CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	**SMITH LAKE REHAB TRAIL PROJECT**
Proposed Implementation Date:	**JUNE 16, 2023**
Proponent:	**MT DNRC IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CITY OF WHITEFISH AND WHITEFISH LEGACY PARTNERS**
Location:	**SMITH LAKE, T32N R22W SECTION 32**
County:	**FLATHEAD**

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The City of Whitefish ("City") and Whitefish Legacy Partners ("WLP") have offered to financially assist Montana Department of Natural Resources and Consecration ("DNRC") with the reconstruction and partial reclamation of a user-built trail that currently accesses the crest of Smith Lake Dam located near the north end of Whitefish Lake. See Exhibit A – Smith Lake Vicinity Map. Project objectives include:

- Protect the integrity of Smith Lake Dam by directing public use away from the dam.
- Mitigate existing erosion concerns and sediment delivery into Smith Lake; and
- Provide for an improved, alternate access to Smith Lake.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS, OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:
Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. List number of individuals contacted, number of responses received, and newspapers in which notices were placed and for how long. Briefly summarize issues received from the public.

- **DATE:**
  - November 10, 2022 – November 28, 2022
- **PUBLIC SCOPED:**
  - The scoping notice was posted on the DNRC Website: http://dnrc.mt.gov/public-interest/public-notices
  - Whitefish Pilot
  - Adjacent landowners, interested non-profits and associations, City of Whitefish
- **AGENCIES SCOPED:**
  - Statewide tribal governments, land board staffers, and Montana FWP
- **COMMENTS RECEIVED:**
  - One comment received in support of the reconstruction and reclamation trail project to improve erosion issues, sediment runoff, stability of the dam, and improve quality recreation opportunities on behalf of the public.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:
Examples: cost-share agreement with U.S. Forest Service, 124 Permit, 3A Authorization, Air Quality Major Open Burning Permit.

- **Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP)-** A Stream Protection Act Permit (124 Permit) is required from Montana FWP for activities that may affect the natural shape and form of a stream's channel, banks, or tributaries. Such activities include the installation of a dock on Smith Lake and fencing adjacent to the crest and spillway of Smith Lake Dam.

3. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT:
Describe alternatives considered and, if applicable, provide brief description of how the alternatives were developed. List alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis and why.

Action Alternative:
The Action Alternative includes the reconstruction and partial reclamation of an unauthorized user-built trail currently accessing the crest of Smith Lake Dam. Smith Lake Dam was originally constructed as a fish rearing pond in the 1930s and was used as such until 1960 when the project was abandoned. In 2000, DNRC Dam Safety classified the dam as 'high hazard' due to its location above a paved county road, East Lakeshore Drive. In 2001, DNRC completed, as feasible, the recommended immediate actions to reduce the risk of dam failure by removing flashboards to lower the level of the lake considerably. In 2012, DNRC received grant funding and constructed an earthen dam that restored the lake to its previous level; however, the dam is still classified as 'high hazard' because of the paved county road downstream of the dam. Dam inspections and associated maintenance are completed annually to ensure that the integrity of the dam is not compromised.

Portions of the user-built trail are steep which has led to erosion issues and sediment runoff into the lake. The current trail provides access to the crest of the dam where the public is inadvertently causing several detrimental effects to the stability of the dam. Large angular rocks placed specifically to protect the embankment from erosion and to protect the impermeable liner under the spillway are being redistributed by members of the public. This can expose the impermeable liner and risk possible failure of the earthen dam.

The proposed project will rehabilitate existing resource damage by installing crib steps on steep portions of the existing trail, a viewing platform, bench, rock retaining wall, additional crib stepping that would direct users away from the dam, and a dock with ramp providing direct access to the water. A fence would be installed on either side of the dam restricting public access to the crest and spillway of the dam. Additional rock would be positioned along the east side of the crest of the dam where the original rock has been displaced by the public. See Exhibit B for a conceptual site plan.

No Action Alternative:
Under this alternative, no reconstruction of the existing user-built trail leading down to Smith Lake Dam would be completed. The unauthorized user-built trail would remain in its current condition which produces sediment delivery into Smith Lake. Amenities such as a viewing platform, bench and dock would not be built. Fencing along the perimeters of the spillway could be installed as this feature was originally analyzed for under Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easements EA published January 2019; however, DNRC funding would need to be secured in advance. DNRC would continue annual inspections and maintenance of dam features.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soils.

