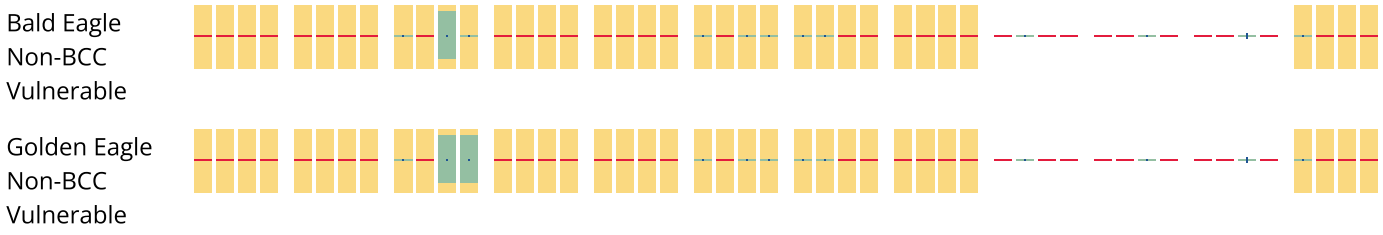
Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos — Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680

Lark Bunting Calamospiza melanocorys — Breeds May 10 to Aug 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

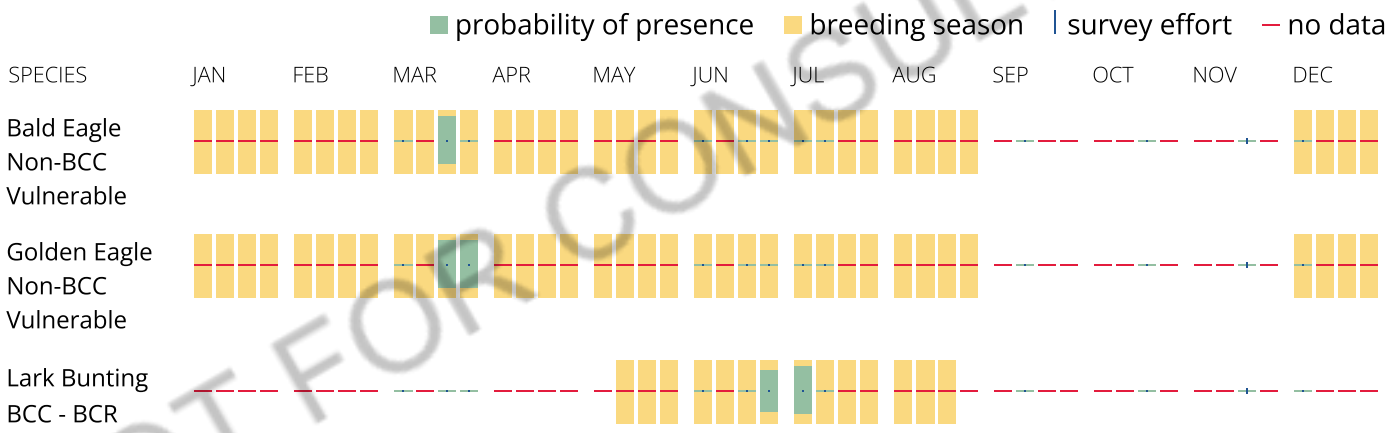
Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the NWI map to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

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NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM mtnhp.org

1201 11th Ave ▫ P.O. Box 201800 ▫ Helena, MT 59620-1800 ▫ fax 406-444-0266 ▫ phone 406-444-3989

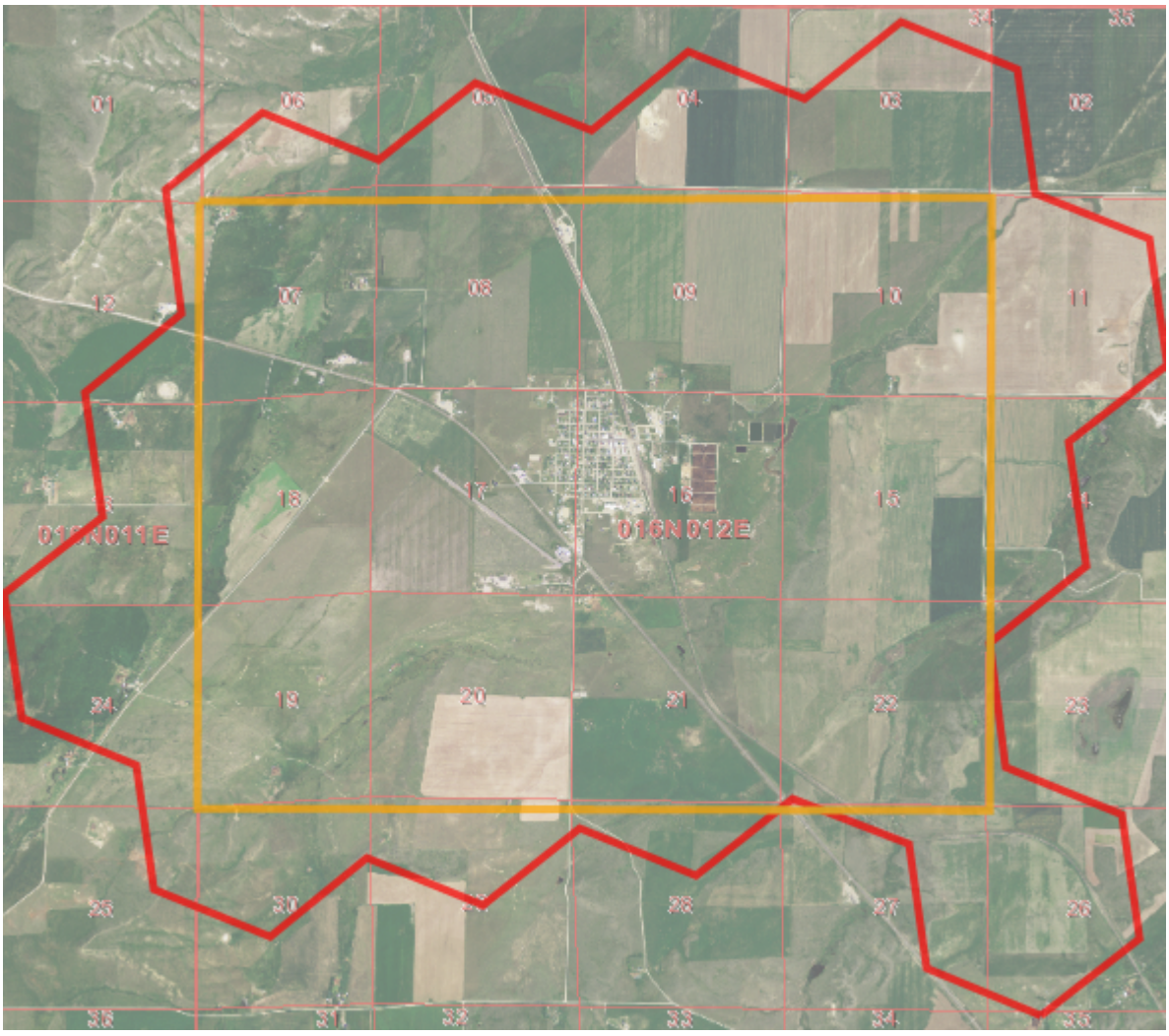
Environmental Summary

Latitude	Longitude
47.11178	-110.16061
47.18405	-110.28226

Summarized by:

23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project

(Custom Area of Interest)



Suggested Citation

Montana Natural Heritage Program. Environmental Summary Report.
for Latitude 47.11178 to 47.18405 and Longitude -110.16061 to -110.28226. Retrieved on 6/22/2023.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System. Since 1985, it has served as a neutral and non-regulatory provider of easily accessible information on Montana's species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. The program is part of the NatureServe network that is composed of over 60 member programs across North America that work to provide current and comprehensive distribution and status information on species and biological communities.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

NATURESERVE

Table of Contents

Introduction to Environmental Summary Report

Environmental Summary Reports from the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) provide information on species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. For information on environmental permits in Montana, please see permitting overviews by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Index of Environmental Permits for Montana and our Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies. The report for your area of interest consists of introductory and related materials in this PDF and an Excel workbook with worksheets summarizing information managed in the MTNHP databases for: (1) species occurrences; (2) other observed species without species occurrences; (3) other species potentially present based on their range, presence of associated habitats, or predictive distribution model output if available; (4) structured surveys that follow a protocol capable of detecting one or more species; (5) land cover mapped as ecological systems; (6) wetland and riparian mapping; (7) land management categories; and (8) biological reports associated with plant and animal observations. If your area of interest corresponds to a statewide polygon layer (e.g., watersheds, counties, or public land survey sections) information summaries in your report will exactly match those boundaries. However, if your report is for a custom area, users should be aware that summaries do not correspond to the exact boundaries of the polygon they have specified, but instead are a summary across a layer of hexagons intersected by the polygon they specified as shown on the report cover. Summarizing by these hexagons which are one square mile in area and approximately one kilometer in length on each side allows for consistent and rapid delivery of summaries based on a uniform grid that has been used for planning efforts across North America.

In presenting this information, MTNHP is working towards assisting the user with rapidly assessing the known or potential species and biological communities, land management categories, and biological reports associated with the report area. Users are reminded that this information is likely incomplete and may be inaccurate as surveys to document species are lacking in many areas of the state, species' range polygons often include regions of unsuitable habitat, methods of predicting the presence of species or communities are constantly improving, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities in a report area will always be an important obligation of users of our data. Users are encouraged to only use this environmental summary report as a starting point for more in depth analyses and are encouraged to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies for additional data or management guidelines relevant to your efforts. Please see the Appendix for introductory materials to each section of the report, additional information resources, and a list of relevant agency contacts.**

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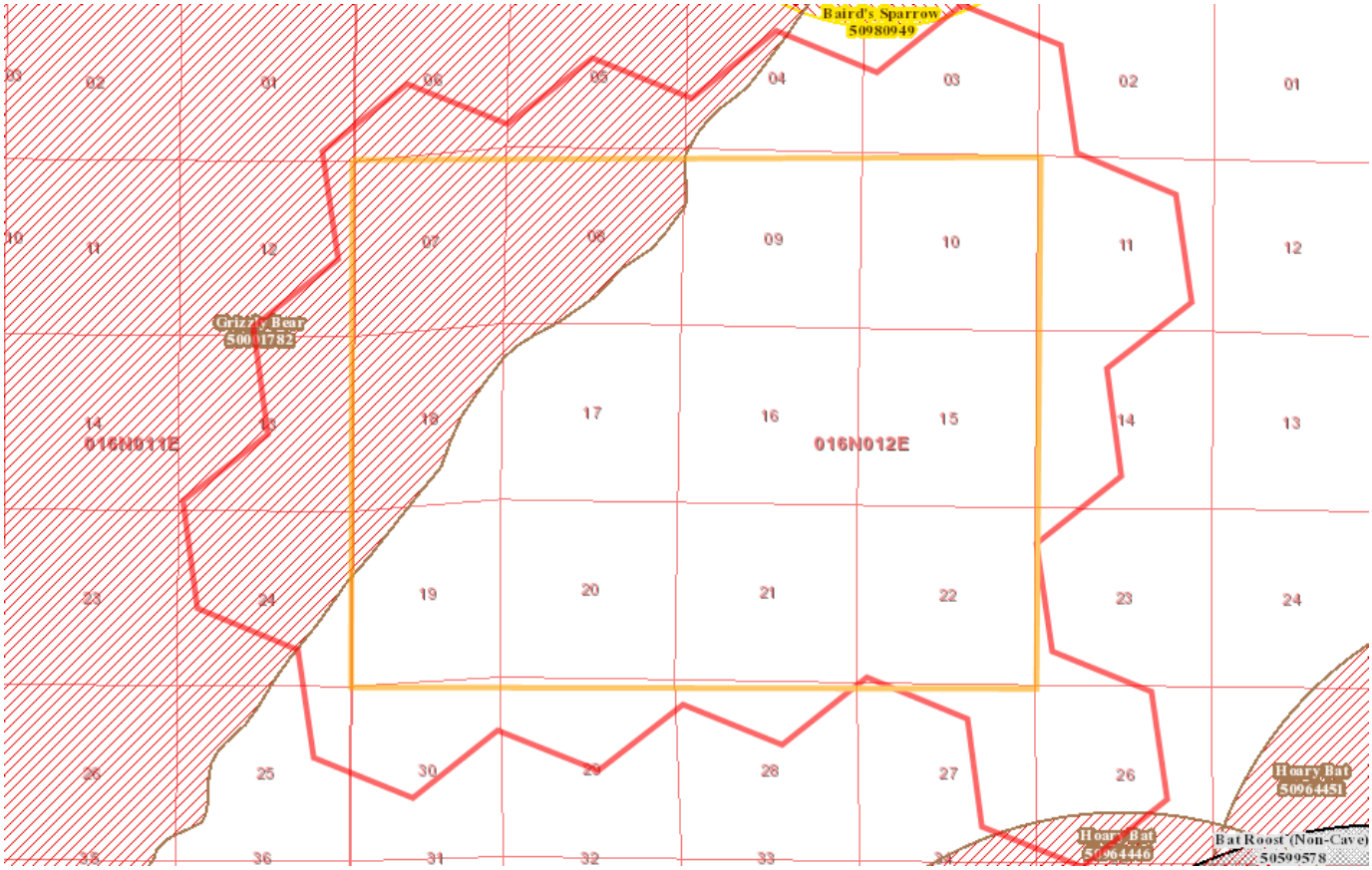
Model Icons	Habitat Icons	Range Icons	Num Obs
N Suitable (native range)	C Common	Y Native / Year-round	Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
O Optimal Suitability	O Occasional	S Summer	+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)
M Moderate Suitability		W Winter	
L Low Suitability		M Migratory	
I Suitable (introduced range)		N Non-native	
		H Historical	

Latitude	Longitude
47.11178	-110.16061
47.18405	-110.28226

Native Species

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*
Filtered by:
Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Potential SOC



Species Occurrences

	USFWS Sec7	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
M - Hoary Bat *(Lasiurus cinereus)* SOC		1			S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3B** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence (mistnet captures, definitively identified acoustic recordings, and definitively identified roosting individuals) of adults or juveniles during the active season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 3,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the maximum reported foraging distance for the congeneric Lasiurus borealis and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 23, 2022)

Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 89% Low (inductive)

	USFWS Sec7	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
M - Grizzly Bear *(Ursus arctos)* SOC	7	1		Y	H

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S2S3** USFWS: **LT** BLM: **THREATENED** FWP SWAP: **SGCN2-3**

Delineation Criteria Species Occurrence polygons represent areas delineated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that encompass both home ranges and potential transitory movements based on verified sightings. Within these areas, the USFWS wants project proponents to consider whether the species â€œmay be presentâ€ when evaluating the potential impacts of a project and to work with the USFWS to develop and implement best management practices to minimize or eliminate project effects on the species. (Last Updated: Mar 22, 2023)

Predicted Models: L 58% Low (inductive)

	USFWS Sec7	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Baird's Sparrow *(Centronyx bairdii)* SOC		1	1		S M

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the average breeding territory size of the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 28, 2022)

Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

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Model Icons
- N Suitable (native range)
- O Optimal Suitability
- M Moderate Suitability
- L Low Suitability
- I Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons
- C Common
- O Occasional

Range Icons
- Y Native / Year-round
- S Summer
- W Winter
- M Migratory
- N Non-native
- H Historical

Num Obs
Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)

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Native Species

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*
Filtered by:
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Other Observed Species

	USFWS Sec7	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Long-billed Curlew *(Numenius americanus)* SOC		1		S M
B - Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)* SOC		1 +		Y S M
B - Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* SSS		4		Y
B - Sprague's Pipit *(Anthus spragueii)* SOC	7	1		S M
B - Ferruginous Hawk *(Buteo regalis)* SOC		3 +		S M
B - Golden Eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)* SOC		8		Y
B - Eastern Bluebird *(Sialia sialis)* PSOC		+		S M
B - Clark's Nutcracker *(Nucifraga columbiana)* SOC		+	Not Assessed	Y
F - Northern Redbelly Dace *(Chrosomus eos)* SOC		+	Not Assessed	Y

B - Long-billed Curlew *(Numenius americanus)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 63% Moderate (inductive), L 37% Low (inductive)

B - Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** USFWS: **MBTA** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 63% Low (inductive)

B - Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* SSS

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Special Status Species - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4** USFWS: **BGEPA; MBTA** USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)** BLM: **SENSITIVE** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 53% Low (inductive)

B - Sprague's Pipit *(Anthus spragueii)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**
Predicted Models: L 89% Low (inductive)

B - Ferruginous Hawk *(Buteo regalis)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 68% Low (inductive)

B - Golden Eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** USFWS: **BGEPA; MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: L 58% Low (inductive)

B - Eastern Bluebird *(Sialia sialis)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4B** USFWS: **MBTA**
Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

B - Clark's Nutcracker *(Nucifraga columbiana)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** USFWS: **MBTA** USFS: **Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (FLAT)** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**

F - Northern Redbelly Dace *(Chrosomus eos)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**

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Model Icons
- Suitable (native range)
- Optimal Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability
- Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons
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- Occasional

Range Icons
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Native Species

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Filtered by:
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Other Potential Species

	USFWS Sec7	Predicted Model	Range
V - Carex crawei *(Crawe's Sedge)* SOC			
B - Bobolink *(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)* SOC			
M - Dwarf Shrew *(Sorex nanus)* SOC			
B - Eastern Screech-Owl *(Megascops asio)* PSOC			
B - Short-eared Owl *(Asio flammeus)* PSOC			
I - Danaus plexippus *(Monarch)* SOC			
M - Hayden's Shrew *(Sorex haydeni)* PSOC			
M - Little Brown Myotis *(Myotis lucifugus)* SOC			
B - American White Pelican *(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)* SOC			
M - Merriam's Shrew *(Sorex merriami)* SOC			
M - North American Porcupine *(Erethizon dorsatum)* PSOC			
I - Bombus suckleyi *(Suckley Cuckoo Bumble Bee)* SOC			
B - Rufous Hummingbird *(Selasphorus rufus)* PSOC			

V - Carex crawei *(Crawe's Sedge)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S2S3** Plant Threat Score: **Low**
Predicted Models: O 5% Optimal (inductive), M 79% Moderate (inductive), L 16% Low (inductive)

B - Bobolink *(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: O 5% Optimal (inductive), M 68% Moderate (inductive), L 26% Low (inductive)

M - Dwarf Shrew *(Sorex nanus)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S2S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN2-3**
Predicted Models: M 58% Moderate (inductive), L 42% Low (inductive)

B - Eastern Screech-Owl *(Megascops asio)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3S4** USFWS: **MBTA** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: M 37% Moderate (inductive), L 58% Low (inductive)

B - Short-eared Owl *(Asio flammeus)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: M 32% Moderate (inductive), L 68% Low (inductive)

I - Danaus plexippus *(Monarch)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S2S3** USFWS: **C**
Predicted Models: M 32% Moderate (inductive), L 47% Low (inductive)

M - Hayden's Shrew *(Sorex haydeni)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3S4**
Predicted Models: M 26% Moderate (inductive), L 74% Low (inductive)

M - Little Brown Myotis *(Myotis lucifugus)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: M 26% Moderate (inductive), L 74% Low (inductive)

B - American White Pelican *(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: M 26% Moderate (inductive), L 74% Low (inductive)

M - Merriam's Shrew *(Sorex merriami)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: M 21% Moderate (inductive), L 79% Low (inductive)

M - North American Porcupine *(Erethizon dorsatum)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3S4** FWP SWAP: **SGIN**
Predicted Models: M 21% Moderate (inductive), L 79% Low (inductive)

I - Bombus suckleyi *(Suckley Cuckoo Bumble Bee)* SOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G2G3** State: **S1**
Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 58% Low (inductive)

B - Rufous Hummingbird *(Selasphorus rufus)* PSOC

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S4B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 63% Low (inductive)

B - Veery *(Catharus fuscescens)* SOC

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 84% Low (inductive)

M - Fringed Myotis *(Myotis thysanodes)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 68% Low (inductive)

B - White-faced Ibis *(Plegadis chihi)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 68% Low (inductive)

M - Eastern Red Bat *(Lasiurus borealis)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S3B** BLM: **SENSITIVE**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 63% Low (inductive)

B - Thick-billed Longspur *(Rhynchophanes mccownii)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 63% Low (inductive)

B - Ovenbird *(Seiurus aurocapilla)* PSOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4B** USFWS: **MBTA** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 53% Low (inductive)

B - Yellow-billed Cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **PS: LT; MBTA** BLM: **THREATENED** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3, SGIN** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 42% Low (inductive)

B - Sharp-tailed Grouse *(Tympanuchus phasianellus)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **SX,S4** FWP SWAP: **SGCN1** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

V - Elodea bifoliata *(Long-sheath Waterweed)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4G5** State: **S2?** Plant Threat Score: **No Known Threats**
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

M - Long-legged Myotis *(Myotis volans)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4G5** State: **S3**
Predicted Models: L 95% Low (inductive)

M - Long-eared Myotis *(Myotis evotis)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3**
Predicted Models: L 84% Low (inductive)

M - Silver-haired Bat *(Lasionycteris noctivagans)* PSOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S4**
Predicted Models: L 84% Low (inductive)

B - Barrow's Goldeneye *(Bucephala islandica)* PSOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4** USFWS: **MBTA** FWP SWAP: **SGIN** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 74% Low (inductive)

B - Black-necked Stilt *(Himantopus mexicanus)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: L 74% Low (inductive)

B - Common Poorwill *(Phalaenoptilus nuttallii)* PSOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S4B** USFWS: **MBTA** FWP SWAP: **SGIN** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: L 68% Low (inductive)

B - Sage Thrasher *(Oreoscoptes montanus)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: L 68% Low (inductive)

A - Northern Leopard Frog *(Lithobates pipiens)* SOC

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps
USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT)**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S1,S4** **Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (BRT, LOLO)** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN1**
Predicted Models: L 63% Low (inductive)

B - Black Tern *(Chlidonias niger)* SOC

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 58% Low (inductive)

M - Townsend's Big-eared Bat *(Corynorhinus townsendii)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: L 53% Low (inductive)

B - Brewer's Sparrow *(Spizella breweri)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 53% Low (inductive)

V - Cypripedium parviflorum *(Small Yellow Lady's-slipper)* PSOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT, LOLO)**
Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (BRT)
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3S4** **Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC)**
Predicted Models: L 47% Low (inductive)

M - Spotted Bat *(Euderma maculatum)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD)** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3, SGIN**
Predicted Models: L 47% Low (inductive)

B - Greater Sage-Grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD)**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G3G4** State: **S2** **Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG)** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN2** PIF: **1**
Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

V - Cyperus schweinitzii *(Schweinitz's Flatsedge)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S2** Plant Threat Score: **Low**
Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

V - Stellaria crassifolia *(Fleshy Stitchwort)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S2** Plant Threat Score: **No Known Threats**
Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

M - Preble's Shrew *(Sorex preblei)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

V - Potentilla plattensis *(Platte Cinquefoil)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3** Plant Threat Score: **No Known Threats** CCVI: **Highly Vulnerable**
Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

B - American Bittern *(Botaurus lentiginosus)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **3**
Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

B - Black-billed Cuckoo *(Coccyzus erythropthalmus)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3, SGIN** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

M - Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3** USFWS: **LT; CH** BLM: **THREATENED** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3**
Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

B - Franklin's Gull *(Leucophaeus pipixcan)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

B - Loggerhead Shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)* SOC

View in Field Guide **View Predicted Models** **View Range Maps**
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **2**
Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

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47.18405	-110.28226

Structured Surveys

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) records information on the locations where more than 80 different types of well-defined repeatable survey protocols capable of detecting an animal species or suite of animal species have been conducted by state, federal, tribal, university, or private consulting biologists. Examples of structured survey protocols tracked by MTNHP include: visual encounter and dip net surveys for pond breeding amphibians, point counts for birds, call playback surveys for selected bird species, visual surveys of migrating raptors, kick net stream reach surveys for macroinvertebrates, visual encounter cover object surveys for terrestrial mollusks, bat acoustic or mist net surveys, pitfall and/or snap trap surveys for small terrestrial mammals, track or camera trap surveys for large mammals, and trap surveys for turtles. Whenever possible, photographs of survey locations are stored in MTNHP databases.

MTNHP does not typically manage information on structured surveys for plants; surveys for invasive species may be a future exception.

Within the report area you have requested, structured surveys are summarized by the number of each type of structured survey protocol that has been conducted, the number of species detections/observations resulting from these surveys, and the most recent year a survey has been conducted.

E-Eastern Heath Snail *(Eastern Heath Snail Survey)*	**Survey Count**: 12	**Obs Count**:	**Recent Survey**: 2012
E-Noxious Weed, Road-based *(Noxious Weed Road-based Visual Surveys)*	**Survey Count**: 12	**Obs Count**: 57	**Recent Survey**: 2003
M-Bat Roost (Active Season) *(Bat Roost (Active Season) Survey)*	**Survey Count**: 1	**Obs Count**:	**Recent Survey**: 2017

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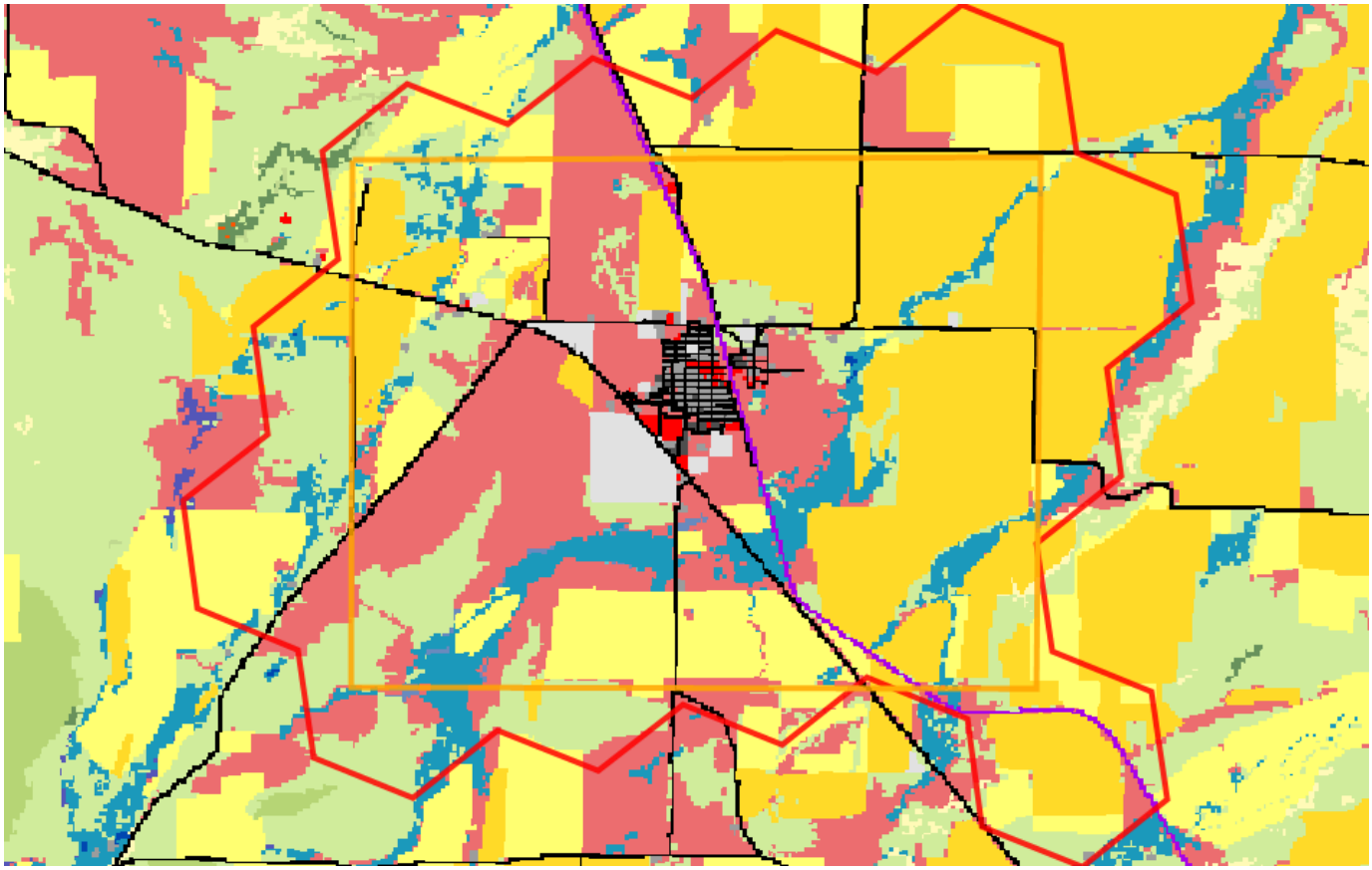
Land Cover

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*



34% (*4,183 Acres*)

Human Land Use
Agriculture
Cultivated Crops

These areas used for the production of crops, such as corn, soybeans, small grains, sunflowers, vegetables, and cotton, typically on an annual cycle. Agricultural plant cover is variable depending on season and type of farming. Other areas include more stable land cover of orchards and vineyards.

21% (*2,606 Acres*)

Recently Disturbed or Modified
Introduced Vegetation
Introduced Upland Vegetation - Annual and Biennial Forbland

Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced annual and biennial forbs. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Typical species that dominate these areas are knapweed, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, pepperweed, and yellow sweetclover.

15% (*1,876 Acres*)

Grassland Systems
Lowland/Prairie Grassland
Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie

The system covers much of the eastern two-thirds of Montana, occurring continuously for hundreds of square kilometers, interrupted only by wetland/riparian areas or sand prairies. Soils are primarily fine and medium-textured. The growing season averages 115 days, ranging from 100 days on the Canadian border to 130 days on the Wyoming border. Climate is typical of mid-continental regions with long severe winters and hot summers. Grasses typically comprise the greatest canopy cover, and western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is usually dominant. Other species include thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), green needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*). Near the Canadian border in north-central Montana, this system grades into rough fescue (*Festuca campestris)* and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) grasslands. Remnants of shortbristle needle and thread *(Hesperostipa curtiseta)* dominated vegetation are found in northernmost Montana and North Dakota, and are associated with productive sites, now mostly converted to farmland. Forb diversity is typically high. In areas of southeastern and central Montana where sagebrush steppe borders the mixed grass prairie, common plant associations include Wyoming big sagebrush-western wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis/ Pascopyrum smithii*). Fire and grazing are the primary drivers of this system. Drought can also impact it, in general favoring the shortgrass component at the expense of the mid-height grasses. With intensive grazing, cool season exotics such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), and Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*) increase in dominance; both of these rhizomatous species have been shown to markedly decrease species diversity. Previously cultivated acres that have been re-vegetated with non-native plants have been transformed into associations such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)/western wheatgrass *(Pascopyrum smithii)* or into pure crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum)* stands.

15% (*1,782 Acres*)

Pasture/Hay

These agriculture lands typically have perennial herbaceous cover (e.g. regularly-shaped plantings) used for livestock grazing or the production of hay. There are obvious signs of management such as irrigation and haying that distinguish it from natural grasslands. Identified CRP lands are included in this land cover type.

7% (*802 Acres*)

Wetland and Riparian Systems
Floodplain and Riparian

Great Plains Riparian

This system is associated with perennial to intermittent or ephemeral streams throughout the northwestern Great Plains. In Montana, it occurs along smaller tributaries of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, as well as tributaries to the large floodplain rivers that feed them (e.g. the Milk, Marias, Musselshell, Powder, Clarkâ€™s Fork Yellowstone, Tongue, etc). In areas adjacent to the mountain ranges of central and southeastern Montana, and near the Rocky Mountain Front, it grades into Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Riparian Woodland and Shrubland systems. This system is found on alluvial soils in highly variable landscape settings, from confined, deep cut ravines to wide, braided streambeds. Channel migration occurs in less-confined areas, but within a more narrow range than would occur in broad, alluvial floodplains. Typically, the rivers are wadeable by mid-summer.

The primary inputs of water to these systems include groundwater discharge, overland flow, and subsurface interflow from the adjacent upland. Flooding is the key ecosystem process, creating suitable sites for seed dispersal and seedling establishment, and controlling vegetation succession. Communities within this system range from riparian forests and shrublands to tallgrass wet meadows and gravel/sand flats. Dominant species are similar to those found in the Great Plains Floodplain System. In the western part of the systemâ€™s range in Montana, the dominant overstory species is black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*) with narrowleaf cottonwood *(Populus angustifolia)* and Plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides)* occurring as co-dominants in the riparian/floodplain interface near the mountains. Further east, narrowleaf cottonwood and Plains cottonwood become dominant. In wetter systems, the understory is typically willow (*Salix spp*.) and redosier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) with graminoids such as western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and forbs like American licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*). In areas where the channel is incised, the understory may be dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) or silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*). Like floodplain systems, riparian systems are often subjected to overgrazing and/or agriculture and can be heavily degraded, with salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*) replacing native woody vegetation and regrowth. Groundwater depletion and lack of fire have resulted in additional species changes.

No Image

2% (*302 Acres*)

Human Land Use
Developed

Other Roads

County, city and or rural roads generally open to motor vehicles.

2% (*211 Acres*)

Human Land Use
Developed

Developed, Open Space

Vegetation (primarily grasses) planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. This category often includes highway and railway rights of way and graveled rural roads.

Additional Limited Land Cover

1% (*103 Acres*) Major Roads
1% (*89 Acres*) Low Intensity Residential
1% (*89 Acres*) Railroad
<1% (*32 Acres*) Commercial / Industrial
<1% (*23 Acres*) Emergent Marsh
<1% (*14 Acres*) Big Sagebrush Steppe
<1% (*13 Acres*) High Intensity Residential
<1% (*11 Acres*) Rocky Mountain Foothill Limber Pine - Juniper Woodland
<1% (*6 Acres*) Great Plains Shrubland
<1% (*4 Acres*) Open Water
<1% (*3 Acres*) Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Riparian Woodland and Shrubland
<1% (*1 Acres*) Great Plains Saline Depression Wetland

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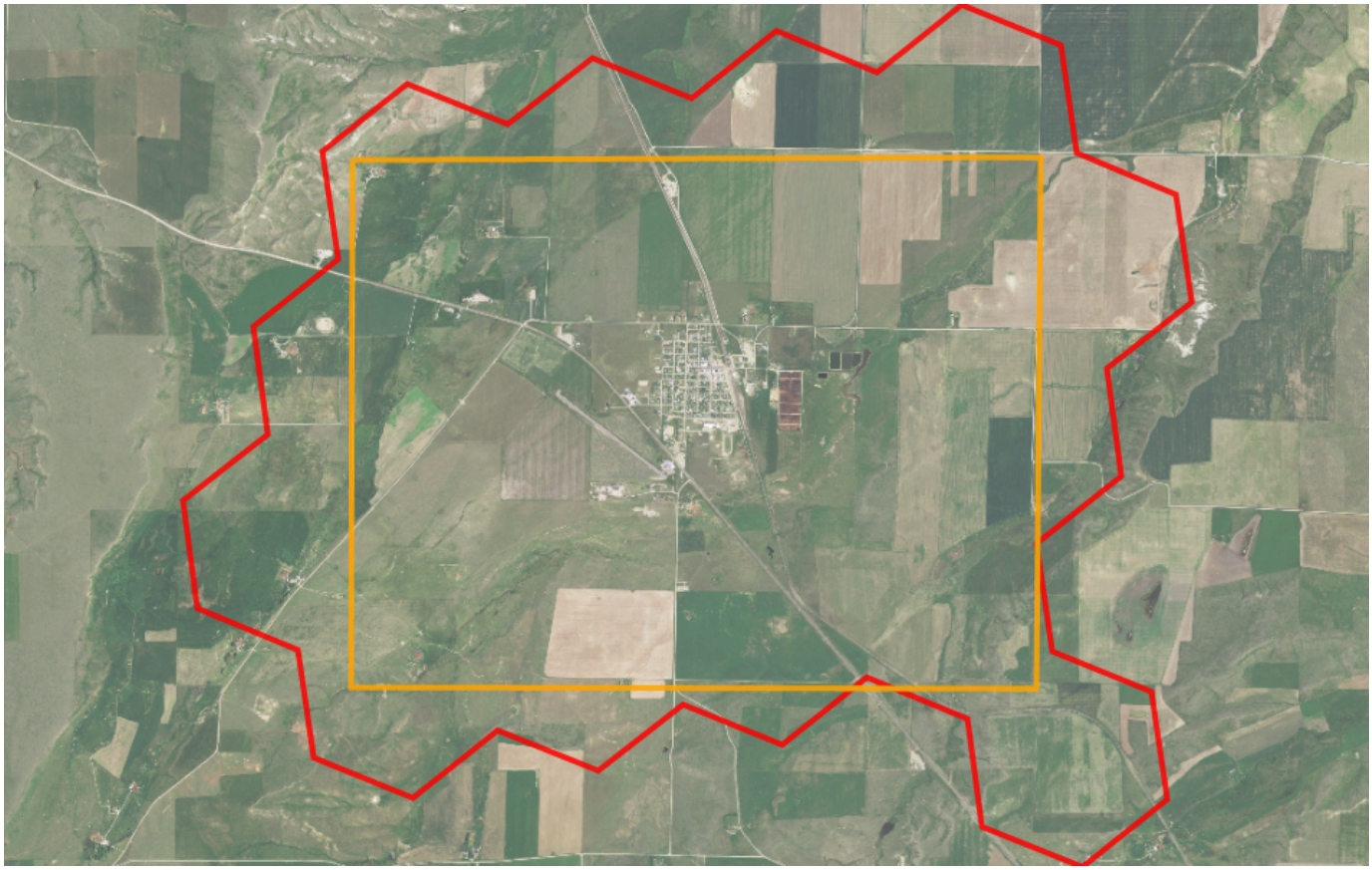
Wetland and Riparian

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*



No Wetland records were found in the selected area

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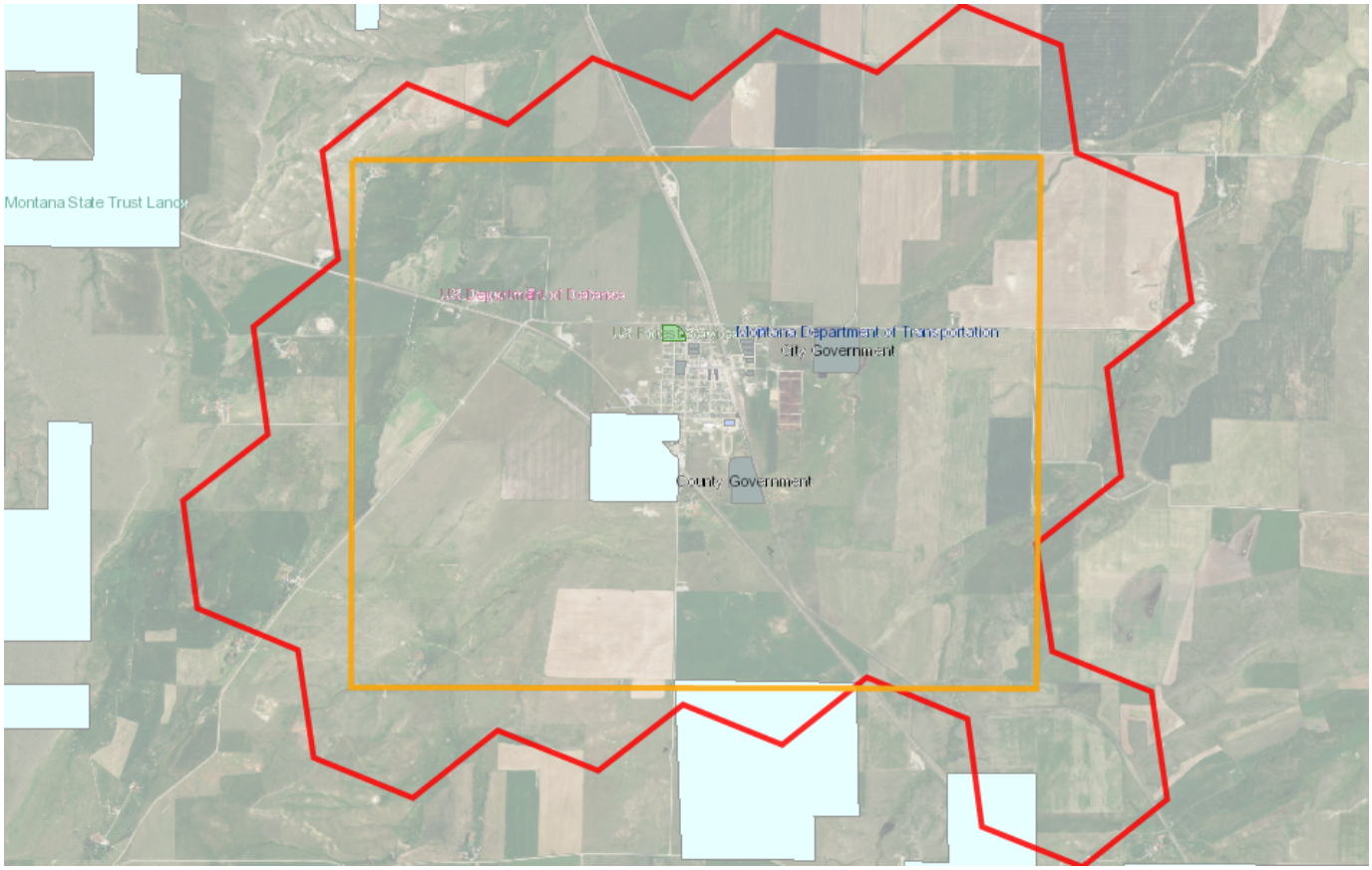
Land Management

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*



Land Management Summary

Explain

	Ownership	Tribal	Easements	Other Boundaries (possible overlap)
Public Lands	**472 Acres (4%)**			
Federal	**9 Acres (<1%)**			
US Forest Service	**7 Acres (<1%)**			
USFS Owned	**7 Acres (<1%)**			
USFS Ranger Districts				**7 Acres**
Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, Judith Ranger District				7 Acres
USFS National Forest Boundaries				**7 Acres**
Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest				7 Acres
US Department of Defense	**2 Acres (<1%)**			
USDOD Owned	**2 Acres (<1%)**			
State	**385 Acres (3%)**			
Montana State Trust Lands	**382 Acres (3%)**			
MT State Trust Owned	**382 Acres (3%)**			
Montana Department of Transportation	**3 Acres (<1%)**			
MTDOT Owned	**3 Acres (<1%)**			
Local	**78 Acres (1%)**			
Local Government	**78 Acres (1%)**			
Local Government Owned	**78 Acres (1%)**			
Private Lands or Unknown Ownership	**11,673 Acres (96%)**			

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Biological Reports

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*

Within the report area you have requested, citations for all reports and publications associated with plant or animal observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) databases are listed and, where possible, links to the documents are included.

The MTNHP plans to include reports associated with terrestrial and aquatic communities in the future as allowed for by staff resources. If you know of reports or publications associated with species or biological communities within the report area that are not shown in this report, please let us know: mtnhp@mt.gov

No Biological Reports were found in the selected area

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Model Icons
- N Suitable (native range)
- O Optimal Suitability
- M Moderate Suitability
- L Low Suitability
- I Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons
- C Common
- O Occasional

Range Icons
- N Non-native

Num Obs
Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)

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Invasive and Pest Species

Summarized by: **23PRVT0306 - Stanford Water System Improvements Project** *(Custom Area of Interest)*

	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range

Aquatic Invasive Species

V - Nymphaea odorata *(American Water-lily)* AIS

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species Global: **G5** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: I 47% Suitable (introduced range) (deductive)

Noxious Weeds: Priority 1A

V - Isatis tinctoria *(Dyer's Woad)* N1A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: O 11% Optimal (inductive), M 5% Moderate (inductive), L 84% Low (inductive)

V - Centaurea solstitialis *(Yellow Starthistle)* N1A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 32% Low (inductive)

V - Taeniatherum caput-medusae *(Medusahead)* N1A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: **G4G5** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

Noxious Weeds: Priority 1B

V - Lythrum salicaria *(Purple Loosestrife)* N1B

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: **G5** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: O 5% Optimal (inductive), M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 63% Low (inductive)

V - Polygonum cuspidatum *(Japanese Knotweed)* N1B

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: **GNRTNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 26% Low (inductive)

V - Cytisus scoparius *(Scotch Broom)* N1B

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

V - Echium vulgare *(Blueweed)* N1B

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

Noxious Weeds: Priority 2A

V - Rhamnus cathartica *(Common Buckthorn)* N2A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: O 11% Optimal (inductive), M 21% Moderate (inductive), L 47% Low (inductive)

V - Ranunculus acris *(Tall Buttercup)* N2A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species Global: **G5** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: M 21% Moderate (inductive), L 47% Low (inductive)

V - Ventenata dubia *(Ventenata)* N2A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 89% Low (inductive)

V - Hieracium caespitosum *(Meadow Hawkweed)* N2A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 26% Low (inductive)

V - Lepidium latifolium *(Perennial Pepperweed)* N2A

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: L 63% Low (inductive)

Noxious Weeds: Priority 2B

V - Lepidium draba *(Whitetop)* N2B — 13

View in Field Guide | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**
Predicted Models: O 42% Optimal (inductive), M 58% Moderate (inductive)

V - Convolvulus arvensis *(Field Bindweed)* N2B — 12

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: O 16% Optimal (inductive), M 63% Moderate (inductive), L 21% Low (inductive)

V - Centaurea stoebe *(Spotted Knapweed)* N2B — 12

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 79% Moderate (inductive), L 21% Low (inductive)

V - Cirsium arvense *(Canada Thistle)* N2B — 12

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **G5** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 47% Moderate (inductive), L 53% Low (inductive)

V - Euphorbia virgata *(Leafy Spurge)* N2B — 8

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 47% Moderate (inductive), L 53% Low (inductive)

V - Cynoglossum officinale *(Common Hound's-tongue)* N2B — 1

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 42% Moderate (inductive), L 58% Low (inductive)

V - Linaria dalmatica *(Dalmatian Toadflax)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **G5** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 21% Moderate (inductive), L 79% Low (inductive)

V - Acroptilon repens *(Russian Knapweed)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 79% Low (inductive)

V - Centaurea diffusa *(Diffuse Knapweed)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 42% Low (inductive)

V - Tamarix ramosissima *(Salt Cedar)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 74% Low (inductive)

V - Potentilla recta *(Sulphur Cinquefoil)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 68% Low (inductive)

V - Tanacetum vulgare *(Common Tansy)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 42% Low (inductive)

V - Berteroa incana *(Hoary False-alyssum)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 37% Low (inductive)

V - Leucanthemum vulgare *(Oxeye Daisy)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 32% Low (inductive)

V - Linaria vulgaris *(Yellow Toadflax)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 26% Low (inductive)

V - Hypericum perforatum *(Common St. John's-wort)* N2B

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 21% Low (inductive)

Regulated Weeds: Priority 3

V - Elaeagnus angustifolia *(Russian Olive)* R3

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Regulated Weed: Priority 3 - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 79% Low (inductive)

V - Bromus tectorum *(Cheatgrass)* R3

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Regulated Weed: Priority 3 - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: L 74% Low (inductive)

Biocontrol Species

I - Aphthona lacertosa *(Brown-legged Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle)* BIOCNTRL

Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 47% Moderate (inductive), L 37% Low (inductive)

I - Cyphocleonus achates *(Knapweed Root Weevil)* BIOCNTRL

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 32% Moderate (inductive), L 53% Low (inductive)

I - Mecinus janthinus *(Yellow Toadflax Stem-boring Weevil)* BIOCNTRL

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 79% Low (inductive)

I - Aphthona nigriscutis *(Black Dot Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle)* BIOCNTRL

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 16% Moderate (inductive), L 21% Low (inductive)

I - Mecinus janthiniformis *(Dalmatian Toadflax Stem-boring Weevil)* BIOCNTRL

View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps

Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: **GNR** State: **SNA**

Predicted Models: M 11% Moderate (inductive), L 89% Low (inductive)

Introduction to Montana Natural Heritage Program

P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • phone 406.444.5363 • mtnhp.org

Introduction

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is Montana's source for reliable and objective information on Montana's native species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern. MTNHP was created by the Montana legislature in 1983 as part of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at the Montana State Library (MSL). MTNHP is "a program of information acquisition, storage, and retrieval for data relating to the flora, fauna, and biological community types of Montana" (MCA 90-15-102). MTNHP's activities are guided by statute as well as through ongoing interaction with, and feedback from, principal data source agencies such as Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana University System, the US Forest Service, and the US Bureau of Land Management. Since the first staff was hired in 1985, the Program has logged a long record of success, and developed into a highly respected, service-oriented program. MTNHP is widely recognized as one of the most advanced and effective of over 60 natural heritage programs that are distributed across North America.

Vision

Our vision is that public agencies, the private sector, the education sector, and the general public will trust and rely upon MTNHP as the source for information and expertise on Montana's species and habitats, especially those of conservation concern. We strive to provide easy access to our information to allow users to save time and money, speed environmental reviews, and make informed decisions.

Core Values

- We endeavor to be a single statewide source of accurate and up-to-date information on Montana's plants, animals, and aquatic and terrestrial biological communities.
- We actively listen to our data users and work responsively to meet their information and training needs.
- We strive to provide neutral, trusted, timely, and equitable service to all of our information users.
- We make every effort to be transparent to our data users in setting work priorities and providing data products.

Confidentiality

All information requests made to the Montana Natural Heritage Program are considered library records and are protected from disclosure by the Montana Library Records Confidentiality Act (MCA 22-1-11).

Information Managed

Information managed at the Montana Natural Heritage Program is botanical, zoological, and ecological information that describes the distribution (e.g., observations, structured surveys, range polygons, predicted habitat suitability models), conservation status (e.g., global and state conservation status ranks, including threats), and other supporting information (e.g., accounts and references) on the biology and ecology of species and biological communities.

Data Use Terms and Conditions

- Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) products and services are based on biological data and the objective interpretation of those data by professional scientists. MTNHP does not advocate any particular philosophy of natural resource protection, management, development, or public policy.
- MTNHP has no natural resource management or regulatory authority. Products, statements, and services from MTNHP are intended to inform parties as to the state of scientific knowledge about certain natural resources, and to further develop that knowledge. The information is not intended as natural resource management guidelines or prescriptions or a determination of environmental impacts. MTNHP recommends consultation with appropriate state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies and authorities in the area where your project is located.
- Information on the status and spatial distribution of biological resources produced by MTNHP are intended to inform parties of the state-wide status, known occurrence, or the likelihood of the presence of those resources. **These products are not intended to substitute for field-collected data, nor are they intended to be the sole basis for natural resource management decisions.**
- MTNHP does not portray its data as exhaustive or comprehensive inventories of rare species or biological communities. **Field verification of the absence or presence of sensitive species and biological communities will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**
- MTNHP responds equally to all requests for products and services, regardless of the purpose or identity of the requester.
- Because MTNHP constantly updates and revises its databases with new data and information, products will become outdated over time. Interested parties are encouraged to obtain the most current information possible from MTNHP, rather than using older products. We add, review, update, and delete records on a daily basis. Consequently, we strongly advise that you update your MTNHP data sets at a minimum of every four months for most applications of our information.
- MTNHP data require a certain degree of biological expertise for proper analysis, interpretation, and application. Our staff is available to advise you on questions regarding the interpretation or appropriate use of the data that we provide. See Contact Information for MTNHP Staff
- The information provided to you by MTNHP may include sensitive data that if publicly released might jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or biological communities. This information is intended for distribution or use only within your department, agency, or business. Subcontractors may have access to the data during the course of any given project, but should not be given a copy for their use on subsequent, unrelated work.
- MTNHP data are made freely available. Duplication of hard-copy or digital MTNHP products with the intent to sell is prohibited without written consent by MTNHP. Should you be asked by individuals outside your organization for the type of data that we provide, please refer them to MTNHP.
- MTNHP and appropriate staff members should be appropriately acknowledged as an information source in any third-party product involving MTNHP data, reports, papers, publications, or in maps that incorporate MTNHP graphic elements.
- Sources of our data include museum specimens, published and unpublished scientific literature, field surveys by state and federal agencies and private contractors, and reports from knowledgeable individuals. MTNHP actively solicits and encourages additions, corrections and updates, new observations or collections, and comments on any of the data we provide.
- MTNHP staff and contractors do not enter or cross privately-owned lands without express permission from the landowner. However, the program cannot guarantee that information provided to us by others was obtained under adherence to this policy.

Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies

As required by Montana statute (MCA 90-15), the Montana Natural Heritage Program works with state, federal, tribal, nongovernmental organizations, and private partners to ensure that the latest animal and plant distribution and status information is incorporated into our databases so that it can be used to inform a variety of permitting and planning processes and management decisions. We encourage you to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies in the area where your project is located and review the permitting overviews by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Index of Environmental Permits for Montana for guidelines relevant to your efforts. In particular, we encourage you to contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for the latest data and management information regarding hunted and high-profile management species and to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information Planning and Consultation (IPAC) website regarding U.S. Endangered Species Act listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species.