The Project Area contains an existing user-built hiking trail. Portions of this trail are constructed on steep grades with little or no erosion control or surface drainage. There is active erosion occurring on this trail that delivers sediment directly to Smith Lake. This erosion leads to a widening of the trail and increases in soil disturbance where users attempt to avoid loose soil or unsure footing. For a description of the soil landtypes and geology in the proposed project area, please refer to the Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easements Environmental Assessment (DNRC, January 2019).

Risks of direct, secondary and cumulative impacts to soil disturbance, soil erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to Smith Lake would be measurably reduced with the proposed project. Relocation of portions of the existing trail to more favorable grades and locations, and subsequent rehabilitation of abandoned portions of the existing trail, would substantially lower the risk of adverse direct, secondary and cumulative impacts to erosion and soil disturbance issues. In addition, construction of crib steps on steep portions of the trail would substantially reduce the risk of erosion on steep portions of the existing trail that would remain in use.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to water resources.

Portions of the user-built trail are constructed on steep grades with little or no erosion control or surface drainage. There is active erosion occurring on this trail that delivers sediment directly to Smith Lake. In addition, trail users have moved several large rocks from the upstream face of the Smith Lake Dam to facilitate launching canoes, kayaks, and other small personal watercraft. These activities have led to degradation of the existing liner protecting the reservoir side of the dam and have the potential to generate shoreline erosion and damage to the earthen dam structure.

Risks of direct, secondary, or cumulative impacts to water quality from the proposed project would be substantially reduced with implementation of the proposed project. Relocation of poorly located portions of trail, rehabilitation of abandoned portions of trail, construction of crib steps on steep portions of trail, fencing off access to Smith Lake Dam, and construction of a dock to facilitate launching canoes, kayaks and other small personal watercraft would measurably reduce erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to Smith Lake. Proposed improvements to the trail would reduce the risks of erosion by creating lower gradients. Surface drainage features would also reduce the potential for erosion and subsequent sediment delivery by reducing the erosive power of runoff events. Installation of the fence to restrict dam access and construction of a dock to facilitate watercraft launching would reduce or eliminate use of Smith Lake Dam for these purposes. This would increase the likelihood that existing rock armor on the reservoir side of the dam would remain undisturbed, further reducing the risk of wave action generating sediment or compromising the integrity of the dam.

Mitigations:

- Install imbedded log cross-drains every 75 feet on portions of the trail that do not contain crib steps to direct runoff away from the trail during runoff events.
- Replace all rock armor on the reservoir side of the dam to protect the protective liner and to reduce the risk of erosion on the face of the dam.
- Place signs near the dam explaining why it is important to leave the rock armor and vegetation intact on the earthen dam to reduce the risks of damage to the structure and to reduce the risk of erosion.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced (i.e. particulate matter from road use or harvesting, slash pile burning, prescribed burning, etc)? Identify the Airshed and Impact Zone (if any) according to the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to air quality.

No effects to air quality are anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to vegetation.

The Project Area is occupied with a mature timber stand where the overstory dominants are predominantly Douglas-fir and western larch. The stand is well stocked and the structure somewhat multistoried. Low shrubs dominate the understory. One mature Douglas-fir and a minimum number of low shrubs would need to be removed to facilitate construction of cribbed timber steps, viewing platform, bench pad and ramp to the dock. The Douglas-fir is within 20 feet of the banks of Smith Lake. The City would be required to coordinate with DNRC on the appropriate measures of removal to protect the bank of Smith Lake.

Vegetation Mitigations: Once the project is completed, disturbed areas would be grass seeded with a native grass seed mix. Native plants may also be planted in reclamation areas as necessitated.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds, or fish. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Currently, poor trail conditions and steep banks limit watercraft use on Smith Lake. The proposed project would improve the existing user-built trail and install a dock on Smith Lake. This would facilitate an increase in small, mostly non-motorized watercraft on the lake and may increase recreational use of the Project Area. The impacts of trail-based recreation are addressed in the Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easements EA (DNRC, January 2019).