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of relevant agency contacts and links below:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Fish Species	Zachary Shattuck zshattuck@mt.gov (406) 444-1231 or Eric Roberts eroberts@mt.gov (406) 444-5334
American Bison Black-footed Ferret Black-tailed Prairie Dog Bald Eagle Golden Eagle Common Loon Least Tern Piping Plover Whooping Crane	Kristian Smucker KSmucker@mt.gov (406) 444-5209
Grizzly Bear Greater Sage Grouse Trumpeter Swan Big Game Upland Game Birds Furbearers	Brian Wakeling brian.wakeling@mt.gov (406) 444-3940
Managed Terrestrial Game Data	Cara Whalen– MFWP Data Analyst cara.whalen@mt.gov (406) 444-3759
Fisheries Data and Nongame Animal Data	Ryan Alger – MFWP Data Analyst ryan.alger@mt.gov (406) 444-5365
Wildlife and Fisheries Scientific Collector's Permits	https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/commercialwildlifeandscientificpermits/scientific Kristina Smucker for Wildlife ksmucker@mt.gov (406) 444-5209 Dave Schmetterling for Fisheries dschmetterling@mt.gov (406) 542-5514
Fish and Wildlife Recommendations for Subdivision Development	Charlie Sperry csperry@mt.gov (406) 444-3888 See https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/living-with-wildlife/subdivision-recommendations
Regional Contacts  	Region 1 (Kalispell) (406) 752-5501 fwprg12@mt.gov Region 2 (Missoula) (406) 542-5500 fwprg22@mt.gov Region 3 (Bozeman) (406) 577-7900 fwprg3@mt.gov Region 4 (Great Falls) (406) 454-5840 fwprg42@mt.gov Region 5 (Billings) (406) 247-2940 fwprg52@mt.gov Region 6 (Glasgow) (406) 228-3700 fwprg62@mt.gov Region 7 (Miles City) (406) 234-0900 fwprg72@mt.gov

Montana Department of Agriculture
General Contact Information: https://agr.mt.gov/About/Office-Locations/Office-Locations-and-Field-Offices
Noxious Weeds: https://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Permitting and Operator Assistance for all Environmental Permits: https://deq.mt.gov/Permitting

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Overview of, and contacts for, licenses and permits for state lands, water, and forested lands: https://dnrc.mt.gov/Permits-Services

Stream Permitting (310 permits) and an overview of various water and stream related permits (e.g., Stream Protection Act 124, Federal Clean Water Act 404, Federal Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10, Short-term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity 318 Authorization, etc.).
https://dnrc.mt.gov/Licenses-and-Permits/Stream-Permitting

Wildfire Resources: https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire

Bureau of Land Management

Montana Field Office Contacts:

Billings	(406) 896-5013
Butte	(406) 533-7600
Dillon	(406) 683-8000
Glasgow	(406) 228-3750
Havre	(406) 262-2820
Lewistown	(406) 538-1900
Malta	(406) 654-5100
Miles City	(406) 233-2800
Missoula	(406) 329-3914

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Montana Regulatory Office for federal permits related to construction in water and wetlands
https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Montana/ (406) 441-1375

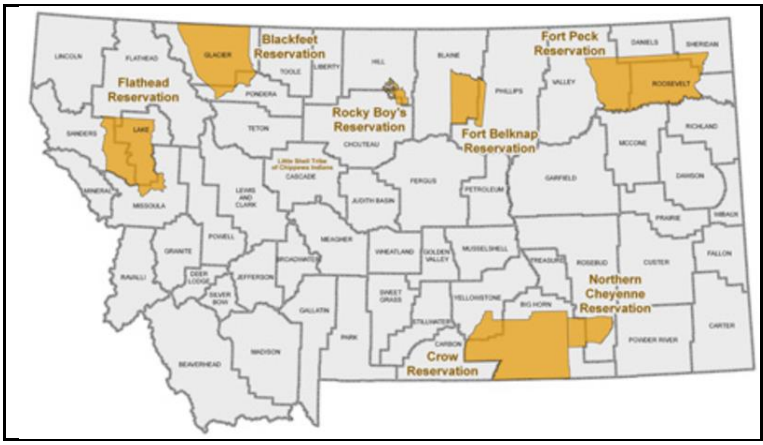
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental information, notices, permitting, and contacts https://www.epa.gov/mt
Gateway to state resource locators https://www.envcap.org/srl/index.php

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Information Planning and Conservation (IPAC) website: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov
Montana Ecological Services Field Office: https://www.fws.gov/office/montana-ecological-services (406) 449-5225

United States Forest Service

Regional Office – Missoula, Montana Contacts			
Wildlife Program Leader	Tammy Fletcher	tammy.fletcher2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3086
Wildlife Ecologist	Cara Staab	cara.staab@usda.gov	(406) 329-3677
Aquatic Ecologist	Justin Jimenez	justin.jimenez@usda.gov	(435) 370-6830
TES Program	Lydia Allen	lydia.allen@usda.gov	(406) 329-3558
Interagency Grizzly Bear Coordinator	Scott Jackson	scott.jackson@usda.gov	(406) 329-3664
Regional Botanist	Amanda Hendrix	amanda.hendrix@usda.gov	(651) 447-3016
Regional Vegetation Ecologist	Mary Manning	marry.manning@usda.gov	(406) 329-3304
Invasive Species Program Manager	Michelle Cox	michelle.cox2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3669

Tribal Nations



[Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes – Fort Belknap Reservation]
[Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes – Fort Peck Reservation]
[Blackfeet Tribe - Blackfeet Reservation]
[Chippewa Creek Tribe - Rocky Boy's Reservation]
[Crow Tribe – Crow Reservation]
[Little Shell Chippewa Tribe]
[Northern Cheyenne Tribe – Northern Cheyenne Reservation]
[Salish & Kootenai Tribes - Flathead Reservation]

Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers in Surrounding States and Provinces

[Alberta Conservation Information Management System]
[British Columbia Conservation Data Centre]
[Idaho Natural Heritage Program]
[North Dakota Natural Heritage Program]
[Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre]
[South Dakota Natural Heritage Program]
[Wyoming Natural Diversity Database]

Invasive Species Management Contacts and Information

Aquatic Invasive Species

[Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Aquatic Invasive Species staff]
[Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program]
[Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC)]
[Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3)]

Noxious Weeds

[Montana Weed Control Association Contacts Webpage]
[Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project]
[Montana Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weeds]
[Montana Weed Control Association]
[Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - Noxious Weeds]
[Montana State University Integrated Pest Management Extension]
[Integrated Noxious Weed Management after Wildfires]
[Fire Management and Invasive Plants]

Introduction to Native Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: (1) Species Occurrences (SO) for plant and animal Species of Concern, Special Status Species (SSS), Important Animal Habitat (IAH) and some Potential Plant Species of Concern; (2) other observed non Species of Concern or Species of Concern without suitable documentation to create Species Occurrence polygons; and (3) other non-documented species that are potentially present based on their range, predicted suitable habitat model output, or presence of associated habitats. Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of Species Occurrences and associated delineation criteria for construction of these polygons that have long been used for considerations of documented Species of Concern in environmental reviews; (2) the number of observations of each species; (3) the geographic range polygons for each species that the report area overlaps; (4) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (5) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the Montana Field Guide; and (6) a variety of conservation status ranks and links to species accounts in the Montana Field Guide. Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers below or are defined on our Species Status Codes page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document native and introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are restricted by budgets, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**

If you are aware of observation datasets that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov If you have animal or plant observations that you would like to contribute, you can also submit them via Excel spreadsheets, geodatabases, iNaturalist, or a Survey123 form. Various methods of data submission are reviewed in this playlist of videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRaydtZpHu2qOHPoSPq9cnM9uXGmEXACx

Observations

The MTNHP manages information on several million animal and plant observations that have been reported by professional biologists and private citizens from across Montana. The majority of these observations are submitted in digital format from standardized databases associated with research or monitoring efforts and spreadsheets of incidental observations submitted by professional biologists and amateur naturalists. At a minimum, accepted observation records must contain a credible species identification (i.e. appropriate geographic range, date, and habitat and, if species are difficult to identify, a photograph and/or notes on key identifying features), a date or date range, observer name, locational information (ideally with latitude and longitude in decimal degrees), notes on numbers observed, and species behavior or habitat use (e.g., is the observation likely associated with reproduction). Bird records are also required to have information associated with date-appropriate breeding or overwintering status of the species observed. MTNHP reviews observation records to ensure that they are mapped correctly, occur within date ranges when the species is known to be present or detectable, occur within the known seasonal geographic range of the species, and occur in appropriate habitats. MTNHP also assigns each record a locational uncertainty value in meters to indicate the spatial precision associated with the record's mapped coordinates. Only records with locational uncertainty values of 10,000 meters or less are included in environmental summary reports and number summaries are only provided for records with locational uncertainty values of 1,000 meters or less.

Species Occurrences

The MTNHP evaluates plant and animal observation records for species of higher conservation concern to determine whether they are worthy of inclusion in the Species Occurrence (SO) layer for use in environmental reviews; observations not worthy of inclusion in this layer include long distance dispersal events, migrants observed away from key migratory stopover habitats, and winter observations. An SO is a polygon depicting what is known about a species occupancy from direct observation with a defined level of locational uncertainty and any inference that can be made about adjacent habitat use from the latest peer-reviewed science. If an observation can be associated with a map feature that can be tracked (e.g., a wetland boundary for a wetland associated plant) then this polygon feature is used to represent the SO. Areas that can be inferred as probable occupied habitat based on direct observation of a species location and what is known about the foraging area or home range size of the species may be incorporated into the SO. Species Occurrences generally belong to one of the following categories:

Plant Species Occurrences

A documented location of a specimen collection or observed plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and their spatial proximity likely allows them to interbreed). Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Plant SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Potential Species of Concern.

Animal Species Occurrences

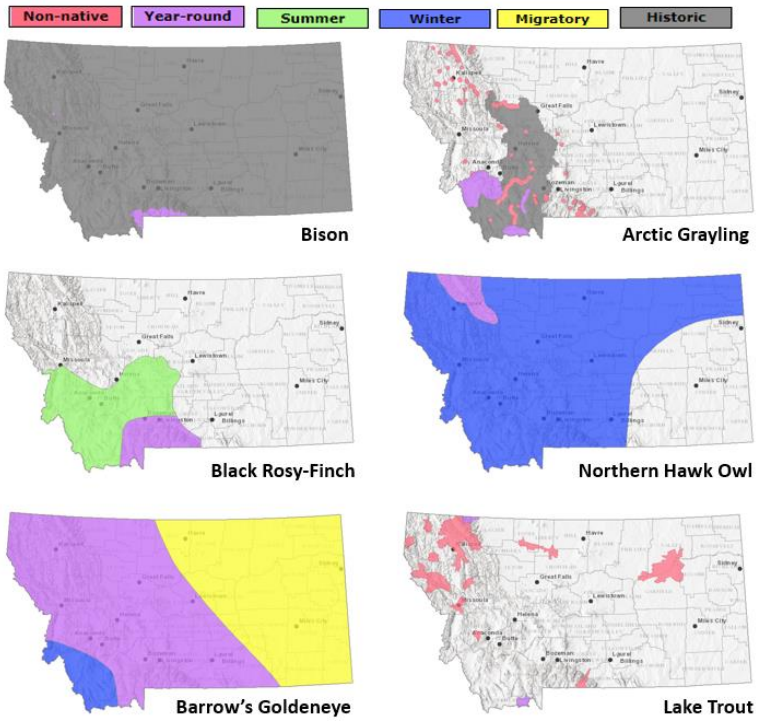
The location of a verified observation or specimen record typically known or assumed to represent a breeding population or a portion of a breeding population. Animal SO's are generally: (1) buffers of terrestrial point observations based on documented species' home range sizes; (2) buffers of stream segments to encompass occupied streams and immediate adjacent riparian habitats; (3) polygonal features encompassing known or likely breeding populations (e.g., a wetland for some amphibians or a forested portion of a mountain range for some wide-ranging carnivores); or (4) combinations of the above. Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Species Occurrence polygons may encompass some unsuitable habitat in some instances in order to avoid heavy data processing associated with clipping out habitats that are readily assessed as unsuitable by the data user (e.g., a point buffer of a terrestrial species may overlap into a portion of a lake that is obviously inappropriate habitat for the species). Animal SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Special Status Species (e.g., Bald Eagle).

Other Occurrence Polygons

These include significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as Important Animal Habitats like bird rookeries and bat roosts, and peatlands or other wetland and riparian communities that support diverse plant and animal communities.

Geographic Range Polygons

Geographic range polygons are still under development for most plant and invertebrate species. Native year-round, summer, winter, migratory and historic geographic range polygons as well as polygons for introduced populations have been defined for most vertebrate animal species for which there are enough observations, surveys, and knowledge of appropriate seasonal habitat use to define them (see examples to left). These native or introduced range polygons bound the extent of known or likely occupied habitats for non-migratory and relative sedentary species and the regular extent of known or likely occupied habitats for migratory and long-distance dispersing species; polygons may include unsuitable intervening habitats. For most species, a single polygon can represent the year-round or seasonal range, but breeding ranges of some colonial nesting water birds and some introduced species are represented more patchily when supported by data. Some ranges are mapped more broadly than actual distributions in order to be visible on statewide maps (e.g., fish).



Predicted Suitable Habitat Models

Predicted habitat suitability models have been created for plant and animal Species of Concern and are undergoing development for non-Species of Concern. For species for which models have been completed, the environmental summary report includes simple rule-based associations with streams for aquatic species and seasonal habitats for game species as well as mathematically complex Maximum Entropy models (Phillips et al. 2006, Ecological Modeling 190:231-259) constructed from a variety of statewide biotic and abiotic layers and presence only data for individual species for most terrestrial species. For the Maximum Entropy models, we reclassified 90 x 90-meter continuous model output into suitability classes (unsuitable, low, moderate, and optimal) then aggregated that into the one square mile hexagons used in the environmental summary report; this is the finest spatial scale we suggest using this information in management decisions and survey planning. Full model write ups for individual species that discuss model goals, inputs, outputs, and evaluation in much greater detail are posted on the MTNHP's Predicted Suitable Habitat Models webpage. Evaluations of predictive accuracy and specific limitations are included with the metadata for models of individual species. **Model outputs should not be used in place of on-the-ground surveys for species. Instead model outputs should be used in conjunction with habitat evaluations to determine the need for on-the-ground surveys for species.** We suggest that the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of commonly associated habitats to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning.

Associated Habitats

Within the boundary of the intersected hexagons, we provide the approximate percentage of commonly or occasionally associated habitat for vertebrate animal species that regularly breed, overwinter, or migrate through the state; a detailed list of commonly and occasionally associated habitats is provided in individual species accounts in the Montana Field Guide We assigned common or occasional use of each of the ecological

systems mapped in Montana by: (1) using personal knowledge and reviewing literature that summarizes the breeding, overwintering, or migratory habitat requirements of each species; (2) evaluating structural characteristics and distribution of each ecological system relative to the species' range and habitat requirements; (3) examining the observation records for each species in the state-wide point observation database associated with each ecological system; and (4) calculating the percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system to get a measure of numbers of observations versus availability of habitat. Species that breed in Montana were only evaluated for breeding habitat use, species that only overwinter in Montana were only evaluated for overwintering habitat use, and species that only migrate through Montana were only evaluated for migratory habitat use. In general, species were listed as associated with an ecological system if structural characteristics of used habitat documented in the literature were present in the ecological system or large numbers of point observations were associated with the ecological system. However, species were not listed as associated with an ecological system if there was no support in the literature for use of structural characteristics in an ecological system, even if point observations were associated with that system. Common versus occasional association with an ecological system was assigned based on the degree to which the structural characteristics of an ecological system matched the preferred structural habitat characteristics for each species as represented in the scientific literature. The percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system was also used to guide assignment of common versus occasional association.

We suggest that the percentage of commonly associated habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat from predictive models to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning. Users of this information should be aware that land cover mapping accuracy is particularly problematic when the systems occur as small patches or where the land cover types have been altered over the past decade. Thus, particular caution should be used when using the associations in assessments of smaller areas (e.g., evaluations of public land survey sections).

Introduction to Land Cover

Land Use/Land Cover is one of 15 Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The layer records all Montana natural vegetation, land cover and land use, classified from satellite and aerial imagery, mapped at a scale of 1:100,000, and interpreted with supporting ground-level data. The baseline map is adapted from the Northwest ReGAP (NWGAP) project land cover classification, which used 30m resolution multi-spectral Landsat imagery acquired between 1999 and 2001. Vegetation classes were drawn from the Ecological System Classification developed by NatureServe (Comer et al. 2003). The land cover classes were developed by Anderson et al. (1976). The NWGAP effort encompasses 12 map zones. Montana overlaps seven of these zones. The two NWGAP teams responsible for the initial land cover mapping effort in Montana were Sanborn and NWGAP at the University of Idaho. Both Sanborn and NWGAP employed a similar modeling approach in which Classification and Regression Tree (CART) models were applied to Landsat ETM+ scenes. The Spatial Analysis Lab within the Montana Natural Heritage Program was responsible for developing a seamless Montana land cover map with a consistent statewide legend from these two separate products. Additionally, the Montana land cover layer incorporates several other land cover and land use products (e.g., MSDI Structures and Transportation themes and the Montana Department of Revenue Final Land Unit classification) and reclassifications based on plot-level data and the latest NAIP imagery to improve accuracy and enhance the usability of the theme. Updates are done as partner support and funding allow, or when other MSDI datasets can be incorporated. Recent updates include fire perimeters and agricultural land use (annually), energy developments such as wind, oil and gas installations (2014), roads, structures and other impervious surfaces (various years): and local updates/improvements to specific ecological systems (e.g., central Montana grassland and sagebrush ecosystems). Current and previous versions of the Land Use/Land Cover layer with full metadata are available for download from the Montana State Library's GIS Data List More information on the land cover layer is available at: https://msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/msdi/land_use_land_cover/

Within the report area you have requested, land cover is summarized by acres of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Ecological Systems.

Literature Cited

Anderson, J.R. E.E. Hardy, J.T. Roach, and R.E. Witmer. 1976. A land use and land cover classification system for use with remote sensor data. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 964.

Comer, P., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Evans, S. Gawler, C. Josse, G. Kittel, S. Menard, M. Pyne, M. Reid, K. Schulz, K. Snow, and J. Teague. 2003. Ecological systems of the United States: A working classification of U.S. terrestrial systems. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.

Introduction to Wetland and Riparian

Within the report area you have requested, wetland and riparian mapping is summarized by acres of each classification present. Summaries are only provided for modern MTNHP wetland and riparian mapping and not for outdated (NWI Legacy) or incomplete (NWI Scalable) mapping efforts; described here. MTNHP has made all three of these datasets and associated metadata available for separate download on the Montana Wetland and Riparian Framework web page.

Wetland and Riparian mapping is one of 15 Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The wetland and riparian framework layer consists of spatial data representing the extent, type, and approximate location of wetlands, riparian areas, and deep water habitats in Montana.

Wetland and riparian mapping is completed through photointerpretation of 1-m resolution color infrared aerial imagery acquired from 2005 or later. A coding convention using letters and numbers is assigned to each mapped wetland. These letters and numbers describe the broad landscape context of the wetland, its vegetation type, its water regime, and the kind of alterations that may have occurred. Ancillary data layers such as topographic maps, digital elevation models, soils data, and other aerial imagery sources are also used to improve mapping accuracy. Wetland mapping follows the federal Wetland Mapping Standard and classifies wetlands according to the Cowardin classification system of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (Cowardin et al. 1979, FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee 2013). Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands differently than the NWI. Similar coding, based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conventions, is applied to riparian areas (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). These are mapped areas where vegetation composition and growth is influenced by nearby water bodies, but where soils, plant communities, and hydrology do not display true wetland characteristics. **These data are intended for use at a scale of 1:12,000 or smaller. Mapped wetland and riparian areas do not represent precise boundaries and digital wetland data cannot substitute for an on-site determination of jurisdictional wetlands.**

See detailed overviews, with examples, of both wetland and riparian classification systems and associated codes as a storymap and companion guide

Literature Cited

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79/31. Washington, D.C. 103pp.

Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2013. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. FGDC-STD-004-2013. Second Edition. Wetlands Subcommittee, Federal Geographic Data Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. 2009. A system for mapping riparian areas in the western United States. Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Branch of Resource and Mapping Support, Arlington, Virginia.

Introduction to Land Management

Within the report area you have requested, land management information is summarized by acres of federal, state, and local government lands, tribal reservation boundaries, private conservation lands, and federal, state, local, and private conservation easements. Acreage for "Owned", "Tribal", or "Easement" categories represents non-overlapping areas that may be totaled. However, "Other Boundaries" represents managed areas such as National Forest boundaries containing private inholdings and other mixed ownership which may cause boundaries to overlap (e.g. a wilderness area within a forest). Therefore, acreages may not total in a straight-forward manner.

Because information on land stewardship is critical to effective land management, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) began compiling ownership and management data in 1997. The goal of the Montana Land Management Database is to manage a single, statewide digital data set that incorporates information from both public and private entities. The database assembles information on public lands, private conservation lands, and conservation easements held by state and federal agencies and land trusts and is updated on a regular basis. Since 2011, the Information Management group in the Montana State Library's Digital Library Division has led the Montana Land Management Database in partnership with the MTNHP.

Public and private conservation land polygons are attributed with the name of the entity that owns it. The data are derived from the statewide Montana Cadastral Parcel layer Conservation easement data shows land parcels on which a public agency or qualified land trust has placed a conservation easement in cooperation with the landowner. The dataset contains no information about ownership or status of the mineral estate. For questions about the dataset or to report errors, please contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-5363 or mtnhp@mt.gov. You can download various components of the Land Management Database and view associated metadata at the Montana State Library's GIS Data List at the following links:

Public Lands
Conservation Easements
Private Conservation Lands
Managed Areas

Map features in the Montana Land Management Database or summaries provided in this report are not intended as a legal depiction of public or private surface land ownership boundaries and should not be used in place of a survey conducted by a licensed land surveyor. Similarly, map features do not imply public access to any lands. The Montana Natural Heritage Program makes no representations or warranties whatsoever with respect to the accuracy or completeness of this data and assumes no responsibility for the suitability of the data for a particular purpose. The Montana Natural Heritage Program will not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of errors displayed here. Consumers of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the viability of the information for their purposes.

Introduction to Invasive and Pest Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: Aquatic Invasive Species, Noxious Weeds, Agricultural Pests, Forest Pests, and Biocontrol species that have been documented or potentially occur there based on the predicted suitability of habitat. Definitions for each of these invasive and pest species categories can be found on our Species Status Codes page.

Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of observations of each species; (2) the geographic range polygons for each species, if developed, that the report area overlaps; (3) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (4) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the Montana Field Guide; and (5) links to species accounts in the Montana Field Guide. Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers under the Introduction to Native Species above or are defined on our Species Status Codes page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what invasive and pest species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are limited, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**

If you are aware of observation or survey datasets for invasive or pest species that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Coordinator bmaxell@mt.gov Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov If you have animal or plant observations that you would like to contribute, you can also submit them via Excel spreadsheets, geodatabases, iNaturalist, or a Survey123 form. Various methods of data submission are reviewed in this playlist of videos:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRaydtZpHu2qOHPoSPq9cnM9uXGmEXACx

Additional Information Resources

- MTNHP Staff Contact Information
- Montana Field Guide
- MTNHP Species of Concern Report - Animals and Plants
- MTNHP Species Status Codes - Explanation
- MTNHP Predicted Suitable Habitat Models (for select Animals and Plants)
- MTNHP Request Information page
- Montana Cadastral
- Montana Code Annotated
- Montana Fisheries Information System
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Subdivision Recommendations
- Montana GIS Data Layers
- Montana GIS Data Bundler
- Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Project Submittal Site
- Montana Ground Water Information Center
- Montana Index of Environmental Permits, 21st Edition (2018)
- Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
- Montana Environmental Policy Act Analysis Resource List
- Laws, Treaties, Regulations, and Agreements on Animals and Plants
- Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure Layers
- Montana State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance
- Montana Stream Permitting: a guide for conservation district supervisors and others
- Montana Water Information System
- Montana Web Map Services
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Penalties for Misuse of Fish and Wildlife Location Data (MCA 87-6-222)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (Section 7 Consultation)
- Web Soil Survey Tool

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
Town of Westby Water System Improvements
6/21/23
Town of Westby
Westby, Montana
Sheridan County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Background:

The Town of Westby's (Town) water system was un-metered until the recent purchase and installation of the water meters in November 2021. The Town's metering system will be installed in response to the connection to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System. The Town has also identified four locations where new water valves are needed and hydrants need to be replaced.

Scope of Work:

The goal of the Town of Westby Water System Improvements project is to increase water use efficiency and provide a safe, reliable water supply to the community. To accomplish this goal, ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant funds will be used to reimburse eligible expenses for engineering design, construction engineering and construction.

Construction-related activities include:

- Installing new water meters,
- Purchasing and install new fire hydrants, valves and associated components.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and must meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Project Schedule:

Project Engineering Phase	Project Bidding Phase	Project Construction Phase
Completed: May 2023	Estimated Completion: June 2023	Estimated Completion: October 2023

DNRC will approve the grant AND/OR loan to provide funding for the Town of Westby Water Systems Improvement Project.

Project Area:

Figure 3.1
Existing Water System

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Seth Shteir	
	Title:	ARPA Grant Manager	**Date:** 6/21/23
	Email:	seth.shteir2@mt.gov	

Approved By:	**Name**:	Autumn Coleman
	Title:	Bureau Chief
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC830481...	**Date**: 7/20/2023 | 8:54:42 AM MDT

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Town of Westby Water System Improvements

Brief Description: The goal of the Town of Westby Water System Improvements project is to increase water use efficiency and provide a safe, reliable water supply to the community. To accomplish this goal, ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant funds will be used to reimburse eligible expenses for engineering design, construction engineering and construction. Construction-related activities include: Installing new water meters, Purchasing and install new fire hydrants, valves and associated components.

Agreement Number: AM-23-0325

Date: 6/21/2023

Preparer: Seth Shteir

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Seth Shteir, ARPA Grant Manager

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

7/18/2023 | 2:18:19 PM MDT

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
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Conservation and Resource Development Division
Environmental Checklist Instructions

Purpose of This Document:

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Consideration of these impacts on the location, design, or construction actions may help avoid expensive costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it results in significant environmental degradation.

DNRC requires compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) per state law and associated DNRC Administrative Rules (ARM 36.2.523). MEPA requires state agencies to prepare a detailed statement on any project, program, or activity directly undertaken by the agency; a project or activity supported through a contract, grant, subsidy, loan, or other form of funding assistance from the agency; and a project or activity involving the issuance of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or permission by the agency (MCA Title 75, Chapter 1). Thus, all project applications will be subject to MEPA review.

What Does This Mean for Applicants?

- ☐ All applicants must complete the Environmental Checklist in its entirety and provide sufficient documentation on public participation.
- ☐ Public participation, or scoping, of the project must include stakeholder, landowner, and community engagement. These efforts can be in the form of documented public meetings (e.g., meeting minutes, pdf presentations) or letters of support.
  - The public meeting must be properly noticed (advertised) and the public must be provided with an opportunity at the meeting to comment on the project.
  - Minutes of the meeting should reflect what was discussed about the project, including all comments received from the public.
  - Letters of support must be included from any identified or interested stakeholders.
- ☐ Agency Comment Letters (see instructions below)
- ☐ Please submit these items with your application.
- ☐ Provide Affidavit of Publication or Meeting Minutes for the public comment period notice on the draft EA

How Will DNRC Use the Information Provided?

The information provided within the Environmental Checklist will be subject to a MEPA review by DNRC. If this review should result in an Environmental Assessment, please be aware that DNRC will draft the Environmental Assessment. The drafted Environmental Assessment decision will be posted for a public comment period of up to 30 days dependent on the level of environmental impact.

When the draft EA is posted, we require the project proponent to post the notice in either one local newspaper outlet in the legal advertising section or provide the notice during a publicly held meeting. The applicant must then provide the affidavit of publication if posted in the newspaper or meeting minutes if discussed in a public meeting. Please note this public comment period does not suffice for the public participation component mentioned above. The MEPA document will then require a final decision by DNRC before funds are awarded.

It is also important to note for projects with no environmental impacts, or those that do not lead directly to construction or any other sort of environmental degradation, will not be subject to an environmental assessment and the checklist/public participation does not need to be completed. Examples of these sorts of activities include, but are not limited to, development of a PER (professional engineering report), planning, and education/informational outreach. Please let us know if there are additional questions on what other projects may fall under this category.

Instructions:

Complete the Environmental Checklist on the following pages after the instructions below. DNRC retains the ultimate decision-making authority on all MEPA decisions. If DNRC determines this section to be incomplete, additional information will be required before consideration for funding.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

1. **Impact Code:** In the first column, identify the impact that the preferred alternative will have on each resource (e.g. 1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints) in the project area. Select from the following impact codes:
   - *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.

   Please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. 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. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**

1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

2. **Impact Type:** In the second column, identify the type(s) of impact to the resource from the preferred alternative. (Impacts may be direct, indirect or cumulative).
    - *Direct impacts*: Occur at the same time and place as the proposed project.
    - *Indirect or secondary impacts*: Occur at a different location or later time than the proposed project.
    - *Cumulative impacts*: 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.

    Just as above, please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. 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. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

3. **Permits/Mitigation Required:** In the third column, please select if a permit and/or mitigation is required for the project (e.g., 310, USACE Section 404 Nationwide).
    - Please make sure to include which permits (if any) are required for the particular resource and what mitigation techniques will be used if impacts are to occur.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**

1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

4. **Explanation of Impact to Resource:** In the final column, use the space provided on the Environmental Checklist to summarize the following information:
    - ***Current Conditions***
        - Describe the current environmental resources of the affected area including the impact of no action. Your description of the current natural resources will provide a baseline to compare all alternatives and their associated environmental impacts.
    - ***Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:***
        - Describe the impact of the preferred alternative or ***indicate why there is no impact*** from the project.
        - Identify any reasonable cumulative impacts that may result from implementing the preferred alternative. 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.
        - 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:
                - 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 with a discussion on the effects of those mitigative measures on the proposed project.
        - Identify any required permits.

5. **Additional Information:** Underneath the table the following information must be provided:
    - Cultural Survey Acknowledgement
    - Sources of Information: Identify all sources consulted for the completion of the Environmental Checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the persons, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance.

Certain sections of this Environmental Checklist require specialized knowledge. Please contact the following agencies and attach comments provided by those agencies to your application. Below are contacts for certain sections that require additional review by other agencies:

- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #5*** **– Surface Water Quality** – Montana Department of Environmental Quality, (406) 444 - 3080.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #6*** **– Floodplains and Floodplain Management** – Contact the Local Floodplain Administrator for your County and/or Community

(http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/floodplain-management/contacts/20210924FPAs2021.1.pdf) or visit the Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Division, (406) 444 – 0860, http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/floodplain-management.

- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #7*** **– Wetlands** – U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, (406) 441 - 1375 or montana.reg@usace.army.mil.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #9*** **– Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats** – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Office (406) 444 - 2612 or find your Regional Office at https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/contact-us.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #10*** **– Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation on potential impacts to endangered or limited plants, fish, or other wildlife, (406) 449 - 5225.
- *Human Environment,* ***Section #4*** **– Historic Properties, Cultural or Archaeological Resources –** Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), (406) 444 - 7767 or dmurdo@mt.gov.

For assistance in preparing the Environmental Checklist, contact DNRC grant manager listed on grant application.

Environmental Checklist

Environmental Checklist Prepared by: On: Click or tap to enter a date.

Greg Lukasik	Great West Engineering
Name of Person 1 406-652-5000	Organization glukasik@greatwesteng.com
Phone Number Autumn Holman	Email Great West Engineering
Name of Person 2 406-652-5000	Organization aholman@greatwesteng.com
Phone Number	Email

Click or tap here to enter text.

List additional people above. Include organization, phone number and email for all.

Physical Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No impacts to the surrounding environment will occur from this work. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No hazardous facilities will be impacted from this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No impacts to air quality will occur from this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not disturb any groundwater aquifers. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not disturb any surface water bodies. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project is not located within a floodplain. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project is not located within any wetlands. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project is located within town limits and not in agricultural lands. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project is located within town limits and will not disturb and vegetation or wildlife habitats. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: There are no unique environmental resources located within town limits or near the project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: There are no unique natural features located within town limits or near the project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways (including Federally Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers), and Public Open Space			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No public access will be impacted from this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No visual impacts will be impacted as a result of this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No nuisances will be created from this projet. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (example: aircraft, highways and railroads.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No long tern noise sources will be created from this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources***(Please see end of Environmental Checklist for details if Cultural Survey has not been performed per SHPO Section 106)*			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No historical or cultural properties will be impacted. This project replaces existing infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No demographic changes will occur as a result of this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not impact housing. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Businesses or Residents (example: loss of, displacement, or relocation)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not displace or relocate any residents or businesses. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Public Health and Safety			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: This project will improve public health by upgraded existing fire hydrants. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
9. Local Employment – Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Contractor's on this project will have the opportunity to hire local workers. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Income Patterns – Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not change income patterns. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not cause a measureable increase in tax revenues to the Town or State. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not address community service areas. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities – Production and Activity, Growth or Decline			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project is not located next to or within industrial or commercial facilities. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
14. Social Structures and Mores (example: standards of social conduct/social conventions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not impact social structures. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No changes to land use are expected with this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
16. Energy Resources – Consumption and Conservation			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not increase or decrease energy usage. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
17. Solid Waste Management			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will not impact solid waste facilities or management. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not impact wastewater treatment. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not impact storm water drainage patterns. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
20. Community Water Supply			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will replace outdated water system infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

21. Fire Protection – Hazards			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project replaces fire hydrants to aid in fire protection. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No cultural facilities will be impacted from this project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
23. 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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: No transporation networks will be disturbed. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
24. 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	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project will change or violate any local ordinances, resolutions or plans. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
25. Private Property Rights (example: a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: All work will be completed within public right of way. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
26. Environmental Justice (example: does the project avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project benefits all residents of the Town equally. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
27. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos (example: does the project replace asbestos-lined pipes? Do any structures qualify as containing lead-based paint?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: This project does not mitigate any known lead based paint issues. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Information

****If no cultural survey has been performed, or is not expected to be needed, applicant must agree to the following statement:**

☐ I hereby agree that, to my knowledge, there are no cultural or paleontological materials in the proposed project site. If previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during

project related activities, the DNRC grant manager will be notified, and all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Below is a list of electronic resources available for data gathering to aid in the development of the Environmental Checklist:

Abandoned Mines (DEQ): https://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/Programs/aml

Agricultural Statistics (USDA): USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Data and Statistics

Air Quality

- Nonattainment Areas: Plan and Rule Development | Montana DEQ (mt.gov)
- Opening Burning Guidelines: Open Burning | Montana DEQ (mt.gov)

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: https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/CulturalRecords

DEQ data search tools: Montana DEQ's GIS Portal (mt.gov)

- 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: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)

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

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

Geologic Information - MBMG - Publications - Download Geologic Maps (mtech.edu)

Maps of Montana for species observations, land cover, wetland and riparian areas, land management: Montana Natural Heritage Program (mtnhp.org); http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=6

Montana Department of Transportation: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/

- Environmental Manual: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/preface.pdf
- Environmental Manual - Chapter 29, Permits Required: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/Chapter%2029%20PERMITS%20REQUIRED.pdf

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Information System:

- http://bogc.dnrc.mt.gov/webApps/DataMiner/

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, Endangered and Rare Plants, USDA: https://plants.usda.gov/home/raritySearch

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: Search - NATHPO
- Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT): https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/

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

Water

- Stream Record Extension Facilitator, USGS: USGS | National Water Dashboard
- Streamstats basin characteristics, USGS: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/

- Water Resources Division, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water ; ArcGIS Web Application (mt.gov)
- Water Rights Bureau, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights
- Water Right Query System, DNRC: DNRC Water Right Query System (mt.gov)
- 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: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)
- Critical Habitat Mapper, USFWS: http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
- Crucial Areas Planning System/Habitat Assessment Tool: Habitat MT (HB 526) Funded Lands (arcgis.com)
- FWP Contact Map: http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/contactUs/ (includes biologist responsibility areas)
- Maps and GIS Data, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse management, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse habitat conservation program, DNRC: http://sagegrouse.mt.gov/
- Sage grouse habitat map: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/ProgramMap

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Sheridan Rain Garden Construction
September 15, 2023
Ruby Valley Conservation District
Sheridan, Montana
Madison County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this project is to provide a new rain garden as an educational model for the local community to learn about how they can help to reduce nonpoint source pollution in their stormwater runoff and watershed while reducing their own water usage. This educational opportunity will demonstrate to community members that they can do more to benefit the watershed, and that downtown Sheridan could be that much more beneficial to the local conservation movement. The majority of Ruby Valley Conservation District's education and outreach is targeted at larger local landowners such as ranchers, so putting in the effort to show other in-town residents that they can easily make their property more sustainable and more naturally beautiful should be empowering for them. The garden will also utilize a rain capture system, demonstrating how to cut down on water usage. The area is largely in drought, so educating our landowners about rain capture systems will be very beneficial for them and for the ecosystem. The project will also support native plants and pollinators as we will plant seeds provided by the Montana Pollinator Initiative.

The project will consist of three raised garden beds located on a berm behind the office, and each of them will be eight feet by eight feet in size. The berm is slanted, so additional soil will make the garden level across the top, and the constructed garden beds will be used to contain the soil. The garden will host a variety of native and non-native pollinator plants, in addition to a few food crops to provide a root system to the soil. The rain capture system will utilize 45 feet of rain gutters attached to the back side of the building to capture stormwater runoff that flows off of the roof. The gutter will send the water directly into a rain barrel via a rain barrel diverter kit. The rain capture system will provide the garden with the majority of its water. In the case of drought years, additional water will be provided by the town of Sheridan. Upon completion of the project, an educational event will be held for local landowners, in which the project leader will explain the beneficial use of rain gardens and rain capturing systems for both landowners and the environment. Metal signs will also be posted at the project site about the structures so that people can continue to learn about the practices for years to come. A full guide to maintaining and/or expanding the garden will be written by the Big Sky Watershed Corps Member to be passed on to future members, who will be responsible for maintaining the garden and adding their own perspectives to the project.

Designs and materials will all be obtained and completed by August 15th. The rain garden will have its seeds planted and the rain capture system will be constructed by September 15th. An educational lesson and signs describing how rain gardens and rain capture systems work and why

they are a helpful conservation practice will be completed by October 15th. Monitoring and maintenance on the site will continue through November 1st, and a written guide for maintaining the garden in future years will be completed by November 1st as well.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Sheridan Rain Garden Construction Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Actions of Special Nature refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.2.523(5) ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Hailey Graf		
	Title:	CD Specialist	**Date:**	7/12/2023
	Email:	Hailey.graf@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**:	Stephanie Criswell		
	Title:	Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Stephanie Criswell 85393AABE57C4EC...		**Date**:	7/19/2023 | 10:17:45 AM MDT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
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PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Superior Wastewater System Improvements
June 2023
Town of Superior
47.1936, -114.89
Mineral County

Existing Environmental Review Document Attached

Type and Purpose of Action

The Town of Superior (Town) wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTP). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have been undertaken since 1968, including a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

Sludge has accumulated in both wastewater cells, using up valuable treatment volume, and debris is clogging aerators. The existing lagoon liners are the original liners installed as part of the 1969 lagoon construction project. Aged liners are showing signs of damage at the overflow piping between Cell #1 and Cell #2 and the Cell #2 baffle curtain is torn. Upgrades to the wastewater system are necessary to prevent untreated wastewater from leaking into ground and surface water.

The Superior Wastewater System Improvements project will address the system's deficiencies to better protect public health and safety by performing critical improvements to the system.

Construction-related activities include:

- Remove sludge from Cell #1 and Cell #2 using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Repair lagoons subgrade and reshape ponds;
- Replace lagoon liners and Cell #2 baffle curtain;
- Replace existing blower building and blowers with variable-frequency drives (VFDs);
- Replace aeration piping and diffusers;
- Install new water service for ultraviolet (UV) Building; and
- Construct new Headworks Building in front of lift station.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and must meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

The project planning and design phase is estimated to be completed November 2023. The project bidding phase is estimated to be completed February 2024. The project construction phase is estimated to be completed December 2024.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Superior Wastewater System Improvements Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Michelle McNamee and Melissa Downing		
	Title: ARPA and RRG Grant Managers	**Date:**	6/28/23
	Email: mmcnamee@mt.gov and melissa.downing@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 877FC22FC8864B1...	**Date**:	7/20/2023 | 8:54:02 AM MDT

Environmental Checklist

SUPERIOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
SUPERIOR, MONTANA

Proposed Action: The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have transpired since 1968 including most recently a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

There are several problems with the Superior wastewater treatment and collection system including:

- Portions of the collection and treatment system have exceeded their useful life and are in need of replacement. Sections of sewer main cannot be accessed by the Town's cleaning equipment due to long lengths;
- Several manholes are not accessible due to being paved over or gravel surfacing over the top, restricting access to the sewer manholes and mains;
- Three of the four lift stations, Lift Station #1, #2, and #3 are in need of minor repairs due to corrosion and occasional sewage backups;
- The existing lagoon liners and baffle were installed as part of the 2000 lagoon construction project and are deteriorating. The pond dikes are sinking in a couple locations due to digging by ground squirrels and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats;
- Cell #1 at the Superior WWTP has accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge while Cell #2 had accumulated 0.646 feet of sludge and should be removed;
- The existing blower building at the Town's existing WWTP has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. Blowers are overheating and amp out due to "disposable" wipes clogging the lagoon aerators;
- During construction of the WWTP's UV Building, a water service was not provided. Operators are forced to haul buckets of water to the UV building for housekeeping purposes; and

The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains prone to back-ups and leakage or due to long lengths;
- Expose and raise manhole lids that are currently inaccessible.
- Replace the existing Blower Building and the blowers;
- Install new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Replace the lagoon liners and the Cell #2 baffle;
- Remove sludge using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Construct a new Headworks Building equipped with mechanical screening in front of the lagoons;
- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building; and
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3.

Physical Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☒ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Currently, there are no unsuitable soils, topographic, and/or geologic constraints in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No soils, topographic, or geological conditions are likely to affect the Superior Wastewater Improvements project.
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	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: According to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's *Discover DEQ* web mapping (https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f554f421c3e64f5599e76b5cb8dd3391), hazardous waste sites are located near the project area. These sites include: Flat Creek IMM – Federal Superfund. From 1909 to 1930 and from 1947 to 1953, the Iron Mountain Mine (IMM) operated near Superior, producing silver, gold, lead, copper, and zinc ores. These mining operations produced tailings and soils contaminated with heavy metals. Tailings were brought in to Superior and used for fill materials for yards, roads, etc. In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency began cleanup of the mining waste and the contaminated soils were placed at a repository in Wood Gulch. Petroleum Release Sites – Sixteen (16) petroleum release sites are located in the project planning area (all resolved). Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: While there are hazardous waste sites listed in the project area, there are no known hazardous waste sites located within the project limits. Therefore, no involvement with hazardous material is anticipated as part of this project. If previously unknown contaminants are encountered during construction, MDEQ would be notified and the materials would be removed and disposed of properly. The project will have no involvement with main electrical transmission lines.

3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Air quality within the proposed Superior wastewater improvements project area can be described as good. No violations of state or federal air quality standards are known. The proposed action is located in an unclassifiable/attainment area for air quality under 40 CFR 81.327, as amended. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project may result in a temporary increase in air quality in construction zones. This impact will be short-term and generally confined to the area where construction equipment is operating. Mitigation. The application of water or chemicals to control dust in areas subject to heavy vehicle traffic can be included, if deemed necessary, during the construction of the project. Newly disturbed areas would be promptly reseeded or restored when construction activities are completed.
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Superior's public water is supplied by seven groundwater wells that are drilled and installed into a confined aquifer that is laterally continuous. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The wastewater improvements project will reduce potential groundwater contamination from the collection system and the treatment system that are aged and leaking wastewater.
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☒ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The Clark Fork River is the surface water resources in the vicinity of the project that flows along and forms the boarder of the north edge of Superior. The Town discharges treated wastewater into the Clark Fork River. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Replacement of the failing sewer mains and leaking lagoon liner will prevent untreated wastewater from possible contamination to nearby surface waters. The pond dikes are sinking in a couple locations due to digging by ground squirrels and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats. Dike re-stabilization will prevent the lagoon dikes from failing and allowing untreated wastewater to overflow into the Clark Fork River.

			Removing sludge will improve the quality of the treated wastewater discharged into the Clark Fork River. Construction activities will temporarily disturb soil and could increase the potential for erosion and transport of sediments to surface waters. Permitting: Storm Water Discharge Permit. If construction disturbs more than 1 acre, a General Discharge Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) must be obtained. As a requirement of the Storm Water Discharge Permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) form including a storm water erosion control plan specifying the measures that would be employed during construction to control erosion and sediment transport by storm runoff must be prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. A storm water discharge permit would be obtained by the contractor. Mitigation. Measures to control runoff and erosion from disturbed areas will be required of the Contractor to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction.
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☒ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Flood Insurance Rate Mapping (FIRM) for the Town of Superior #30001280005A effective January 5, 2001 show the project planning area is located in any special flood hazard areas. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Regional Engineer Larry Schock was contacted on January 17, 2022. A response has not been received as of this writing. Permit. If the recommended improvements to the wastewater system are located within the 100-year floodplain, a floodplain development permit will be required.
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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: According to the National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper, various wetlands are located within 1 mile of the proposed project.

			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: It is not anticipated that any designated wetlands will be impacted as part of this project.
8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farmland Protection (example: grazing, forestry, cropland, primeor 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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The proposed project is located in an area that is classified as Prime Farmland if irrigated and Farmland of Local Importance. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was advised of this project by letter dated January 17, 2022. There has been no response as of this writing. The project will be completed in areas that have already been disturbed. Therefore, the project would have no effect on prime or important farmland or forest lands.
9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Typical wildlife species in the area include those found in the intermountain west, including mule deer, whitetail deer, coyote, rabbit, skunk, rodents and others. Common bird species include the black-billed magpie, American robin, Canadian goose, osprey, bald eagle, blackbird, sparrow, warbler, common waterfowl, other raptors, game birds and others. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: This project would not cause any long-term adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat since work is confined to previously disturbed areas within the Town. Short-term impacts on small mammals and bird species may occur during construction. Temporary displacement due to noise or construction activities could affect such species. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) was contacted on January 17, 2022 regarding potential impacts on wildlife and fisheries resources. A response dated January 26, 2022 stated the Department believes the proposed project is needed and would benefit the local residents and aquatic resources associated with the Clark Fort River. According to the response, the MFWP's jurisdiction and interests on the project would pertain to protection of natural stream bank integrity, the vegetative corridor along the river front, and water quality during construction. Some project considerations from the MFWP included:

			• Siting of new infrastructure or expansion of existing facilities should allow for a riparian buffer (typically > 50 ft) between developments and the river high water mark if possible. • Repair or upgrades to lift stations or other infrastructure on the riverbank or beg should be timed appropriately, with minimum disturbance to riparian vegetation. • Facilities planned within the river high water marks should be designed to minimize aesthetic impacts and hazards for recreationists. • Any disturbance to establish vegetation on the riverbanks or riparian corridor should be mitigated through implementation of a revegetation plan. Mitigation. The Contractor will be required to implement erosion control measures and surface areas disturbed by construction will be promptly re-vegetated where needed.
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The following paragraphs discuss unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in the project area: o Threatened or Endangered Wildlife - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted on January 17, 2022 regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species in the project area. There has been no comment as of this writing. According to the Department's online Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website for information on the project area, four threatened species (Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Bull Trout) and one candidate species (Monarch Butterfly) may occur in the project area. There are potentially 2 different migratory birds that may occur in the project area. Critical habitat for Bull Trout is located in the planning area. o Threatened or Endangered Plants - There are two federally-listed threatened plant species in Montana: Spalding's Catchfly and Ute Ladies'-tress. The USFWS does not list any of these species within the project area. o Species of Special Interest or Concern - The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 37 animal species of concern, 1 animal species of special status, 10 plant species of concern, and 1 potential species of concern that have been observed within the Town of Superior and a 10 mile buffer.

			○ Sage Grouse - According to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Map, the project is not located in sage grouse habitat designated as core, general, connectivity habitats or BLM priority areas. Therefore, no further coordination regarding sage grouse is required. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Based on the nature, scope, and location of the recommended improvements, no adverse impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are expected. Mitigation. If active eagle nests are present within 0.5 mile of the project during construction, seasonal restrictions and construction / development distance buffers specified in the 2010 Montana Bald Eagle Management Guidelines: An Addendum to Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (1994) should be followed in order to avoid/minimize the risk for eagle take.
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no known unique natural features located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There are no known unique natural features that are anticipated to be impacted as a result of this project.
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways (including Federally Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers), and Public Open Space			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Access to recreational and wilderness activities, public land and waterways, and public open spaces are located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not affect access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities, public lands and waterways, and public open spaces.

Human Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project would have no long-term adverse effects on the visual quality of the area.

			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Land surfaces would be temporarily disturbed during construction but will be returned to pre-project conditions after construction.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are currently no nuisances in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There are no anticipated nuisances associated with the project.
3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (example: aircraft, highways and railroads.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There is currently suitable separation between housing and other noise sensitive activities within the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Temporary increases in noise would be expected during the construction of the project. Such impacts would be localized to the area of construction and short-term in nature.
4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Montana State Historic Preservation Office was contacted on January 17, 2022 for information regarding previous cultural resource surveys completed and for a listing of previously recording historical and archaeological sites in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: In correspondence dated January 20, 2022, SHPO stated that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. SHPO also stated that they feel there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted as long as there is no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age. SHPO also noted that the fifty-year age requirement does not apply to the cast-iron water mains. Therefore, a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. If structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered, SHPO will be contacted, and the site investigated.
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☒ Permit ☒ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Changes in demographic characteristics is not anticipated. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not have a major impact on the location,

			distribution, density or growth rate of the area's population. The project would not adversely affect any social or ethnic groups and will not isolate or divide existing residential areas.
6. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Housing conditions vary in the vicinity of the project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not have any impact on general housing conditions in the project area including quality, quantity, and affordability.
7. Businesses or Residents (example: loss of, displacement, or relocation)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is located in a residential and commercial area of Superior. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not displace or relocate any businesses or residents in the Superior area.
8. Public Health and Safety			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The treatment facilities are leaking large amounts of raw sewage, contaminating the area soils and groundwater. This poses a significant public health and safety risk. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The proposed improvements to the Town's wastewater system will reduce the amount of wastewater contaminating the areas soils and groundwater that poses a significant public health and safety risk to Town residents.
9. Local Employment – Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the project will temporarily create jobs and the need for local goods and services. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Completion of the project will not cause any long-term changes in local employment.
10. Income Patterns – Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the project will result in short-term economic benefits to the Town of Superior. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Completion of the project will not cause any long-term changes in income pattern in the area.

11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The proposed project will benefit the Town of Superior's local tax base and revenues as well at the State's Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The proposed project will allow the Town's sewer system to operate efficiently and continue to serve the Town's current and future tax base.
12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Community and Government Services and Facilities are located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not adversely affect any educational facilities, health and medical services and facilities, police, emergency medical services, or parks, playgrounds and open spaces.
13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities – Production and Activity, Growth or Decline			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Commercial and industrial facilities are located in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not affect existing commercial or industrial facilities nor affect the production of such facilities.
14. Social Structures and Mores (example: standards of social conduct/social conventions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Social structures can include culture, social class, social status, roles, groups, and social institutions. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not affect social structures or community mores.
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Existing land use in the project area is a mix of residential and commercial businesses. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No major changes in land use within the project area is expected. Any new developments within the community is subject to existing land use plans and land use controls.

16. Energy Resources – Consumption and Conservation			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is not expected to impact energy resources. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no long-lasting adverse impacts on the energy supply of the area. Energy use would increase for a short time during construction of the project due to the need for construction equipment.
17. Solid Waste Management			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Solid waste management occurs within the Town of Superior. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not affect the generation or management of solid waste within the community.
18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The existing lagoon liners were installed as part of the 2000 lagoon construction project. Aged liners are prone to leakage which can contaminate soil, groundwater, and nearby surface waters. The pond dikes are significantly sinking in a couple locations due to leaking liner and ground squirrels digging and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between the cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats. The Cells of the lagoon system have accumulated sludge. Not only does excess sludge reduce treatment capacity, but with reduced treatment capacity it is possible that wastewater does not receive adequate retention time for proper treatment and solids settling. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: With the lagoons remaining in service as the overall treatment process, replacing the liners and baffle will ensure reliable wastewater treatment. Sludge removal from both Cells will increase treatment capacity and treatment efficiency.
19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: According to the Town of Superior's storm water system including underground pipes, roads with drainage systems, gutters, and ditches. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have no long-term effects on storm water and surface drainage in the area.

20. Community Water Supply			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Leaking sewer mains and lagoon liner will allow untreated wastewater to contaminate the surrounding soils and groundwater. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The reduction of leaking untreated wastewater into the surrounding soils by leaking sewer lagoon liner will prevent the nearby community groundwater wells from becoming contaminated.
21. Fire Protection – Hazards			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The Town of Superior provides fire protection to local residents. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would have no effect on the Town's fire protection system or limit the community's fire-fighting capabilities.
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no cultural facilities within the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not affect cultural facilities or the cultural uniqueness and diversity of Superior or Mineral County.
23. 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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Construction of the recommended improvements may cause temporary disturbances to vehicle traffic on local streets and roads in the area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Traffic control plans will be implemented to ensure that alternate routes within the community are available and that work areas are marked to ensure that local traffic is safely accommodate during construction.
24. 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	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is consistent with the Town of Superior's local ordinances, resolutions, and plans. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project would not conflict with any other local ordinances, resolutions, or plans.

25. Private Property Rights (example: a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project would not involve the use of private property. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not involve any regulatory actions that would affect private property rights.
26. Environmental Justice (example: does the project avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project is not located in any area were environmental degradation occurs. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred.
27. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos (example: does the project replace asbestos-lined pipes? Do any structures qualify as containing lead-based paint?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Asbestos-containing materials are any materials such as buildings, manholes, water and sewer mains, etc. that contain more than 1 percent asbestos. Lead-based paint is not known to occur in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will include an asbestos identification inspection be completed in order to determine if there are any asbestos-containing materials that will be encountered during the project. If asbestos-containing materials are encountered, the materials would be removed and properly disposed of by an asbestos abatement certified contractor. Lead-based paint will not be included in the project components.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. ALTERNATIVES: Describe reasonable alternatives to the project.

Below describe the alternatives that were also considered for the Superior wastewater system improvements and the reasons why these alternatives were rejected.

Collection System Improvement Alternatives

- **Collection System Improvement Alternative 1 - No-Action.** This no-action alternative for the collection system improvements was eliminated from consideration because it does not address issues within the wastewater collection system.

- **Collection System Improvement Alternative 2 – Main Replacement Open-Dig Methods.** This alternative has a high capital cost and will impact more land during construction than using cast-in-place pipe (CIPP) to rehabilitate the sewer mains therefore this alternative was eliminated.

Treatment System Alternatives

- **Aeration System Alternative 1 – No Action.** This no action alternative does not address the necessary aeration system upgrades and therefore is not considered further.

- **Aeration System Alternative 3 – Replace Blowers in Existing Building.** Similar to Aeration Alternative 2, this alternative includes replacing the blowers and all mechanical and electrical equipment within the existing blower building. This alternative was not selected due to the lack of size, ventilation and security of the existing blower building.