Fish species present in Smith Lake include eastern brook trout, westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout according to FWP's Fish MT website. Currently, Montana FWP is regularly stocking Smith Lake with westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout. Eastern brook trout are a relic population from historic stocking efforts. Risks to fish populations and habitat from the proposed project would be substantially reduced with implementation of the proposed project. All anticipated direct, secondary and cumulative impacts to fish populations and habitat would be related to potential water quality impacts. These impacts are discussed in section **5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION** of this document.

Smith Lake is utilized by a variety of waterfowl and foraging raptor species (MNHP 2023) which may be disturbed or displaced long-term by increased watercraft activity. This displacement would likely occur primarily during the summer months of July-September. Increased shoreline activity associated with trail rehabilitation/construction on Smith Lake could temporarily disturb or displace waterfowl and raptors. The species that currently use Smith Lake are likely habituated to some human disturbance, however an increase in human watercraft use on this small lake could result in moderate direct/indirect effects to waterfowl and raptors using the lake habitat. Minor cumulative effects would also be anticipated.

The shoreline of Smith Lake provides waterfowl and amphibian breeding habitat (DNRC, January 2019). Approximately 4 feet of shoreline habitat would be permanently impacted by the dock, however the proposed improvements should concentrate use to one area of shoreline and result in an overall decrease in the total amount of shoreline habitat impacted by recreational use.

Terrestrial wildlife, such as big game, that currently use the Project Area are habituated to moderate levels of human disturbance year-round and anticipated use of the Project Area is expected to continue with the proposed project. Short-term localized disturbance would occur during trail rehabilitation activities which could lead to temporary displacement. Given the existing levels of recreational use and scale of the proposed project, negligible adverse effects are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

The Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easement EA (DNRC, January 2019) describes the existing conditions of the Project Area. The Project Area is grizzly bear non-recovery occupied habitat associated with the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. The Project Area also contains suitable lynx habitat. Periodic use of the Project Area by grizzly bears and lynx may occur. The proposed project would occur on the footprint of an existing unauthorized user-built trail that receives moderate public non-motorized use. The proposed project would have minimal impact to existing habitat and would not impede wildlife movement. Recreational use and associated disturbance would remain moderate or may increase slightly as a result of the proposed project. A minor, temporary increase in disturbance would be expected during trail rehabilitation activities. To minimize potential disturbance to grizzly bears during the spring period, motorized trail rehabilitation activities will be prohibited between April 1 and June 15th. Overall, appreciable changes to grizzly bear and lynx use of the Project Area beyond what was analyzed and disclosed in the Close the Loop Trail and

Public Recreation Use Easement EA (DNRC, January 2019) are not expected. Thus, negligible adverse direct, secondary, or cumulative effects to grizzly bears and lynx would be anticipated.

Smith Lake is considered potential suitable habitat for common loons (DNRC, January 2019), although observation records are lacking (MNHP 2023). Breeding pairs of common loons are unlikely to use Smith Lake due to the small size of the lake, surrounding topography (making ingress/egress difficult), and relative lack of islands or emergent aquatic vegetation along the shoreline used for nesting. Common loons are particularly sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season. If loons are found to be breeding on Smith Lake, watercraft would be prohibited within 500 feet of the nesting site from April 1-July 15. Should breeding loons be present on Smith Lake, moderate adverse direct and indirect effects are expected, as well as low cumulative effects.

Wildlife Mitigations:

- If a threatened or endangered species is encountered, consult a DNRC biologist immediately. Similarly, if undocumented nesting raptors or wolf dens are encountered within ½ mile of the Project Area, contact a DNRC biologist.
- Contractors and recreational users will ensure that all attractants such as food, garbage, and petroleum products are stored in a bear-resistant manner.
- Prohibit contractors conducting trail rehabilitation activities from carrying firearms while on duty as per ARM 36.11.444(2).
- Prohibit motorized trail rehabilitation activities from April 1 – June 15.
- If a common loon nest is discovered, implement a watercraft restriction zone within 500 feet of the nesting area from April 1-July 15. This would be accomplished through educational signage and/or the placement of signs and buoys.

References:

DNRC. 2019. Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easements Environmental Assessment. January 2019.
MNHP. 2023. Natural Heritage Map Viewer. Montana Natural Heritage Program. Retrieved on March 10, 2023, from http://mtnhp.org/MapViewer.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

None. Should any historical archeological or cultural features be discovered during construction, work would be suspended until the site can be properly evaluated.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to aesthetics.