- **Sludge Removal Alternative 1 – No Action.** The 2016 lagoon performance evaluation determined Superior's primary treatment cell had accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge and secondary cell has accumulated .646 feet of sludge, some of which is accumulating past the baffle in Cell #2 and intruding into the Ultraviolet (UV) structure and discharge wet well. This accumulation occupies valuable capacity and lowers the treatment pond's retention time. Leaving the sludge in the lagoons to continue to accumulate is making the treatment lagoons less efficient and reducing usable lagoon volume.

- **Sludge Removal Alternative 2 – Liquid Land Application.** This alternative has the highest cost of the sludge removal alternatives and includes removal of sludge from the lagoons, hauling the sludge to a nearby agricultural field where the sludge it is subsurface injected. Due to difficulty in finding a landowner willing to accept the sludge and the amount of undesirable inorganic materials in the sludge this alternative was not selected.

- **Lagoon Liner Alternative 1 – No-Action.** If the lagoon liners are compromised there is a possibility groundwater and soil will become contaminated from wastewater leaking past the liners. Calculations have determined that the lagoons experience approximately 50% leakage of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) influent flow. This No-Action alternative would not address lagoon liner leakage which is a risk to human health and safety and aquatic life.

- **WWTP Water Service Alternative 1 – No-Action**. During construction of the UV Building a water service was not included which requires operators to haul water for washdown purposes and cleaning. While operators can continue to carry buckets of water as needed, this is not a convenient or time-effective way to wash down equipment therefore this alternative was not further considered.

- **WWTP Water Service Alternative 2 – UV and Headworks Water Service**. This alternative includes the installation of a 1.5-inch water pipe to the entrance of the WWTP and two water services, one to the existing UV Building and the other to the proposed Headworks Building. The water main provide operators with a way to wash down equipment at both buildings and eliminate the need to haul water.

Headworks Alternatives

- **Headworks Alternative 1 – No- Action.** The Superior wastewater collection system accrues a significant amount of trash and debris which ultimately ends up in the treatment lagoons. Garbage and debris have the potential to clog the Main Lift Station pumps which receive and convey all wastewater collected through the Town to the treatment lagoons. This alternative does not address screening to prevent lift station pump clogging and therefore this alternative was not considered.

- **Headworks Alternative 2 – New Headworks Building Downstream of Main Lift Station.** This alternative includes construction of a new Headworks building which will be constructed near the existing main lift station within the boundary of the wastewater treatment facility. This building will house a new mechanical screen, a manual bar screen and bypass channel, flow measurement equipment, and automatic influent sampling equipment. This alternative would not aid in eliminating potential clogging of the Main Lift Station pumps.

Lift Station Improvement Alternatives

- **Lift Station Improvement Alternative 1 – No-Action.** Lift Station #1, #2 and #3 are in need of maintenance to improve several of the existing wet well components. All three lift stations were upgraded as part of a 2004 project, which included new wet well, pumps, guide rails, piping, hatches, pump removal chains, and valving. The pump removal chains and brackets used to attach the guide rails near the wet well access hatch have experienced significant corrosion and need replaced before reaching failure. If the corrosion is not address operators will have no method of retrieving pumps for maintenance and future replacement. For this reason, the No Action alternative was eliminated as an option.

SCADA System Alternatives

- **SCADA System Alternative 1 – No-Action.** The City's current SCADA system is dated and experiencing a loss of reliability. New RTUs would need to be added each lift station through the collection system and at the WWTP. If the existing SCADA system is not upgraded, the Town would not be able to monitor their wastewater system properly. For this reason, the No-Action Alternative was eliminated from further discussion.

2. **MITIGATION:** Identify any enforceable measures necessary to reduce any impacts to an insignificant level.

Employing erosion control measures is especially important in areas adjacent to surface waters where construction activities could occur adjacent to streams and riparian areas. Measures to control runoff and erosion from disturbed areas will be required of the Contractor to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction.

The application of water or chemicals to control dust in areas subject to heavy vehicle traffic can be included, if deemed necessary, during the construction of the wastewater system improvements. Newly disturbed areas would be promptly reseeded or restored when construction activities are completed.

If cultural resources are encountered during construction of the recommended improvements, work will be suspended in the area so the significance of the material can be investigated. A cultural resources survey will be completed if required by SHPO.

Construction of the recommended improvements may cause temporary disturbances to vehicle traffic on local streets and roads. However, traffic control plans will be implemented to ensure that alternate routes within the community are available and that work areas are marked to ensure that local traffic is safely accommodated during construction.

3. **IS AN EA OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) REQUIRED?** Describe whether or not an EA or EIS is required and explain in detail why or why not.

The recommended wastewater system improvements do not have any significant environmental impacts or require significant mitigation. Therefore, this environmental checklist is adequate according to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

4. **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Describe the process followed to involve the public in the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Identify the public meetings – where and when—the project was considered and discussed, and when the Town approved the final environmental assessment.

A public meeting was held on March 14th, 2022 and again on April 11th, 2022 to inform the public of the recommended improvements and any potential environmental impacts as well as to receive comments on the recommended improvements. The public meeting held on March 14th was advertised in the Mineral Independent on March 2nd and March 9th, 2022 and the public meeting held on April 11th was advertised on in the Missoulian on April 6th to inform the public of the time and location of the meeting. A newsletter was sent out to all utility users as a way to notify the community on possible changes to the wastewater system and inform users of the April 11th, 2022 public meeting on the project.

A notice of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment was advertised in the Mineral Independent on March 9th and 23th, 2022 and the public was given a 30-day comment period.

There were no comments received on the draft Environmental Assessment. The Superior Town Council approved the Final Environmental Assessment on April 11th, 2022.

5. **PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING:** Identify the person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist.

The person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist include:

- Trisha Bodlovic, Project Designer, Robert Peccia & Associates
- Chris Hayes, P.E, Assistant Group Manager, Robert Peccia & Associates

6. **OTHER AGENCIES:** List any state, local, or federal agencies that have over-lapping or additional jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed action and the permits, licenses, and other authorizations required; and list any agencies or groups that were contacted or contributed information to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

The following agencies were contacted about the recommended improvements and for any comments and permitting requirements they may have on the improvements:

- Montana Department of Environmental Quality; General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Joint Application for Work in MT Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains and Other Water Bodies.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Floodplain Development Permitting and Water Rights.
- State Historic Preservation Office.
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Authorized Representative

4/11/2022
Date

Mayor
Title

RESOLUTION NO. 519

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DETERMINATION THAT AN ENVIORNMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE TOWN OF SUPERIOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Superior, Montana commissioned Robert Peccia & Associates to prepare a Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report, an Environmental Checklist, and an Environmental Assessment (EA)to identify potential environmental impacts in response to the wastewater system improvements project;

WHEREAS, the Town of Superior has considered all substantive comments received in response to the draft EA at the formally-advertise comment period and public meeting;

WHEREAS, THE Town of Superior has determined that the wastewater system improvements project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environmental and accordingly the Town of Superior has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that the Town of Superior adopts the final Environmental Assessment for the wastewater improvements project.

PASSED by the Council and approved by the Mayor this 11th day of April, 2022.

Roni Phillips, Mayor

Attest:

Brenda L. Schneider, Town Clerk

TOWN OF SUPERIOR SEAL INCORPORATED 1948 MONTANA

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment
The Town of Superior will be applying for funding from the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) for its upcoming Wastewater Improvements Project. As part of the application requirements by MCEP, an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for this project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the proposed improvements to Town's wastewater facilities and request comments or suggestions that would avoid any major impacts and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.
Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at Robert Peccia & Associates, P.O. Box 5653, Helena, MT 59604. Any person interested in commenting on this Environmental Assessment should submit comments to Trisha Bodlovic at the above address by April 8th, 2022. **Published in the Mineral Independent on March 9 and March 23, 2022. MNAXLP**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Montana)
)
County of Mineral)

Lisa Larson, being first sworn, deposes and says that she is Clerk of the Mineral Independent, a newspaper of general circulation, published and printed in Superior, Mineral County, Montana, and that the attached notice has been correctly published in the regular and entire issue of every number of the Mineral Independent for two (2) weeks, commencing on the 16th day of March, 2022 and published on the following dates thereafter:

March 23, 2022

Signed: Lisa Larson
Lisa Larson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd Day of March, 2022.

Cheryl L Minemyer

CHERYL MINEMYER
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Plains, Montana
My Commission Expires
August 30, 2022

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Sara Nelsen, Support Coordinator
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Director's Office
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Ms. Nelsen:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have transpired since 1968 including most recently a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

There are several problems with the Superior wastewater treatment and collection system including:

- Portions of the collection and treatment system have exceeded their useful life and are in need of replacement. Sections of sewer main cannot be accessed by the Town's cleaning equipment due to long lengths;
- Several manholes are not accessible due to being paved over or gravel surfacing over the top, restricting access to the sewer manholes and mains;
- Three of the four lift stations, Lift Station #1, #2, and #3 are in need of minor repairs due to corrosion and occasional sewage backups;
- The existing lagoon liners and baffle are the original liners installed as part of the 1969 lagoon construction project and are deteriorating. The pond dikes are sinking in a couple locations due to digging by ground squirrels and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats;

Helena
3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

- Cell #1 at the Superior WWTP has accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge while Cell #2 had accumulated 0.646 feet of sludge and should be removed;
- The existing blower building at the Town's existing WWTP has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. Blowers are overheating and amp out due to "disposable" wipes clogging the lagoon aerators;
- During construction of the WWTP's UV Building, a water service was not provided. Operators are forced to haul buckets of water to the UV building for housekeeping purposes; and
- The existing wastewater system SCADA system is dated and failed on recent occasions, backing up wastewater into the lift station and collection system and nearly flooding onto the ground over a weekend without notifying the operators.

The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains prone to back-ups and leakage;
- Expose and raise manhole lids that are currently inaccessible.
- Replace the existing Blower Building and the blowers;
- Install a new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Replace the lagoon liners and the Cell #2 baffle;
- Remove sludge using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Construct a new Headworks Building equipped with mechanical screening;
- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building;
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Jodi Bush
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Ms. Bush:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have transpired since 1968 including most recently a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

There are several problems with the Superior wastewater treatment and collection system including:

- Portions of the collection and treatment system have exceeded their useful life and are in need of replacement. Sections of sewer main cannot be accessed by the Town's cleaning equipment due to long lengths;
- Several manholes are not accessible due to being paved over or gravel surfacing over the top, restricting access to the sewer manholes and mains;
- Three of the four lift stations, Lift Station #1, #2, and #3 are in need of minor repairs due to corrosion and occasional sewage backups;
- The existing lagoon liners and baffle are the original liners installed as part of the 1969 lagoon construction project and are deteriorating. The pond dikes are sinking in a couple locations due to digging by ground squirrels and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats;

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- Cell #1 at the Superior WWTP has accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge while Cell #2 had accumulated 0.646 feet of sludge and should be removed;
- The existing blower building at the Town's existing WWTP has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. Blowers are overheating and amp out due to "disposable" wipes clogging the lagoon aerators;
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- The existing wastewater system SCADA system is dated and failed on recent occasions, backing up wastewater into the lift station and collection system and nearly flooding onto the ground over a weekend without notifying the operators.

The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains prone to back-ups and leakage;
- Expose and raise manhole lids that are currently inaccessible.
- Replace the existing Blower Building and the blowers;
- Install a new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Replace the lagoon liners and the Cell #2 baffle;
- Remove sludge using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Construct a new Headworks Building equipped with mechanical screening;
- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building;
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for such species that occur or may occur in the planning area. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Sage Joyce, P.E.
Montana Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
10 West 15th Street, Suite 2200
Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1375

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Ms. Joyce:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have transpired since 1968 including most recently a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

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Helena, MT 59601
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- Cell #1 at the Superior WWTP has accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge while Cell #2 had accumulated 0.646 feet of sludge and should be removed;
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The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains prone to back-ups and leakage;
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- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building;
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Larry Schock
Regional Engineer Specialist
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Bureau
Missoula Regional Office
P.O. Box 5004
Missoula, MT 59806-5004
406-721-4284

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Mr. Schock:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

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- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. A similar request has been sent to Andy Short, the City of Superior's Floodplain Administrator. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Damon Murdo, Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201802
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Mr. Murdo:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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- During construction of the WWTP's UV Building, a water service was not provided. Operators are forced to haul buckets of water to the UV building for housekeeping purposes; and
- The existing wastewater system SCADA system is dated and failed on recent occasions, backing up wastewater into the lift station and collection system and nearly flooding onto the ground over a weekend without notifying the operators.

The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

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- Install a new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Replace the lagoon liners and the Cell #2 baffle;
- Remove sludge using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Construct a new Headworks Building equipped with mechanical screening;
- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building;
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

In an effort to help us identify any historical or archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, we would like to request a cultural resource file search for the following areas:

T-16-N, R-26-W, Section 3
T-17-N, R-26-W, Sections 27, 28, 34, and 35

Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided.

Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Jen Smitham
Public Comment Coordinator
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
930 W. Custer Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Ms. Smitham:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Town's wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system which was first constructed in 1969. The method of wastewater treatment has not changed since the WWTP's conception. Upgrades and expansion of the Town's collection and treatment system have transpired since 1968 including most recently a new UV building, centralized lift station upgrades, and the 2006 Osprey Drive sewer main project east of Town.

There are several problems with the Superior wastewater treatment and collection system including:

- Portions of the collection and treatment system have exceeded their useful life and are in need of replacement. Sections of sewer main cannot be accessed by the Town's cleaning equipment due to long lengths;
- Several manholes are not accessible due to being paved over or gravel surfacing over the top, restricting access to the sewer manholes and mains;
- Three of the four lift stations, Lift Station #1, #2, and #3 are in need of minor repairs due to corrosion and occasional sewage backups;
- The existing lagoon liners and baffle are the original liners installed as part of the 1969 lagoon construction project and are deteriorating. The pond dikes are sinking in a couple locations due to digging by ground squirrels and have the potential to fail completely. The overflow pad between cells is sinking into the pond due to muskrats;

Helena
3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601
Tele: 406.447.5000
Fax: 406.447.5036
www.rpa-hln.com

- Cell #1 at the Superior WWTP has accumulated 1.987 feet of sludge while Cell #2 had accumulated 0.646 feet of sludge and should be removed;
- The existing blower building at the Town's existing WWTP has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. Blowers are overheating and amp out due to "disposable" wipes clogging the lagoon aerators;
- During construction of the WWTP's UV Building, a water service was not provided. Operators are forced to haul buckets of water to the UV building for housekeeping purposes; and
- The existing wastewater system SCADA system is dated and failed on recent occasions, backing up wastewater into the lift station and collection system and nearly flooding onto the ground over a weekend without notifying the operators.

The Superior wastewater system improvement project includes:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains prone to back-ups and leakage;
- Expose and raise manhole lids that are currently inaccessible.
- Replace the existing Blower Building and the blowers;
- Install a new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Replace the lagoon liners and the Cell #2 baffle;
- Remove sludge using on-site dewatering and landfill disposal methods;
- Construct a new Headworks Building equipped with mechanical screening;
- Supply water to the UV Building and the new Headworks building;
- Improve access and guiderails at existing Lift Stations #1, #2, and #3; and
- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

To satisfy our requirements, please identify any wildlife or fisheries concerns or other issues important to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

RPA

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Travis Lemke
Supervisory District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
Missoula Field Office
3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106
Missoula, MT 59808-5125
406-829-3395

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Mr. Lemke:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

HELENA, MT
KALISPELL, MT
BOZEMAN, MT

January 17, 2022

Andy Short
Floodplain Administrator
City of Superior
P.O. Box 396
Superior, MT 59872
406-822-3525

Subject: Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022
Superior, Montana

Dear Mr. Short:

Our firm was retained by the Town of Superior to complete the *Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report – 2022* and complete funding applications for the improvements. As part of our work for the Town, we are compiling information for an environmental checklist to be included with the document as well as the environmental requirements for funding for the proposed improvements project. Guidelines require us to advise appropriate agencies of the scope of the project and request their comments.

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- Upgrade the entire Wastewater SCADA System.

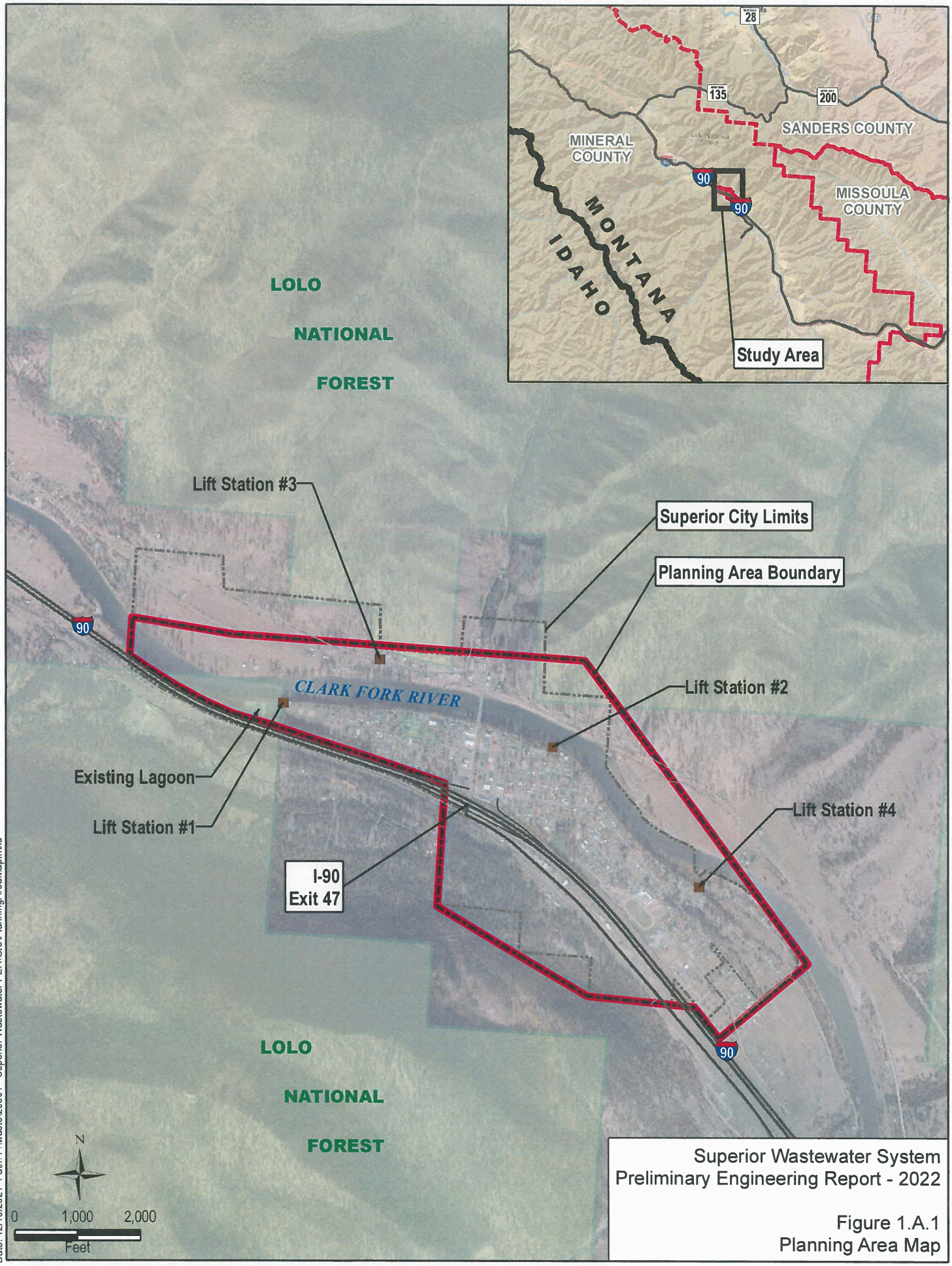
To satisfy our requirements, please identify any additional environmental permitting requirements or other issues of interest to your agency we should consider in the development of this project. Maps showing the planning area and the existing wastewater system components are provided. A similar request has been sent to Larry Schock, Regional Engineer Specialist for the DNRC. Any other statements you may have on this project will help us determine the need for further coordination and for more detailed evaluation for the potential project impacts. If we do not receive a reply, we will assume that your agency has no comments to offer regarding this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hayes, P.E. or me at 406-447-5000 or tbodlovic@rpa-hln.com

Sincerely,
ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

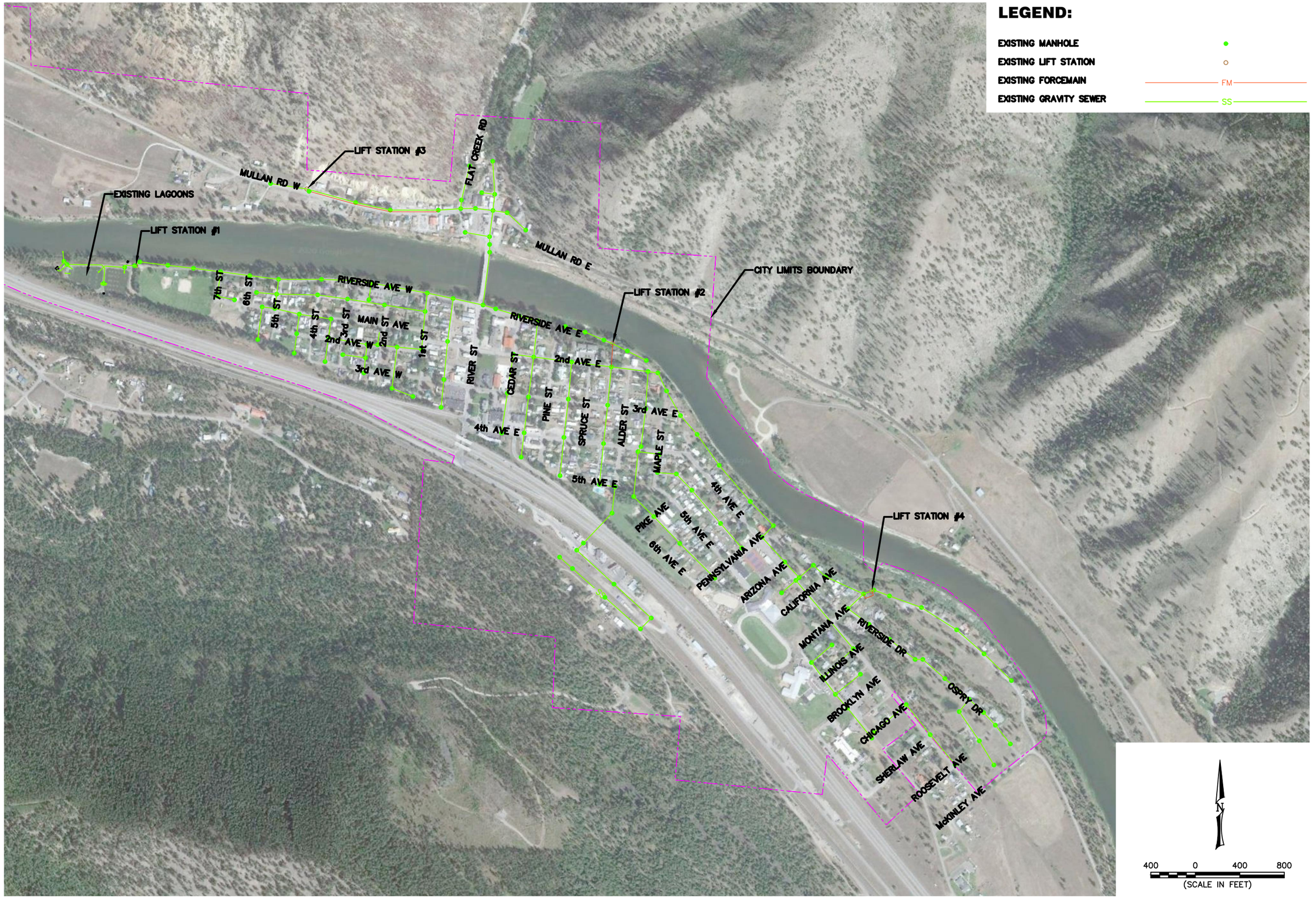
Trisha Bodlovic
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures



Superior Wastewater System
Preliminary Engineering Report - 2022

Figure 1.A.1
Planning Area Map



RPA

SYM	REVISION	BY	APPR.	DATE

DESIGNED BY
DRAWN BY
CHECKED BY
DATE
PROJECT NO.
C-2
FILE

PROJECT TITLE
SUPERIOR WASTEWATER PER
Superior, Montana

SHEET TITLE
EXISTING SEWER SITE PLAN

SHEET
Figure 2.A

F:\waste\20801 – Superior Wastewater PER\Superior\WW–C2D\CADD\SHEETS\C–2.dwg Feb. 16, 2021

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500
January 26, 2022

Robert Peccia & Associates
Attn: Trisha Bodlovic
3147 Saddle Drive
P.O. Box 5653
Helena, MT 59601

RE: FWP Comments – Superior Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report

Dear Ms. Bodlovic:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the preliminary plans for upgrades to the City of Superior's wastewater treatment system. This is a much-needed project that will benefit local residents and aquatic resources associated with the Clark Fork River. We support your efforts and offer comments primarily to streamline the permitting process (where applicable).

FWP's jurisdiction and interest on this project primarily pertains to protection of natural stream bank integrity, the vegetative corridor along the river front, and water quality during construction. If project activities ultimately include work in these areas or on the riverbed, specifications and mitigation aspects will be addressed directly through the Stream Protection Act (SPA-124) permitting process that we administer. We offer the following comments early in your planning process to help ensure resource protection measures are included at the outset.

Project considerations:

- Siting of new infrastructure or expansion of existing facilities should allow for a riparian buffer (typically > 50 ft) between developments and the river high water mark if possible.
- Repair or upgrades to lift stations or other infrastructure on the riverbank or bed should be timed appropriately, with minimal disturbance to riparian vegetation.
- Facilities planned within the river high water marks should be designed to minimize aesthetic impacts and hazards for recreationists.
- Any disturbance to established vegetation on the riverbanks or riparian corridor should be mitigated through implementation of a revegetation plan.

As updated plans for the project are developed, please continue to share them with our area Fisheries Biologist, Ladd Knotek, in Missoula (lknotek@mt.gov, 406-542-5506), who would ultimately review any aspects within the SPA-124 permit jurisdiction.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and let us know if we can be of assistance as plans are developed.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Region 2 Supervisor

From: Andy Short
To: Chris Hayes; Trisha Bodlovic
Cc: Candis Hampton
Subject: RE: Town of Superior - Wastewater PER
Date: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:43:16 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Trisha,

I received your letter concerning the PER for the town of Superior. Depending on where construction takes place on the water system or sewer system a floodplain permit may be required. I believe RPA has all the floodplain GIS layers available so if in doubt please contact my office during preliminary design.

Another item I am interested in is the sewer main that runs along the top of bank behind the house on 4th street. I would like to be involve in discussions if this portion of the sewer system is reviewed for a potential upgrade. The location of this main is problematic from a construction and maintenance access standpoint. If there is any possibility of moving this main into fourth street instead of maintaining the existing location this change would be very beneficial to the town moving forward. There are multiple structures, fences, power lines, decks, outbuildings, and existing landscaping built on or near this easement over the last sixty years. It is also approximately 10 feet from the top of the bank of the Clark for river. Which could be a major concern if a large leak was to take place resulting in massive subsidence to established private property and contamination of the river. Its also going to be a maintenance headache based on the small size of the easement. Some food for thought as the project progresses.

From: Murdo, Damon
To: Trisha Bodlovic
Subject: SUPERIOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM PER - 2022
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:06:49 PM
Attachments: Reports.pdf
Sites.pdf
2022011907.pdf

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society

January 20, 2022

Trisha Bodlovic
RP&A
PO Box 5653
Helena MT 59604

RE: SUPERIOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM PER - 2022. SHPO Project #: 2022011907

Dear Trisha:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 3, T16N R26W and Sections 27, 28, 34, 35, T17N R26W. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. I've attached a list of these sites and reports. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports, you may contact me at the number listed below.

It is SHPO's position that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If any structures are to be altered and are over fifty years old, we would recommend that they be recorded, and a determination of their eligibility be made prior to any disturbance taking place.

As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age and ground disturbance is kept to previously disturbed areas, we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project, we would ask that our office be contacted, and the site investigated.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Montana Cultural Resource Database
CRABS Township,Range,Section Results
Report Date:1/20/2022

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 28

SMITH CHARLINE G.

12/16/1978 SURFACE EXAMINATION OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SLOWAY-SUPERIOR

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 5997 Agency Document Number: I-90-1(13)39

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 27

BABCOCK WILLIAM A.

3/30/1981 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, SUPERIOR-WEST, MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA; PROJECT F70-1(3)0

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 5998 Agency Document Number: F70-1(3)0

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 28

BABCOCK WILLIAM A.

3/30/1981 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, SUPERIOR-WEST, MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA; PROJECT F70-1(3)0

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 5998 Agency Document Number: F70-1(3)0

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 35

SCHWAB DAVID C.

6/23/1994 BROCKWAY/PLUM CREEK PROPERTY ON THE MIDDLE CLARK FORK RIVER

CRABS Document Number: MN 6 16825 Agency Document Number:

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 34

FREDLUND LYNN B., ET AL.

5/1/1995 PROPOSED POST OFFICE FACILITY AT SUPERIOR

CRABS Document Number: MN 6 17312 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

LIGHT TIMOTHY AND MARY C. HORSTMAN

5/1/1996 INVENTORY AND EVALUATION: CEDAR-QUARTZ HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT, NINEMILE AND SUPERIOR RANGE DISTRICTS, LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 17516 Agency Document Number: 96-LL-SO-2

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 34

LIGHT TIMOTHY AND MARY C. HORSTMAN

5/1/1996 INVENTORY AND EVALUATION: CEDAR-QUARTZ HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT, NINEMILE AND SUPERIOR RANGE DISTRICTS, LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 17516 Agency Document Number: 96-LL-SO-2

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 35

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5/1/1996 INVENTORY AND EVALUATION: CEDAR-QUARTZ HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT, NINEMILE AND SUPERIOR RANGE DISTRICTS, LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 17516 Agency Document Number: 96-LL-SO-2

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 27

LIGHT TIMOTHY AND MARY C. HORSTMAN

4/1/1996 I & E NANCY LEE MINES AND MILLSITES

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 17545 Agency Document Number: 96-LL-SO-1

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 28

LIGHT TIMOTHY AND MARY C. HORSTMAN

4/1/1996 I & E NANCY LEE MINES AND MILLSITES

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 17545 Agency Document Number: 96-LL-SO-1

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

PLATT STEVE

9/25/1996 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY REPORT SUPERIOR SOUTHEAST STPS 257-1(3)0 CONTROL NUMBER 2839

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 18420 Agency Document Number: STPS 257-1(3)0

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 34

PLATT STEVE

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Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 35

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CRABS Document Number: MN 4 18420 Agency Document Number: STPS 257-1(3)0

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 34

FILICETTI PAUL

12/1/1999 COUNTY COURTHOUSES OF WEST CENTRAL MONTANA 1898-1920

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 6 25109 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

ROSSILLON MITZI

8/12/2002 A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF THE MINERAL COUNTY AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, MINERAL COUNTY MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: MN 6 25316 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

WANZENRIED MICHAEL T.

11/18/2010 CEDAR-THOM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 32436 Agency Document Number:

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

KARUZAS ERIKA

3/8/2016 JAM CRACKER RESTORATION PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 38321 Agency Document Number: R2016011607001

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 27

KARUZAS ERIKA

3/8/2016 JAM CRACKER RESTORATION PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 38321 Agency Document Number: R2016011607001

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 34

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Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 35

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3/8/2016 JAM CRACKER RESTORATION PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: MN 1 38321 Agency Document Number: R2016011607001

Township:16 N Range:26 W Section: 3

WENDEL RYAN E.

4/20/2021 MINERAL COUNTY PIONEER COUNCIL BUS BARN AND OPERATIONS CENTER - MINERAL COUNTY: A CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 40901 Agency Document Number:

Township:17 N Range:26 W Section: 35

WENDEL RYAN E.

4/20/2021 MINERAL COUNTY PIONEER COUNCIL BUS BARN AND OPERATIONS CENTER - MINERAL COUNTY: A CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.

CRABS Document Number: MN 4 40901 Agency Document Number:

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Cultural Resource Information Systems
CRIS Township, Range, Section Report
Report Date:1/20/2022

Site #	Twp	Rng	Sec	Qs	Site Type 1	Site Type 2	Time Period	Owner	NR Status
24MN0374	17N	26W	34		Historic Road/Trail		Combination	Forest Service	Ineligible
24MN0374	17N	26W	35		Historic Road/Trail		Combination	Forest Service	Ineligible
24MN0120	17N	26W	35	SW	Historic Railroad		Historic Period	Private	Eligible
24MN0120	17N	26W	28	SW	Historic Railroad		Historic Period	Private	Eligible
24MN0120	17N	26W	34	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic Period	Private	Eligible
24MN0120	16N	26W	3	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic Period	Private	Eligible
24MN0164	16N	26W	3	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24MN0164	17N	26W	27	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24MN0164	17N	26W	28	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24MN0164	17N	26W	34	NE	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24MN0164	17N	26W	35	Comb	Historic Railroad		Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Eligible
24MN0205	17N	26W	34	NW	Historic Architecture		Prehistoric More Than One Period	State Owned	Eligible
24MN0263	17N	26W	28	Comb	Historic District		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Eligible
24MN0263	17N	26W	27	Comb	Historic District		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Eligible
24MN0277	17N	26W	34	NE	Historic School		Historic More Than One Decade	State Owned	NR Listed
24MN0279	16N	26W	3	Comb	Historic Stock Raising		Historic Period	Forest Service	Unresolved
24MN0300	16N	26W	3	NE	Historic Vehicular/Foot Bridge		Historic More Than One Decade	MDOT	Undetermined*
24MN0316	17N	26W	34	NE	Historic Courthouse		1920-1930	State Owned	Undetermined*
24MN1075	17N	26W	34	NW	Lithic Material Concentration		No Data	Other	Undetermined*
24MN0245	17N	26W	35	Comb	Historic Mining		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Eligible
24MN0245	17N	26W	34	Comb	Historic Mining		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Eligible
24MN0245	16N	26W	3	Comb	Historic Mining		Historic More Than One Decade	Forest Service	Eligible

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Mineral County, Montana

Local office

Montana Ecological Services Field Office

(406) 449-5225
(406) 449-5339

585 Shephard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-6287

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx Lynx canadensis There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Grizzly Bear Ursus arctos horribilis There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7642	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Bull Trout Salvelinus confluentus There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8212	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

This location overlaps the critical habitat for the following species:

NAME	TYPE
Bull Trout Salvelinus confluentus https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8212#crithab	Final

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE

	WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Rufous Hummingbird selasphorus rufus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN Phenology Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from

certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

REFUGE AND FISH HATCHERY INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A
- PEM1C

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1A
- PSS1A

FRESHWATER POND

- PABKx
- PABF

RIVERINE

- R3UBH
- R2UBH
- R3USA
- R2USA
- R3USC

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

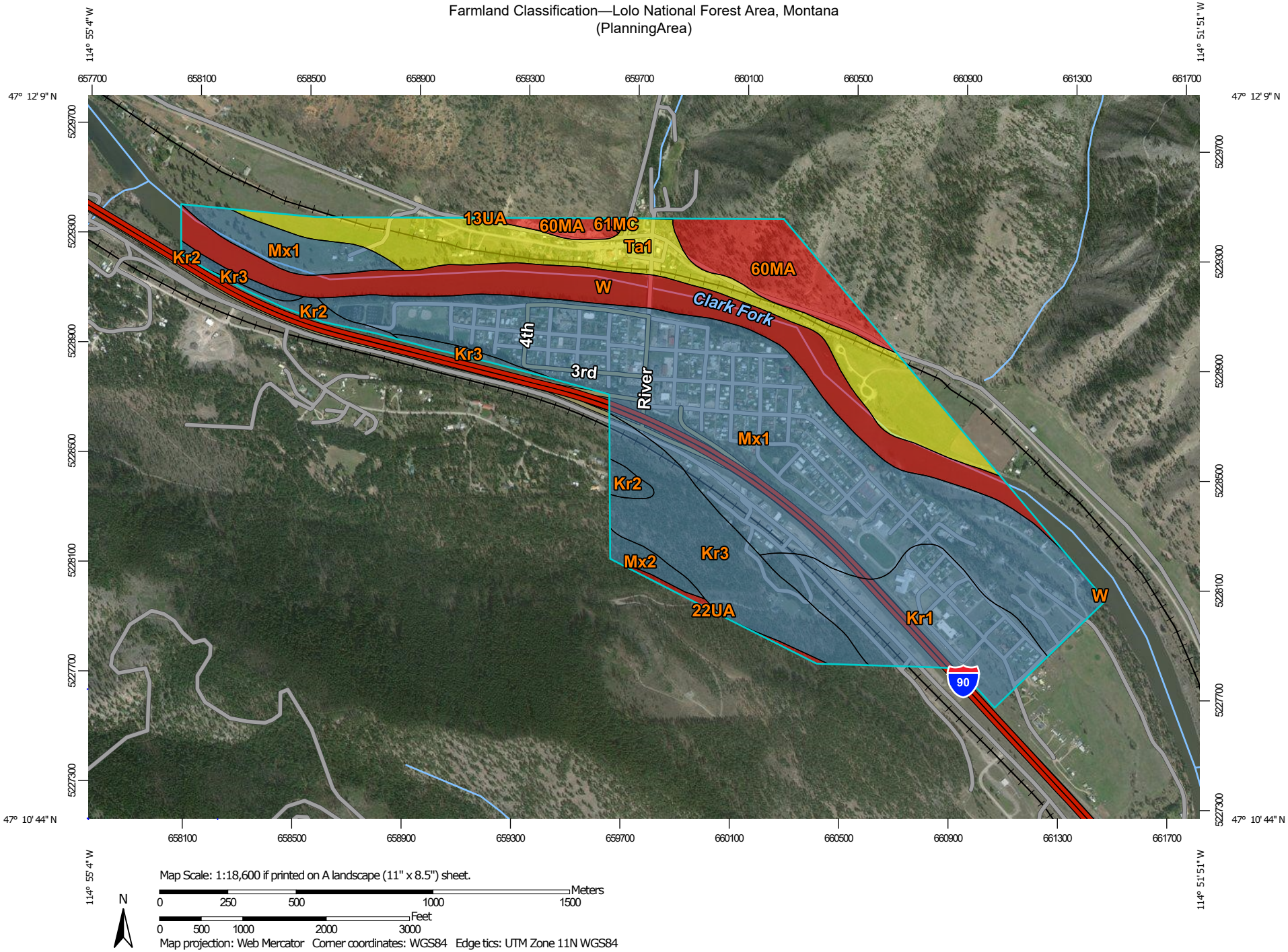
Data exclusions

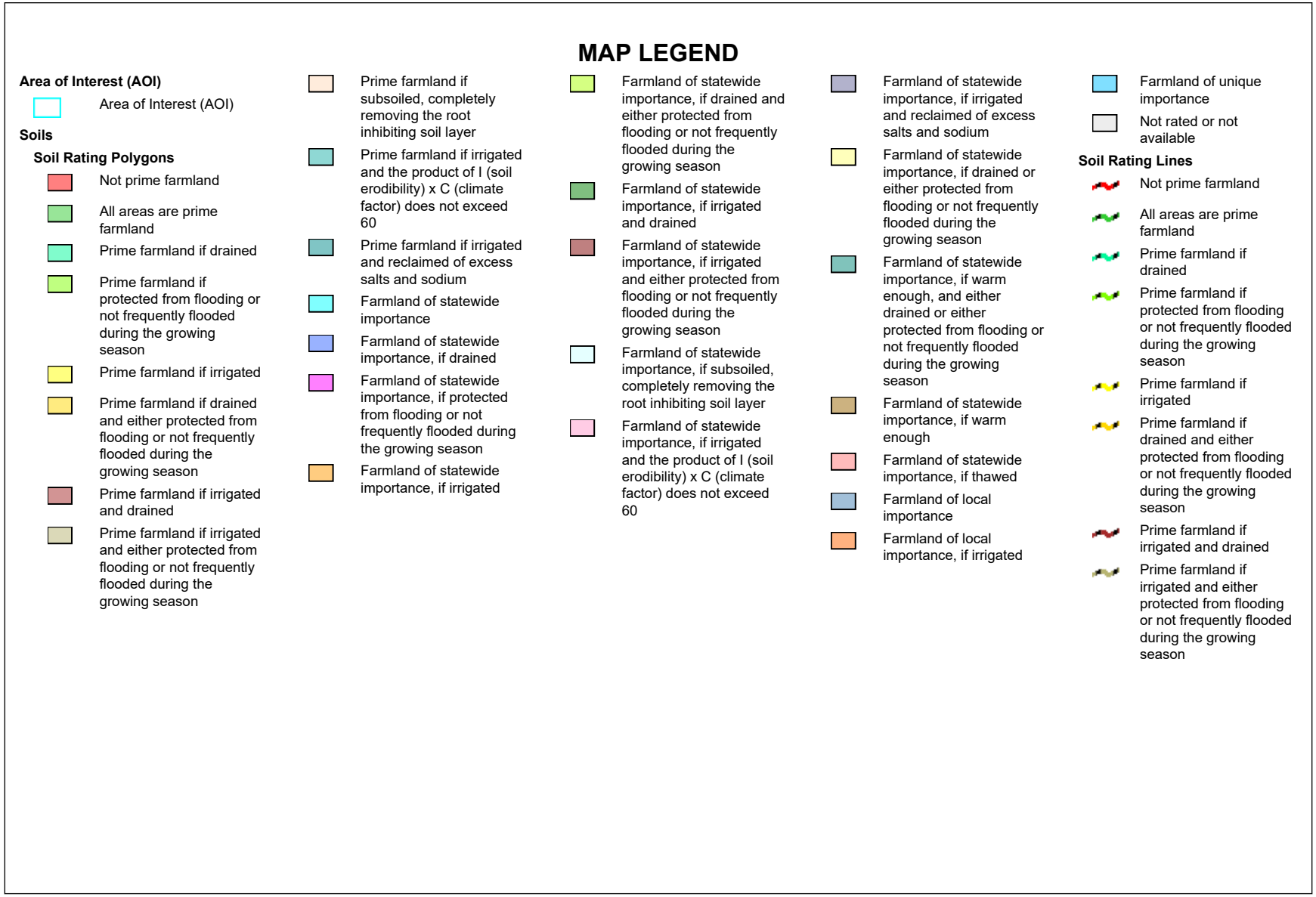
Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

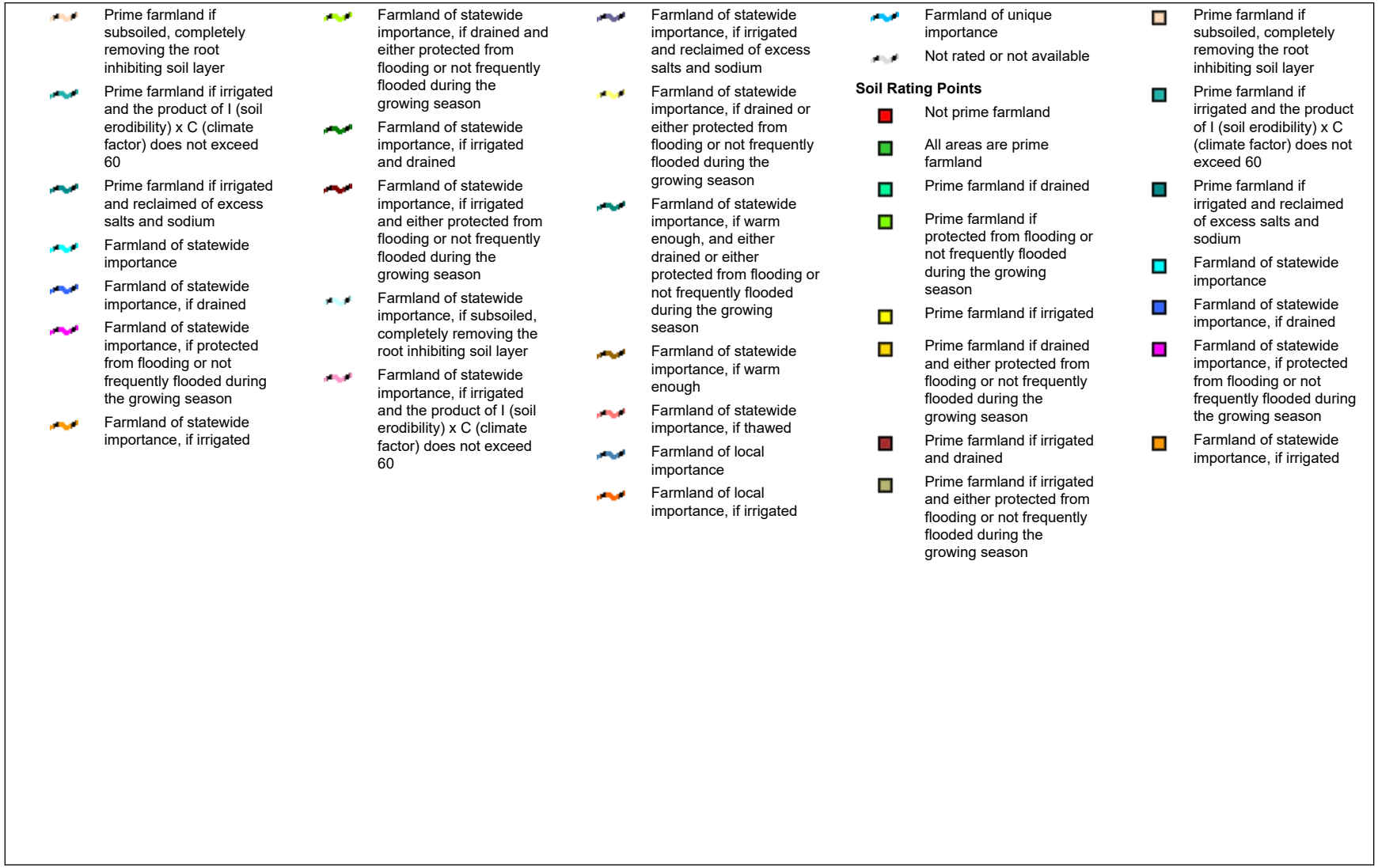
Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Farmland Classification—Lolo National Forest Area, Montana
(PlanningArea)





Farmland Classification—Lolo National Forest Area, Montana
(PlanningArea)



- Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
- Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
- Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
- Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed
- Farmland of local importance
- Farmland of local importance, if irrigated
- Farmland of unique importance
- Not rated or not available

Water Features

- Streams and Canals

Transportation

- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background

- Aerial Photography

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Lolo National Forest Area, Montana
Survey Area Data: Version 22, Sep 2, 2021

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Aug 30, 2012—Sep 14, 2016

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
13UA	Combest and Kadygulch families, high stream terraces and escarpments	Not prime farmland	0.0	0.0%
22UA	Wakepish-Wilde-Sixteenmile, very stony families, complex, flood scoured footslopes	Not prime farmland	2.5	0.4%
60MA	Argora-Farva families-Rock outcrop complex, stream breaklands	Not prime farmland	43.5	6.6%
61MC	Beeskove-Argora families-Rock outcrop complex, dissected stream breaklands	Not prime farmland	0.6	0.1%
Kr1	Krause gravelly loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	70.6	10.7%
Kr2	Krause gravelly loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	8.4	1.3%
Kr3	Krause gravelly loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	71.7	10.9%
Mx1	McCaffery complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	283.4	42.9%
Mx2	McCaffery complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes	Farmland of local importance	6.3	1.0%
Ta1	Tally fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if irrigated	88.9	13.5%
W	Water	Not prime farmland	84.8	12.8%
Totals for Area of Interest			**660.7**	**100.0%**

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Montana Natural Heritage - SOC Report

Species List Last Updated **02/19/2021**

Animal Species of Concern

37 Species of Concern
1 Special Status Species
Filtered by the following criteria:
Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

MONTANA Natural Heritage Program
A program of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System operated by the University of Montana.

Expand All | Collapse All

Introduction

Species of Concern

Species of Concern
37 Species
Filtered by the following criteria:
Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA) — 10 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME / COMMON NAME / TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) / FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	5%	87%	Caves in forested habitats
	Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Treasure, Valley, Yellowstone **State Rank Reason:** Species is widespread, but uncommon and appears to occur at low densities. Disturbance of cave and mine roosts and the hard closure of occupied mines threaten long-term persistence.									
Gulo gulo Wolverine	Mustelidae Weasels	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	0%	37%	Boreal Forest and Alpine Habitats
	Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland									
Lasiurus cinereus Hoary Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3G4	S3			SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	100%	Riparian and forest
	Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone									
Myotis evotis Long-eared Myotis	Vespertilionidae Bats	G5	S3					12%	100%	Forest
	Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone									
Myotis lucifugus Little Brown Myotis	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3G4	S3				SGCN3	3%	100%	Generalist
	Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone **State Rank Reason:** Species is common and widespread, but under significant threat of catastrophic declines due to White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease responsible for the collapse of populations of this species in the eastern US.									
Myotis thysanodes Fringed Myotis	Vespertilionidae Bats	G4	S3			SENSITIVE	SGCN3	0%	64%	Riparian and dry mixed conifer forest

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Teton, Treasure **State Rank Reason:** Although this species is distributed across much of Montana, recent surveys have found it to be uncommon within range. Species occasionally uses caves to over-winter so threats to persistence from White-Nose Syndrome are a concern, but due to its western distribution the extent of impacts are as yet unknown.								
Myotis volans Long-legged Myotis	**Vespertilionidae** Bats	G4G5	S3					8%	100%	Conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone								
Myotis yumanensis Yuma Myotis	**Vespertilionidae** Bats	G5	S3				SGIN	4%	0%	Riparian and mixed forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** In Montana populations of this species are believed to be stable. However, the threat of catastrophic decline from White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease of bats responsible for the deaths of millions of individuals of closely related species in other areas, presents a treat of substantial declines within the state. Recent observations from Washington have confirmed the susceptibility of this species to WNS infection.								
Pekania pennanti Fisher	**Mustelidae** Weasels	G5	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	1%	31%	Mixed conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Teton								
Ursus arctos Grizzly Bear	**Ursidae** Bears	G4	S2S3	PS: LT; XN		THREATENED	SGCN2-3	1%	22%	Conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Wheatland, Yellowstone								

BIRDS (AVES)

14 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Accipiter gentilis Northern Goshawk	**Accipitridae** Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	2%	68%	Mixed conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland								
Aquila chrysaetos Golden Eagle	**Accipitridae** Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	BGEPA; MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	3%	100%	Grasslands
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone								
Ardea herodias Great Blue Heron	**Ardeidae** Bitterns / Egrets / Herons / Night-Herons	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	100%	Riparian forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone **State Rank Reason:** Small breeding population size, evidence of recent declines, and declining regeneration of riparian cottonwood forests due to altered hydrology and grazing.								
Certhia americana Brown Creeper	**Certhiidae** Creepers	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	4%	53%	Moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland								
Coccothraustes vespertinus Evening Grosbeak	**Fringillidae** Finches	G5	S3	MBTA; BCC10			SGCN3	3%	100%	Conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland **State Rank Reason:** Populations in Montana and across North America have experienced rangewide declines, although the causes of these declines are unclear (Bonter and Harvey 2008).								
Dryocopus pileatus Pileated Woodpecker	**Picidae** Woodpeckers	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	1%	27%	Moist conifer forests

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow								
Falco peregrinus Peregrine Falcon	**Falconidae** Falcons	G4	S3	DM; MBTA	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	100%	Cliffs / canyons
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Yellowstone								
Haemorhous cassinii Cassin's Finch	**Fringillidae** Finches	G5	S3	MBTA; BCC10			SGCN3	11%	62%	Drier conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Yellowstone **State Rank Reason:** Data show recent short-term declines in population for this species								
Histrionicus histrionicus Harlequin Duck	**Anatidae** Swans / Geese / Ducks	G4	S2B	MBTA	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, KOOT, LOLO)		SGCN2	4%	40%	Mountain streams
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Carbon, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Sanders, Sweet Grass, Teton **State Rank Reason:** The Harlequin Duck has an extremely limited breeding range in Montana.								
Ixoreus naevius Varied Thrush	**Turdidae** Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA			SGCN3	1%	37%	Moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Teton **State Rank Reason:** The Varied Thrush has undergone recent population declines in Montana and across the Northern Rockies and where timber harvest, insect outbreak, and fire result in a loss of suitable breeding habitat.								
Nucifraga columbiana Clark's Nutcracker	**Corvidae** Jays / Crows / Magpies	G5	S3	MBTA	Species of Conservation Concern on Forests (FLAT)		SGCN3	9%	84%	Conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Wheatland, Yellowstone								
Picoides arcticus Black-backed Woodpecker	**Picidae** Woodpeckers	G5	S3	MBTA	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	49%	Conifer forest burns
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders								
Psiloscops flammeolus Flammulated Owl	**Strigidae** Owls	G4	S3B	MBTA; BCC10	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern on Forests (FLAT, HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	36%	Dry conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Flathead, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders								
Troglodytes pacificus Pacific Wren	**Troglodytidae** Wrens	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	1%	39%	Moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton								

REPTILES (REPTILIA)

2 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Elgaria coerulea Northern Alligator Lizard	**Anguidae** Alligator Lizards	G5	S3				SGCN3, SGIN	8%	12%	Talus slopes / rock outcrops

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders								
Plestiodon skiltonianus Western Skink	**Scincidae** Skinks	G5	S3				SGCN3, SGIN	2%	10%	Open conifer forest and adjacent grasslands
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders								

AMPHIBIANS (AMPHIBIA)

1 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Plethodon idahoensis Coeur d'Alene Salamander	**Plethodontidae** Lungless Salamanders	G4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BRT, KOOT, LOLO)		SGCN2, SGIN	31%	5%	Spring / seep, waterfall, fractured rock
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders								

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)

2 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi Westslope Cutthroat Trout	**Salmonidae** Trout	G5T4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern on Forests (CG, HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN2		34%	Mountain streams, rivers, lakes
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Teton, Wheatland **State Rank Reason:** The Westslope Cutthroat trout is currently ranked "S2" in Montana because it is at risk due to very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state.							
Salvelinus confluentus Bull Trout	**Salmonidae** Trout	G5	S2	LT; CH		THREATENED	SGCN2	5%	18%	Mountain streams, rivers, lakes
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders								

INVERTEBRATES - INSECTS

3 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
CADDISFLIES										
Rossiana montana Northern Rocky Mountains Refugium Caddisfly	**Rossianidae** Rossianid Caddisflies	G2G3	S2					50%	1%	Forested mountain springs
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** This NRMR Caddisfly is currently ranked a "S2" Species of Concern in MT and at risk because of very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state. Limited sites with small populations and specialized habitats. This species is a rare, endemic caddisfly only found in specific streams in the Pacific Influenced areas of Montana and Idaho (referred to as the Northern Rocky Mountian Refugium).								
MAYFLIES										
Caurinella idahoensis Lolo Mayfly	**Ephemerellidae** Ephemerellid Mayflies	G3	S2					50%	5%	Small forested mountain streams

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** This Lolo mayfly is currently ranked "S2" in Montana, because it is at risk of extirpation in the state due to very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat. This species is a rare, endemic mayfly only found in specific streams in the Pacific influenced areas of Montana and Idaho (referred to as the Northern Rocky Mountain Refugium).								
STONEFLIES										
Soliperla salish Clearwater Roachfly	**Peltoperlidae** Roachlike Stoneflies	G2	S2					50%	1%	Small forested mountain streams
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** The Clearwater Roachfly is currently ranked a "S2" Species of Concern in MT at risk because of very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state.								

INVERTEBRATES - MOLLUSKS

5 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Hemphillia danielsi Marbled Jumping-slug	**Arionidae** Arionid Slugs	G3	S1S2					80%	2%	Mesic/moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli								
Kootenaia burkei Pygmy Slug	**Arionidae** Arionid Slugs	G3	S1S2					50%	4%	Moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lincoln, Mineral, Sanders								
Prophysaon humile Smoky Taildropper	**Arionidae** Arionid Slugs	G3	S2S3					50%	12%	Mesic/moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders								
Udosarx lyrata Lyre Mantleslug	**Arionidae** Arionid Slugs	G3	S1					50%	2%	Mesic/moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli								
Zacoleus idahoensis Sheathed Slug	**Arionidae** Arionid Slugs	G3G4	S2S3					50%	11%	Mesic/moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders								

Potential Species of Concern

Special Status Species

Special Status Species

1 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

BIRDS (AVES)

1 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald Eagle	**Accipitridae** Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S4	DM; BGEPA; MBTA	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE		2%	100%	Riparian forest

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Mccone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone **State Rank Reason:** Populations numbers have steadily increased since the 1980s and breeding pairs now occupy a high percentage of suitable habitat across the state. However the species is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additions To Statewide List

Species Removed From Statewide List

Species of Greatest Inventory Need

Citation for data on this website:
Montana Animal Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Retrieved on 4/8/2022, from mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=a

Montana Natural Heritage - SOC Report

Species List Last Updated **02/19/2021**

Plant Species of Concern

10 Species of Concern
1 Potential Species of Concern - Species Occurrences are not maintained for Animal PSOC, therefore we cannot filter these species geographically
Filtered by the following criteria:
Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

MONTANA Natural Heritage Program
A program of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System operated by the University of Montana.

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Introduction

Species of Concern

Species of Concern

10 Species
Filtered by the following criteria:
Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

GYMNOSPERM (CONIFERS)

1 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME / COMMON NAME / TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) / FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Pinus albicaulis Whitebark Pine		**Pinaceae** Fir / Hemlock / Larch / Pine / Spruce	G3G4	S3	P	Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	2	Subalpine forest, timberline
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Wheatland **State Rank Reason:** Whitebark pine is a common component of subalpine forests and a dominant species of treeline and krummholtz habitats. It occurs in almost all major mountain ranges of western and central Montana. Populations of whitebark pine in Montana and across most of western North America have been severely impacted by past mountain pine beetle outbreaks and by the introduced pathogen, white pine blister rust. The results of which have been major declines in whitebark pine populations across large areas of its range. Additionally, negative impacts associated with encroachment and increased competition from other trees, primarily subalpine fir have occurred as a result of fire suppression in subalpine habitats.						

FLOWERING PLANTS - DICOTS (MAGNOLIOPSIDA)

3 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME / COMMON NAME / TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) / FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Claytonia arenicola Sand Springbeauty	Montia arenicola	**Portulacaceae** Purslane Family	G4	S2S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (LOLO)		3	Mesic, rocky slopes
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Rare in Montana, where it is currently known from only one localized area in the western portion of the state. As an annual, populations likely fluctuate widely from year to year. No specific threats have been identified.						
Heterocodon rariflorum Western Pearl-flower		**Campanulaceae** Bellflower Family	G5	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BRT, KOOT, LOLO)		3	Vernally moist habitats
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Over a dozen known occurrences, including a half-dozen moderate to large-sized populations, a few small populations and several occurrences that need further survey work to document population sizes. Most populations are on National Forest lands. Invasive weeds infest several populations and are likely infest others. Hiking and ORV trails occur though or adjacent to a few populations and associated use may impact *H. rariflorum* plants.						
Satureja douglasii Yerba Buena	Clinopodium douglasii	**Lamiaceae** Mints	G5	S3				3	Forest (Moist, montane)

			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Rare in Montana, where it is known from several sites near the Idaho border. It is primarily a coastal species, disjunct in western Montana. Population levels appear healthy and may be increasing in some areas.						

FLOWERING PLANTS - MONOCOTS (LILIOPSIDA)

3 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Calamagrostis tweedyi Cascade reedgrass		**Poaceae** Grasses	G3	S3				3	Montane Forest
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** A species of limited distribution and currently considered to be globally rare. Restricted in Montana to the extreme western portion of the state.						
Cypripedium fasciculatum Clustered Lady's-slipper		**Orchidaceae** Orchids	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (KOOT, LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern on Forests (FLAT)		2	Forests (Montane)
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Clustered lady's-slipper is known for Montana from the northwest portion of the state, where it is documented from 10 moderate to large populations, 3 historical occurrences and many additional small occurrences. Most populations occur on National Forest lands. Potential negative impacts to the species have mainly been related to timber harvesting.						
Dichanthelium oligosanthes var. scribnerianum Scribner's Panic Grass	**Panicum oligosanthes var. scribnerianum, Panicum scribnerianum**	**Poaceae** Grasses	G5T5	S1S2				2	Mesic, sandy woodlands (low-elevation)
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Carter, Lake, Powder River, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Scribner's panic grass is a plant of dry woodlands, known from widely separated sites in southeastern and northwestern Montana. Only one large-sized population is known in the state, two others are very small, and the fourth occurrence is known only from a historical collection. Occurrences in eastern Montana may be negatively impacted by cattle grazing. The largest occurrence in the state lies adjacent to Highway 93 and negative impacts associated with expansion of the highway is likely. Invasive weeds and forest encroachment are also problems at this site.						

BRYOPHYTES (BRYOPHYTA)

2 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Homalothecium megaptilum Giant Golden Moss	**Trachybryum megaptilum**	**Brachytheciaceae**	G4	S1					
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Sanders **State Rank Reason:** Endemic to western North America. In Montana it occurs on the eastern edge of its distribution.						
Leucolepis acanthoneuron Umbrella Moss	**Leucolepis menziesii**	**Mniaceae**	G4G5	S1					
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lincoln, Sanders						

LICHENS (FUNGI)

1 SPECIES

TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Lobaria scrobiculata Textured Lungwort Lichen		**Lobariaceae**	G5	S1					
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Lake, Mineral **State Rank Reason:** Known from one location in western Montana.						

Potential Species of Concern

Potential Species of Concern
1 Species
Filtered by the following criteria:
Town (buffered by 10 miles) = Superior (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

LICHENS (FUNGI)

1 SPECIES
TOWN (BUFFERED BY 10 MILES) = SUPERIOR (based on mapped **Species Occurrences**)

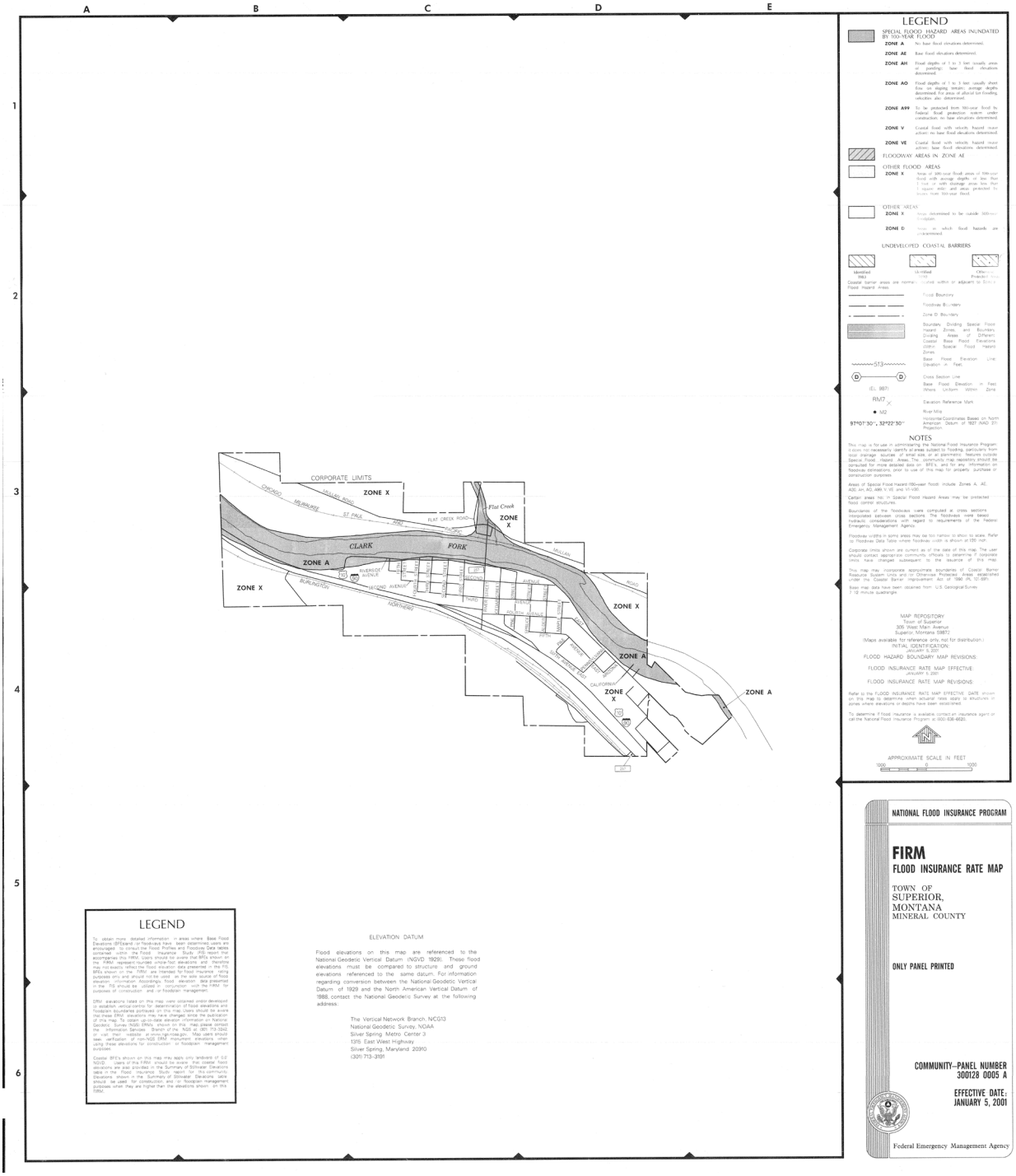
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	MNPS THREAT CATEGORY	HABITAT
Cetraria sepincola Chestnut Wrinkled Lichen	Tuckermannopsis sepincola	Parmeliaceae	G5	S2S3					
			Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Lake, Madison, Mineral **State Rank Reason:** Known from many locations, associated with bogs, in western Montana.						

Special Status Species

Additions To Statewide List

Species Removed From Statewide List

Citation for data on this website:
Montana Plant Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program. Retrieved on 4/8/2022, from mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=p



NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Town West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant
July 2023
West Yellowstone, Town of
Lat 44.669, Longitude -111.129
Gallatin County

Existing Environmental Review Document begins on page 3.
West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant—FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Type and Purpose of Action
The Town of West Yellowstone wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) provides service to all users within the Town of West Yellowstone including but not limited to residents, hotel owners, restaurant owners, business owners, tourists, land developers, as well as federal buildings and two residential compounds for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Currently, the Town of West Yellowstone utilizes a 3-cell lagoon system with groundwater discharge for its wastewater treatment and disposal. The Town invested in the infrastructure to support itself, but the significant increase of tourism has overtaxed and overloaded the system. The current treatment capacity is 439,000 gallons per day (GPD), the plant currently accepts an average flow of approximately 650,000 GPD and therefore is overloaded and does not have the capacity to treat the wastewater. Partially treated effluent has clogged the infiltration percolation (IP) beds, further reducing the capacity of the system. The blowers and aeration system are overloaded, and the liners have significant tears. This has the potential of threatening groundwater quality and an increase in nutrient loading to the South Fork of the Madison River. The site planned for the new proposed mechanical treatment plant has been utilized as the Town's wastewater treatment plant since 1965, with the existing wastewater facility constructed in 1993. There have not been any significant upgrades since the system was originally built.

During the planning phase of the project, the Town went through a process to develop alternatives for addressing the system deficiencies. System deficiencies were evaluated to determine if they could be addressed without changes to infrastructure, and instead through cooperation with operation. Engineering staff completed flow projections used as the basis for design for the mechanical WWTP. The projections resulted in a 1.5 million gallon per day (MGD) facility for the 20-year design period. The result of this analysis was the selection of a new mechanical treatment system. The preferred alternative selected is the Extended Aeration Process.

This treatment system project will provide treated wastewater effluent for the Town of West Yellowstone by treating the water to meet required levels of total nitrogen as defined in their Montana DEQ Ground Water Permit.

The Town will construct an extended aeration activated sludge mechanical wastewater treatment plant. The Town will continue to utilize the existing lagoon system until construction is complete. Construction tasks include:

- Purchase and installation of the extended aeration equipment package including but not limited to blowers, aeration piping, and diffusers.
- Construct a building to house the treatment plant including 22-foot-deep basins and a metal building enclosure.
- Purchase and installation of screening, grit capture, and sludge dewatering systems
- Installation of electrical control and power in the building including conduit, enclosures, lighting, gas detector system, and HVAC.

Bidding Estimated to be complete 08/2023. Construction Start Date Estimated 04/2024. Initiation of Operations Date Estimated 10/2025.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):
DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Town West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review
☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt
The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Shawna Swanz		
	Title: ARPA Grant Program Specialist	**Date:**	July 20, 2023
	Email: shawna.swanz@mt.gov		

Approved By:	**Name**: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**:	7/21/2023 | 7:33:27 AM MDT

DEQ
Montana Department
of Environmental Quality

June 5, 2023

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant
Location	West Yellowstone, Montana
Project Number	C301313
Total Cost	$37,211,600

The Town of West Yellowstone, through its 2020 Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), and a 2021 PER Addendum, both prepared by Forsgren Associates Inc., has identified the need to construct a new wastewater treatment facility. Deficiencies with the existing wastewater lagoon system include excessive sludge accumulation; damaged components including pond liners, influent flow meter, and the effluent transfer structure; and a non-functioning coarse bubble aeration system. The existing system was designed to treat an average daily flow of 439,000 gallons per day (gpd) and is currently seeing an average daily flow of 635,000 gpd during the critical peak season associated with summer tourism. This is 45% greater than the system's designed treatment capacity. The deficiencies noted above have prompted the Town to issue a moratorium on connections to or new uses of the Town's wastewater treatment system in May of 2022, essentially restricting any new development in the area.

To address treatment system deficiencies and produce a high-quality effluent for disposal, the Town will construct a new mechanical treatment plant adjacent to the existing lagoons on property leased from the State of Montana, Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division. The lease term is 40 years beginning July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2063. The new treatment facility will consist of a headworks screening facility, biological treatment basins (with aeration cycling for the enhanced removal of carbon and nitrogen), secondary clarifiers, and aerobic digesters. Biosolids generated from the treatment process will be dewatered and disposed of in the Logan Landfill. The treated effluent will be discharged to groundwater via the existing infiltration/percolation (I/P) bed system in accordance with their MGWPCS permit No. MTX000244. The treatment plant will be housed in a building to prevent freezing of the treatment basins and mechanical equipment. Once the new facility is complete the existing treatment lagoons will be reclaimed under a future project. The new treatment plant will be sized to handle current flows and will accommodate reasonable growth over the next 20 years with a flow rate up to 1.5 million gallons per day. In addition, the proposed project will improve reliability and will provide the needed operational flexibility to consistently meet permit effluent limits.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as threatened/endangered species, floodplains, wetlands, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

An environmental assessment (EA), which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, is available for public scrutiny on the DEQ web site (https://deq.mt.gov/public/water-public) and at the following locations:

Mike Abrahamson, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-09011
mabrahamson@mt.gov

Dan Walker, Town Manager
Town of West Yellowstone
P.O. Box 1570
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Comments on this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or on the Environmental Assessment (EA) may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the publication date of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating comments received, the department will revise the EA or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant, this FONSI will stand. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the release of the FONSI.

Sincerely,

Rachel Clark, P.E.
Engineering Bureau Chief
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

TOWN OF WEST YELLOWSTONE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	Town of West Yellowstone
Address:	P.O. Box 1570 West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Project Number:	C301313

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name:	Dan Walker, Town Manager
Address:	P.O. Box 1570 West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Telephone:	(406) 646-7795

C. ABSTRACT

The Town of West Yellowstone, through its 2020 Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), and a 2021 PER Addendum, both prepared by Forsgren Associates Inc., has identified the need to construct a new mechanical wastewater treatment facility to address aging infrastructure, hydraulic capacity limitations, and maintain compliance with anticipated total nitrogen limits in the Town's Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit. The Town's existing three-cell lagoon system was constructed in the 1990s and discharges to nine infiltration-percolation (I/P) beds for the disposal of treated effluent to groundwater. Deficiencies with the existing lagoon system include excessive sludge accumulation; damaged components including pond liners, influent flow meter, and the effluent transfer structure; and a non-functioning coarse bubble aeration system. The existing system was designed to treat an average daily flow of 439,000 gallons per day (gpd) and is currently seeing an average daily flow of 635,000 gpd during the critical peak season associated with summer tourism. This is 45% greater than the system's designed treatment capacity. The deficiencies noted above have prompted the Town to issue a moratorium on connections to or new uses of the Town's wastewater treatment system in May of 2022, essentially restricting any new development in the area.

To address treatment system deficiencies and produce a high-quality effluent for disposal, the Town will construct a new mechanical treatment plant adjacent to the existing lagoons on property leased from the State of Montana, Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division. The lease term is 40 years beginning July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2063. The new treatment facility will consist of a headworks screening facility with grit removal, biological treatment basins (with aeration cycling for the enhanced removal of carbon and nitrogen), secondary clarifiers, and aerobic digesters. Biosolids generated from the treatment process will be dewatered and disposed of in the Logan Landfill. The treated effluent will be discharged to groundwater via the existing infiltration/percolation (I/P) bed system in accordance with their MGWPCS permit No. MTX000244. The treatment plant will be housed in a building to prevent freezing of the treatment basins and mechanical equipment. Once the new facility is complete the existing treatment lagoons will be reclaimed under a future project. The new treatment plant will be sized to handle current flows and will accommodate reasonable growth over the next 20 years with a flow rate up to 1.5 million gallons per day. In addition, the proposed project will improve reliability and will provide the needed operational flexibility to consistently meet permit effluent limits.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. The improvements, including administration, engineering, and construction are estimated to cost approximately $37,211,600. It is anticipated that the project will be funded through a low interest loan (2.5%) obtained from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (WPCSRF) loan program, several grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a grant from the Renewable Resource Grant program, and local funds.

Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. Additional environmental impacts related to land use, water quality, air quality, public health, energy, noise, and growth, were also assessed. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

Under Montana law, (75-6-112, MCA), no person may construct, extend, or use a public sewage system until the DEQ has reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the project. Under the Montana Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Act, the DEQ may loan money to municipalities for construction of public sewage systems.

The DEQ, Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program, has prepared this Environmental Assessment to satisfy the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days

II. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Town's existing wastewater treatment lagoon system, constructed in the 1990s, was designed to treat an average daily flow of 439,000 gallons per day (gpd) and is currently seeing average flows during the critical peak season of 635,000 gpd which is 47% greater than the system was designed to treat. In addition, the aging infrastructure has excessive sludge accumulation; has damaged components including lagoon liners, influent flow meter, and effluent transfer structure; and a non-functioning coarse bubble aeration system. The deficiencies noted above limit the reliability and operability of the system and have negatively impacted treatment which has required the Town to issue a moratorium on connections to or new uses of the Town's wastewater treatment system in May of 2022, essentially hindering economic development in the area.

III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. INITIAL SCREENING TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

Four alternatives for addressing West Yellowstone's treatment system needs were evaluated for initial screening. These included:

T-0. No Action
T-1. Status Quo
T-2. Expand Lagoons
T-3. Mechanical Treatment

T-0. NO ACTION - The no-action alternative considered making no improvements to the existing wastewater treatment system. The Town's current system exceeds its design flow capacity, will eventually exceed its effluent permit limits, and has several items that need repair or replacement. Poor performance and insufficient hydraulic capacity have resulted in the Town issuing a moratorium on new wastewater connections which would remain in place indefinitely. Therefore, the no-action alternative was not considered to be a viable option and was not given further consideration.

T-1. STATUS QUO - This alternative would consist of upgrading any existing equipment that needs replacement to keep the system fully functional. This would include replacing the pond liners, the coarse bubble aeration system, and the removal and disposal of the excessive biosolids buildup. This alternative would still not address the facility's capacity issue or insufficient total nitrogen removal. Therefore, the moratorium on new wastewater connections would need to remain in place.

T-2. EXPAND LAGOONS - This alternative consists of upgrading any equipment as outlined in the Status Quo alternative and expanding the lagoon system to provide adequate capacity to treat current and future flows. Two new aerated lagoons (2.7 acres each) would be constructed

along with a ball-type floating cover to deter wildlife due to the proximity of the airport. Additional unit treatment processes would be needed to enhance nitrogen removal to meet future permit limits.

T-3 MECHANICAL TREATMENT - This alternative consists of constructing a mechanical treatment plant at the existing lagoon site. A mechanical treatment facility would allow the Town to consistently meet stringent discharge permit limits utilizing technology that is reliable and produces a high-quality effluent. The treatment plant would need to be housed in a building to prevent freezing.

B. COST COMPARISON – NET PRESENT VALUE ANALYSIS FOR INITIAL ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The net present value analysis is a means of comparing alternatives in present day dollars and can be used to determine the most cost-effective alternative. An alternative with low initial capital cost may not be the most cost-efficient project if high operation and maintenance costs occur over the life of the alternative. Table 1 provides a summary of the net present value analysis of the initial alternatives considered.

TABLE 1
ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF FEASIBLE INITIAL ALTERNATIVES

Alternative Number (From Above)	Alternative	Capital Cost	Annual O&M	Life Cycle O&M	Net Present Value
T-1	Status Quo	$4,319,000	$227,700	$4,554,000	$8,873,000
T-2	Expand Lagoons	$30,426,000	$909,600	$18,192,000	$48,618,000
T-3	Mechanical Treatment	$37,211,600	$261,600	$5,232,000	$42,443,600

C. BASIS OF SELECTION OF PREFERRED INITIAL SCREENING ALTERNATIVE

Selection of the preferred initial screening alternative was based upon several criteria, both monetary and non-monetary. The ranking criteria considered are shown in Table 2. Each alternative was assigned a ranking 1 to 3 in each category with 1 being the worst in the category and 3 being best in the category with respect to the alternatives considered. The rankings were then summed, resulting in a total score, with the greatest score indicating the preferred alternative. As shown in the ranking criteria matrix, Alternative T-3 (Mechanical Treatment) ranked the highest, primarily due to regulatory compliance and process flexibility/expandability. Even though it does not have the lowest present worth cost, based on the overall score, sound engineering judgment, and owner preference, alternative T-3 was selected for further analysis.

Table 2
Initial Alternatives Ranking Criteria

Criteria	Alt T-1: Status Quo	Alt T-2: Expand Lagoons	Alt T-3: Mechanical Treatment
	Score	Score	Score
Owner Preference	1	2	3
Cost	3	1	2
Schedule	3	1	2
Regulatory Compliance	1	2	3
Process Flexibility/ Expandability	1	2	3
Environmental Clearance	3	1	2
Land Acquisition	3	1	2
Total	**15**	**10**	**17**

D. FINAL SCREENING TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

Three mechanical treatment alternatives were evaluated for final screening. These include:

M-1. Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)
M-2. Aero-Mod™
M-3. STM Aerotor™

M-1 MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR (MBR) – This alternative would consist of construction of a suspended growth activated sludge biological reactor integrated with a membrane filtration system. A membrane filtration system replaces the solids separation function of both secondary clarifiers and effluent filters in conventional activated sludge systems, resulting in a smaller footprint than other activated sludge plants. MBR technology

enables the bioreactors to be operated at a considerably higher biomass concentration than conventional activated sludge plants, which allows for the construction of smaller tanks that still provide a high level of treatment. The membranes are immersed in an aeration tank in direct contact with the treated wastewater and a vacuum is applied to the header connected to the membranes which draws treated water through the membranes filtering out particles larger than 0.4 micrometers. Coarse bubble diffusers are used to scour the membrane surfaces to keep them clean. The biological trains would contain aeration and anoxic zones for BOD and nitrogen removal while the membranes would filter out any particulate matter (TSS). The MBR process would combine the unit operations of aeration, secondary clarification, and filtration into a single process, and would produce a high-quality effluent. The treatment plant would be housed in a building to prevent freezing of the equipment. Treated effluent would be discharged to groundwater through the existing I/P basins in accordance with the facility's groundwater discharge permit.

M-2 AERO-MOD™ – The Aero-Mod™ system is an extended aeration process which would consist of a headworks building with flow measurement and mechanical screening and a series of concrete bioreactor basins, each equipped with a diffused aeration system to provide oxygen to the wastewater. The aeration system would be cycled on and off creating aerated and anoxic zones to maximize carbon and nitrogen removal from the wastewater. Secondary clarifiers would be used to separate solids from the treated water and to maintain the necessary microbial concentrations for adequate treatment. The clarifiers would utilize air lift pumps for the removal of settled solids. Aerobic digesters would be utilized to treat and stabilize the biosolids that are wasted from the process. The biosolids would be dewatered in a 20-yard roll-off dumpster with a filter bag installed inside. The filter bag would then be sent to the Logan landfill for final disposal. The treatment plant would be housed in a building to prevent freezing of the equipment. Treated effluent would be discharged to groundwater through the existing I/P basins in accordance with the facility's groundwater discharge permit.

M-3 STM AEROTOR™ - This alternative consists of constructing a mechanical "STM AEROTOR™" and secondary clarifiers to provide biological treatment. Two bioreactors would be constructed for redundancy and maintenance purposes. Each bioreactor would contain aerobic and anoxic zones for the biological removal of carbon and nitrogen. Oxygen would be provided to the bioreactor using a series of large paddle wheels. As the paddle wheels rotate a portion of the paddles becomes exposed to the atmosphere, and hollow compartments within each paddle entrap air, pulling the air under the surface where it is released at the bottom of the rotation. The wheel provides both mixing and oxygen transfer. The bioreactors would be covered to prevent ice build-up on the drive chain which can damage the equipment as the wheel rotates. The secondary clarifiers would allow solids to settle out of the wastewater. Two concrete clarifiers would be constructed and would

include solids collection and sludge wasting equipment consisting of sludge scraper systems and pumps. A portion of the sludge would be returned to the front of the bioreactor basin to ensure an adequate concentration of biomass to optimize treatment and the remainder would be wasted to the solids handling processes. The treatment plant would be housed in a building to prevent freezing of the equipment. Treated effluent would be discharged to groundwater through the existing I/P basins in accordance with the facility's groundwater discharge permit.

E. COST COMPARISON – NET PRESENT VALUE ANALYSIS MECHANICAL TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Similar to the cost comparison or feasible initial alternatives, Table 3 provides a summary of the net present value analysis of the alternatives considered.

TABLE 3
ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF FEASIBLE MECHANICAL TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative Number (From Above)	Alternative	Capital[1] Cost	Annual O&M	Life Cycle O&M	Net Present Value
M-1	MBR	$23,701,000	$420,500	$8,410,000	$32,111,000
M-2	Aero-Mod™	$37,211,600	$261,600	$5,232,000	$42,443,600
M-3	STM Aerotor™	$29,520,000	$261,300	$5,226,000	$34,746,000

1. Based on conceptual costs from the Town of West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report dated May 2020, except for the Aero-Mod costs which are based on actual design costs in April 2023.

F. BASIS OF SELECTION OF PREFERRED MECHANICAL TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE

Selection of the preferred mechanical treatment alternative was based upon several criteria, both monetary and non-monetary. The ranking criteria considered are shown in Table 4. Each alternative was assigned a ranking 1 to 3 in each category with 1 being the worst in the category and 3 being best in the category with respect to the alternatives considered. The weight value indicates the importance of each criterion to the Town. The rankings were then summed, resulting in a total score, the greatest score indicating the preferred alternative. As shown in the ranking criteria matrix, Alternative M-2 (Aero-Mod™) ranked the highest, primarily due to regulatory compliance and process flexibility/expandability. Even though it does not have the lowest present worth cost, based on the overall score, sound engineering judgment, and owner preference, alternative M-2 was selected to provide advanced wastewater treatment for the Town of West Yellowstone.

Table 4
Mechanical Treatment Alternatives Ranking Criteria

Criteria		Alt M1: MBR		Alt M-2: Aero-mod™		Alt M-2: STM Aerotor™	
	Weight	Rating	Total Value	Rating	Total Value	Rating	Total Value
Capital Cost	15%	2	0.3	3	0.45	1	0.15
O&M Life Cycle Cost	15%	2	0.3	3	0.45	1	0.15
Footprint Size	15%	3	0.45	1	0.15	2	0.3
Wastewater Industry Experience	10%	2	0.2	3	0.3	2	0.2
Process Flexibility	10%	3	0.3	1	0.1	2	0.2
Process Complexity/ Operability	10%	1	0.1	3	0.3	2	0.2
Power Requirements	10%	1	0.1	2	0.2	3	0.3
Expandability	6%	2	0.12	1	0.06	3	0.18
Reliability / Maintainability	6%	1	0.06	3	0.18	2	0.12
Chemical Requirements	3%	1	0.03	3	0.09	3	0.09
Total	**100%**		**1.96**		**2.28**		**1.89**

The estimated administration, engineering, and construction cost for the recommended alternative (Alternative M-2) is $37,211,600. The Town will fund the project through a $32,289,346 low interest loan (2.50%; 30-year term) obtained from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (WPCSRF) loan program. Of this loan amount $750,000 will be forgiven at the end of the project. Additional funding will include a $262,483 ARPA – Minimum Allocation Grant, a $2,000,000 ARPA – Competitive Grant, a $750,000 Gallatin County ARPA Allocation, a $125,000 Renewable Resource Grant, and a local contribution of $1,784,771.

Sewer rates will be raised by 25% before construction is complete to pay for the proposed improvements. The financial impact of this project on the system users is shown in Table 5. After the rate increases are imposed, residential user rates will increase from $27.07/month to approximately $33.96/month. Based on the EPA guidance for project affordability, the proposed project will result in a monthly cost per household that is 1% of the monthly median household income, and therefore, is not expected to impose an economic hardship on household income.

Table 5
PROJECT AFFORDABILITY

Monthly user cost[1]	$33.96
Monthly median household income (mMHI)[2]	$3,192.17
User rate as a percentage of mMHI	1%

[1] E-mail correspondence with Town's Financial Director, April 2023
[2] Based on 2015 -2019 American Communities Survey data

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. PLANNING AREA AND MAPS

The Town of West Yellowstone is located at the junction of US Highway 191 and US Highway 20, in southwestern Montana at the western entrance to Yellowstone National Park (see Figure 1). The West Yellowstone boundary and planning area are shown in Figure 2. This area includes the incorporated limits of the Town of West Yellowstone and some adjacent undeveloped lands (totaling 80-acres) that were recently deeded to the Town of West Yellowstone by the Forest Service. Figure 3 shows the proposed location of the mechanical treatment plant at the existing lagoon site on property leased from the State of Montana, Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division. The mechanical plant will be constructed within the footprint of an existing I/P cell located along the southern edge of the existing polishing pond.

B. POPULATION AND FLOW PROJECTIONS

According to census data, the population for the Town of West Yellowstone has been stable over the past decade and stands at approximately 1,270 residents. However, the growth of the community has been severely limited by a sewer moratorium that was imposed due to a lack of wastewater treatment plant

capacity. Once this sewer moratorium on local development is lifted, it is expected that new residential properties, businesses, and hotels will be constructed which will likely result in an increase in West Yellowstone's year-round population as well as be a boost for the local tourism industry. As a major point of entry into Yellowstone National Park, it is the influx of tourists during the summer months that dictates the needed sewer capacity of the wastewater treatment facility.

Currently, the average peak season daily flow to the existing WWTF is approximately 635,000 gallons per day (gpd). The proposed treatment system improvements will be designed to handle an average daily flow rate of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) which equates to an annual growth rate of approximately 4% over the 20-year design period (year 2043).

C. NATURAL FEATURES

The Town of West Yellowstone is bordered in all directions by Federal lands, including National Park and Forest Service land. These lands have native vegetation and are sparsely developed. There are three parcels to the east totaling 80-acres that have recently been deeded to the Town by the Forest Service which could potentially have a higher density of development. Within the Town limits, land use is predominantly residential with motels and areas of light commercial and small businesses.

The treatment site is located on Pleistocene obsidian sand deposits that washed out of Yellowstone Park. Sand deposits in this area range between 90 and 100 feet thick. The local aquifer is unconfined and is hydraulically connected to the downgradient Madison River and Hebgen Lake. Groundwater near the WWTP is Class I groundwater which is a high-quality water of the state. Class I groundwater must be maintained so that these waters are suitable for the following beneficial uses with little or no treatment: public and private water supplies; culinary and food processing purposes; irrigation; drinking water for livestock and wildlife; and commercial and industrial purposes. The static groundwater elevation is approximately 30 feet below the ground surface.

West Yellowstone's average high temperature is 75°F but can occasionally approach 100°F during the summer months. The average low temperature is approximately 14°F, with periods of sub-zero temperatures at times during the winter months. The average annual precipitation rate is 21.56 inches per year with most of that falling from December to March and again in May and June. The average evaporation rate in the area is 34 inches per year.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

A. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Land Use/Prime Farmland – The proposed project will not impact prime

farmland or land use in general. The new mechanical treatment plant will be constructed within the existing treatment system boundaries in the southeast corner of the property where the sewer force main enters the property. The treatment plant buildings will occupy an area that is approximately 350'x 85'. The I/P cells will remain in use for the disposal of treated effluent.

2. Floodplains –The Town's new wastewater treatment facility is not located within any designated 100-year floodplain.

3. Wetlands – Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services National Wetland Inventory map there are no wetlands that will be impacted by this project which will be constructed withing the boundaries of the existing treatment system.

4. Cultural Resources – No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. All construction activity will occur within the boundaries of the existing treatment system which has been previously disturbed. No historical structures will be impacted.

5. Fish and Wildlife – The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service indicated that the Bald Eagle, Grizzly Bear, Gray Wolf, Canada Lynx, and the North American Wolverine are animal species of concern in the West Yellowstone area. The project will not affect any critical wildlife habitats, nor will any known endangered species be affected. The new treatment system will be constructed within the boundaries of the existing treatment system, which is leased from the State of Montana, Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division.

6. Water Quality - The Town of West Yellowstone operates under an MDEQ issued MGWPCS discharge permit (MTX00024). The MDEQ establishes effluent limits in the permit based on water quality standards that are protective of beneficial uses (including human health) such that there shall be no increase of a parameter to a level that renders the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to the beneficial uses.

   The proposed mechanical treatment facility is a more efficient and flexible treatment process that will improve the quality of water discharged to groundwater. With expected effluent concentrations from the Aero-Mod system of <30 mg/L BOD; <10mg/L TSS and <10 mg/L Total Nitrogen the new treatment system should provide a high-quality effluent that can meet the Total Nitrogen effluent limit of 314 lbs/day.

   Impacts to the nearby surface stream associated with storm water runoff during construction will have to be mitigated with appropriate best management practices and carefully maintained during construction.

7. Air Quality - Short-term negative impacts on air quality are expected to occur during construction from heavy equipment in the form of dust and

exhaust fumes. Proper construction practices will minimize this problem with the project specifications requiring dust control. The new facility will produce some odors associated with the wastewater treatment processes, but these will be reduced as much as possible using aeration equipment and building enclosures. The remote location of the treatment plant along with the prevailing wind direction in the area also helps to minimize the influence of odors upon residents in the area.

8. Public Health - Public health will not be negatively affected by the proposed project. The proposed treatment facility improvements will improve treatment resulting in a better-quality effluent being discharged to the groundwater. Improved sewage treatment will reduce the potential to pollute ground and surface waters.

9. Energy – An increase in energy consumption will occur after the new treatment plant is constructed. Energy consumption will be minimized as much as possible using energy efficient equipment (pumps, aeration equipment, lighting, etc.).

   The consumption of energy resources directly associated with construction of the recommended improvements is unavoidable but will be a short-term commitment.

10. Noise - Short-term impacts from excessive noise levels may occur during the construction activities. The construction period will be limited to normal daytime hours to avoid early morning or late evening construction disturbances. The headworks equipment and treatment basins will be housed in buildings which will minimize noise, and the treatment facility will be in a relatively remote area so no significant long-term impacts from noise will occur.

11. Sludge Disposal – Aerobic digesters would be utilized to treat and stabilize the biosolids that are wasted from the Aero-Mod™ treatment process. The biosolids would be dewatered in a 20-yard roll-off dumpster with a filter bag installed inside. The filter bag would then be sent to the landfill located at Logan, MT for final disposal. Treated biosolids compliant with EPA 503 and Montana DEQ regulatory standards for composting will be approved for compost disposal at the Logan Landfill. Biosolids that exceed the composting acceptance criteria will be disposed of as a class 2 solid waste provided the biosolids can pass the paint filter test and not exceed the RCRA limits for toxicity.

    Once the new treatment facility is operational, sludge in the existing lagoons will need to be removed for final disposal. The sludge in the existing lagoons will be pumped into bio-bags for dewatering and then taken to the Logan Landfill for final disposal in accordance with EPA's 258 Regulations *Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills.*

12. Environmental Justice – Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898: The proposed project will not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. No disproportionate effects among any portion of the community would be expected.

13. Wild and Scenic River Act – The proposed project will not impact any rivers designated as wild and scenic by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior.

14. Growth - The anticipated increase in population and development in the service area will result in increased flows to the WWTP. The 20-year design flow rate is based on an increase of approximately 4.0 percent per year. Improvements to the WWTP will be a positive feature for the community providing additional treatment capacity that will allow the Town to manage its growth in a proactive manner and promote urbanization within its service area.

15. Cumulative Effects - The increased treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment plant may result in secondary and/or cumulative impacts due to growth of the community and expansion of the service area. Secondary impacts associated with housing, commercial development, solid waste, transportation, utilities, air quality, water utilization, and possible loss of agricultural and rural lands may occur. These secondary impacts are uncertain at this time, and therefore, cannot be directly addressed in the EA. However, these impacts will need to be managed and minimized as much as possible through proper community planning. There are several existing town, county and state regulations already in place (i.e., zoning regulations, comprehensive planning, subdivision laws, etc.) that control the density and development of property with regards to water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal, transportation, and storm drainage system.

B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction related impacts (i.e., noise, dust, etc.) will occur, but should be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction and energy for operation of the new mechanical treatment plant cannot be avoided.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting to discuss the treatment system improvements was held on May 9, 2023. At this meeting the project engineer discussed the need for the project, the treatment system alternatives considered, associated costs, funding sources, the impact to user rates, and project schedule. Only one comment was made inquiring about the types of facility that were considered. No other public comments were received.

VII. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

All proposed improvements will be designed to meet state standards in accordance with Design Standards for Public Sewage Systems (Circular DEQ-2) and will be constructed using standard construction methods. Best management practices will be implemented to minimize or eliminate pollutants from leaving the construction site. No additional permits will be required from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) section of the DEQ for this project after the review and approval of the submitted plans and specifications. However, coverage under the storm water general discharge permit and groundwater dewatering discharge permit, are required from the DEQ Water Protection Bureau prior to the beginning of construction. A Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, a 124 Permit from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and a 318 Authorization from the Department of Environment Quality will be required for any work that will impact surface water and will be obtained if necessary.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through this EA, the DEQ has verified that none of the adverse impacts of the proposed West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment System project are significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. The environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607, 17.4.608, 17.4.609, and 17.4.610. The EA is the appropriate level of analysis because none of the adverse effects of the impacts are significant.

IX. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been utilized in the environmental review of this project and are considered to be part of the project file:

1. Town of West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report, May 2020, prepared by Forsgren Associates Inc.
2. Town of West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report Addendum, October 2021, prepared by Forsgren Associates Inc.
3. General Correspondence with Town of West Yellowstone Financial Director and Forsgren Associates Inc. regarding the public meeting, project budget and user rates, May 2023.

X. AGENCIES CONSULTED

The following agencies have been contacted regarding the proposed construction of this project:

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted on 10/22/21 and on 4/25/23 regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources from the proposed project. No response was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) reviewed the proposed project and stated that they commonly review these projects for implications relating to regulatory floodplains and water rights and that they have no comments on the proposed project.

3. The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the proposed project. According to their records, there have been no previously recorded sites and one cultural resource inventory done within the designated search locales. SHPO stated that if any structure over 50 years old is to be altered, it is recommended that they be recorded and a determination of their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places be made. They indicated that "as long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age, we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted". They felt that a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time but should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials are inadvertently discovered during this project, their office must be contacted, and the site investigated.

4. The U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) reviewed the proposed project. The USCOE is responsible for administering Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the excavation or placement of dredged or fill material below the ordinary high water mark of our nation's rivers, streams, lakes or in wetlands. The USCOE stated that "based on the information provided, they were unable to ascertain if regulated activities are proposed or if jurisdictional waters of the U.S. are present within the project area." They further stated that if the final design includes the placement of fill material in any jurisdictional area that they need to submit a Montana Joint Permit Application to their office prior to starting any work and they will determine what type of permit, if any, will be required.

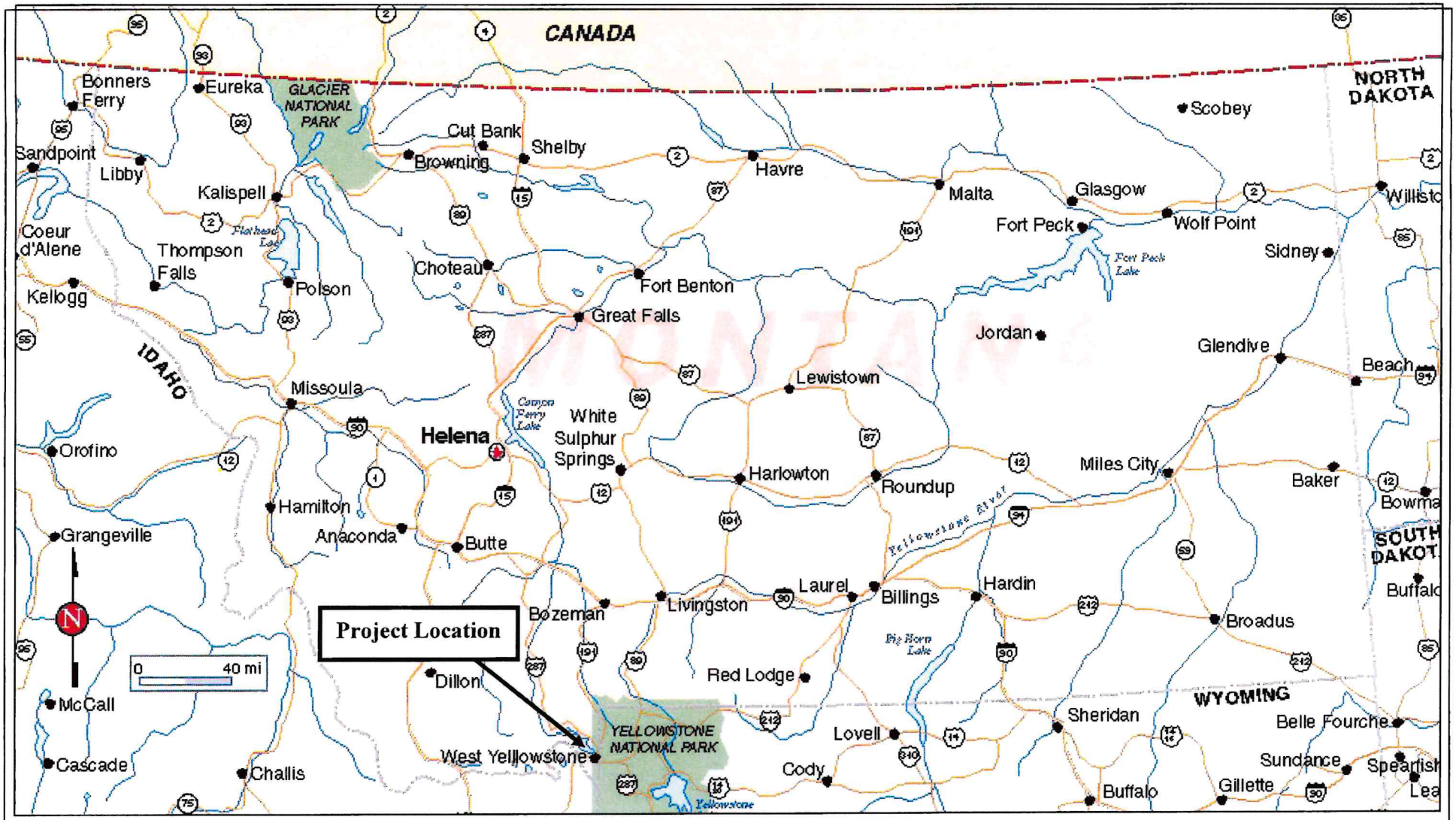
5. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) was contacted on 10/22/21 and on 4/25/23 regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources from the proposed project. No response was received from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

EA Prepared by:

Mike Abrahamson, P.E. — Date: 6/2/23

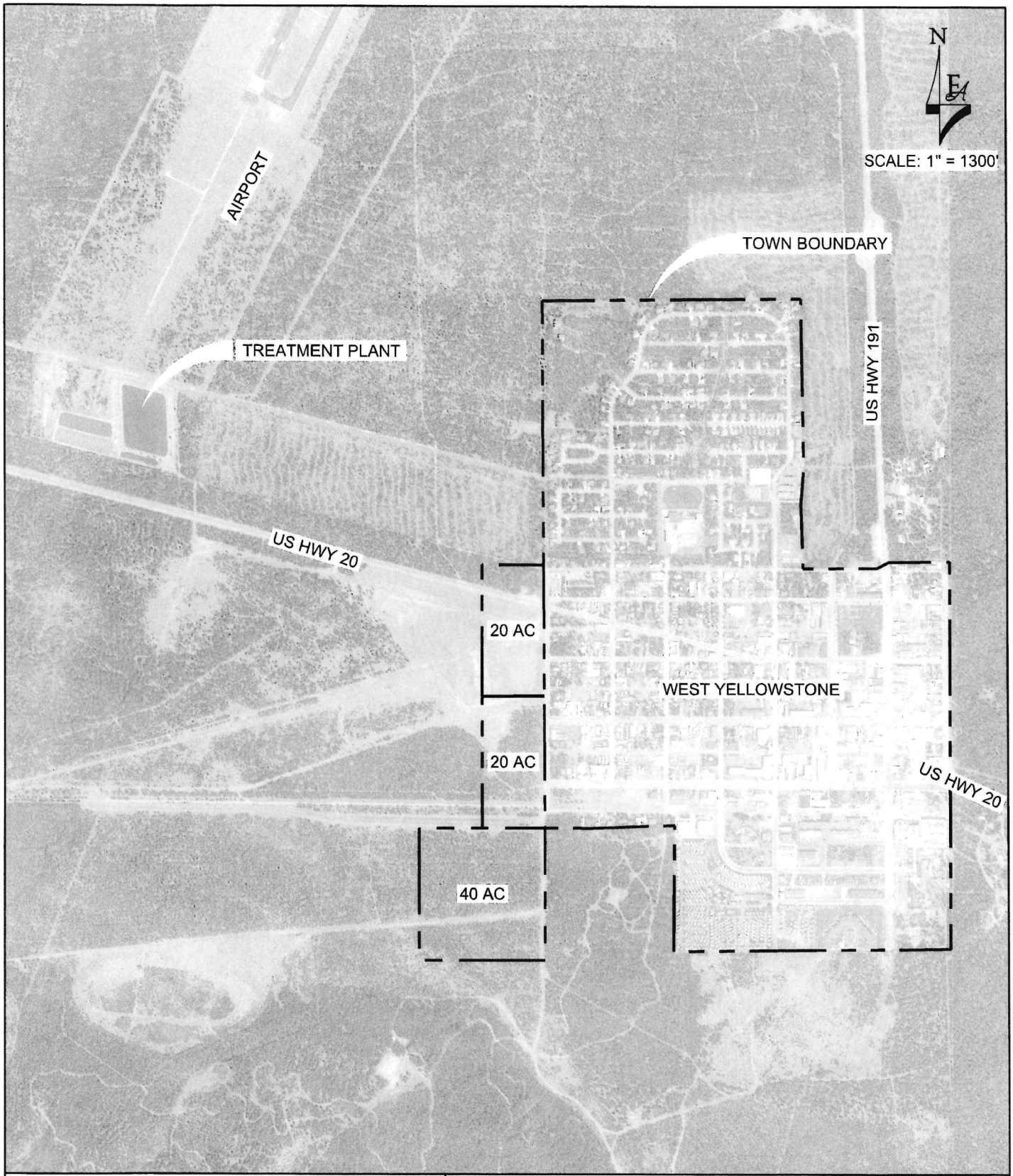
EA Reviewed by:

Michele Marsh, P.E. — Date: 6/2/2023



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Figure 1. Site Location Map – Town of West Yellowstone



FORSGREN Associates Inc.
350 NORTH 2ND EAST, REXBURG, ID 83440
PH: 208.356.9201 FAX: 208.356.0206

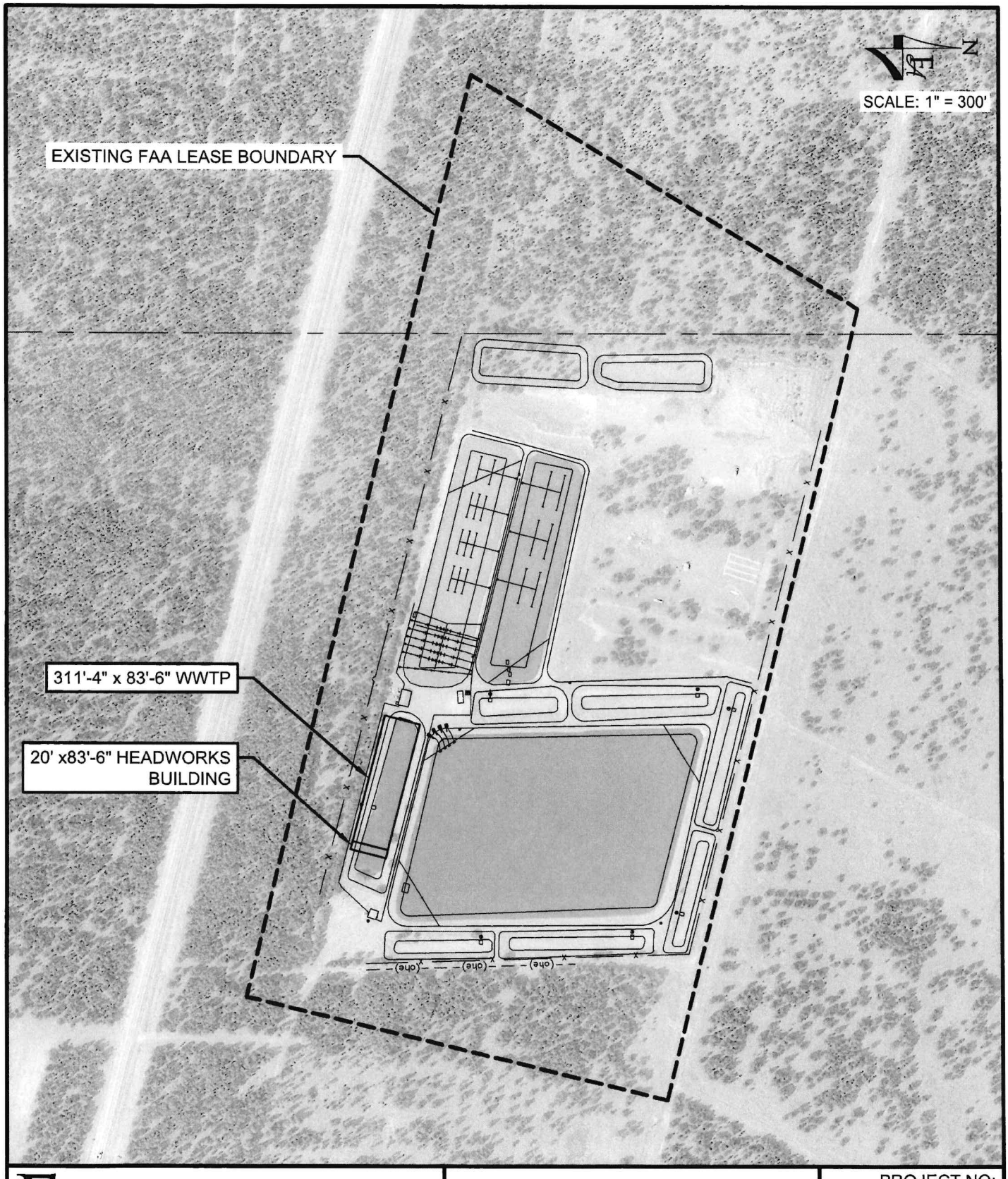
WEST YELLOWSTONE WWTP

FIGURE 2

PLANNING BOUNDARY

PROJECT NO: 01-19-0046-200

DATE: MARCH 2020



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WEST YELLOWSTONE WWTP

FIGURE 3

MECHANICAL TREATMENT

PROJECT NO: 01-19-0046-200

DATE: MARCH 2020