The Project Area is visible from a roundabout parking area at the end of West Smith Road which is situated on a bluff overlooking Smith Lake. The proposed improvements such as the dock, viewing platform and fencing would be observable from the roundabout parking area. The Project Area is also visible from the end of East Smith Road which is managed year-round as a closed road to motorized use (exception being tracked snowmachines between December 1 and April 1).

Proposed trail features have been designed to blend with the surrounding forested landscape. Trail tread would be of natural surface. Crib steps with gravel inlay would be built from untreated rough sawn timbers. A wooden bench and viewing platform would be built to conform to the natural terrain. The most noticeable change to the scenery would be the installation of a dock on the lake and fencing on either side of the dam.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No effects to limited environmental resources are anticipated.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

- **East Smith Road Private Driveway Request – Scoped July 2021 and October 2022.** This project proposal would include the construction of 1.6 miles of new road off East Smith Lake Road. The request is for a 40-foot-wide private driveway easement that would grant legal access to three adjacent landowners. The construction of the new road would also provide for better access management to State forested lands.

- **Swift Smith Blowdown Timber Project EA – Published June 2020**. Primary objectives included salvage and captured value of blown down and damaged timber, reopen roads and areas to general and licensed recreational uses, lessen the risk and severity of wildfire and limit the spread of Douglas-fir bark beetle. This project was completed in 2021.

- **Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easements EA – Published January 2019.** This project originally analyzed for the purchase of a permanent trail easement on 16.7 acres and a Public Recreation Use Easement on 480 acres in the Swift Creek/Smith Lake area. Proposed amendments to the acreage to be encumbered under an easement are currently being discussed between the City, WLP and DNRC. Any proposed changes will need to be additionally analyzed prior to an easement being granted.

- **Smith Lake Dam Reconstruction Checklist EA – Published April 2010**. This project included replacing the deteriorating concrete spillway built in 1958 with an earthen dam spillway which would allow for the lake to remain at full pool. This project was completed in 2012.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

A fence would be installed on either side of the crest and spillway of the dam restricting public access where the public has inadvertently caused several detrimental effects to the stability of the dam by displacing rock armoring. Risk to human health and safety associated with possible failure of the dam would be lessened by restricting public access to the dam and redirecting public use away from the dam.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

No effects to industrial, commercial and agriculture activities are anticipated.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move, or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the employment market.

No effects to quantity and distribution of employment are anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

No effects to local and state tax base and tax revenues are anticipated.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

No effects to government services are anticipated.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning, or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Smith Lake Dam Emergency Action Plan (DNRC, implemented in 2012 and updated annually)
The purpose of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is primarily to safeguard lives and secondarily to reduce property damage to the citizens of Flathead County living near the town of Whitefish, and along Smith Creek and Whitefish Lake, in the event of flooding caused by a failure of Smith Lake Dam.

Whitefish School Trust Lands Neighborhood Plan (WTLAC 2004)
The Project Area is part of the Swift Creek Subarea of the Whitefish Neighborhood Plan. Specific concepts and implementation strategies for this subarea apply, namely the goals of enhancing developed recreation with a multi-use trail system.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The Smith Lake area receives a moderate level of recreational use by the public. Currently, the Swift Creek section of the licensed Whitefish Trail ends at the West Smith Lake Road roundabout. The roundabout, located on a bluff overlooking Smith Lake, provides parking for approximately 4 to 5 vehicles. This area is mostly accessed for hiking, biking, disk golf, fishing, hunting and general access to Smith Lake.

Currently, there is an unauthorized existing user-built trail, approximately 500 feet in length, which leads from the Smith Lake parking area down to the engineered earthen dam. Portions of the trail are steep which has led to erosion issues and sediment runoff into the lake. The current trail provides access to the crest of the dam where the public is inadvertently causing several detrimental effects to the stability of the dam by redistributing angular rock placed specifically to protect the embankment from erosion and to protect the impermeable liner under the spillway.

The proposed project would improve recreational access to the lake by adding crib steps along steep portions on the existing trail and by constructing an alternate access to the lake which would include a ramp and dock. Additional amenities would include a 10-ft by 10-ft viewing platform with a built-in bench and an additional bench directly below the platform. The improvements to the trail would provide safer access for most users and provide better opportunities for lake pursuits such as fishing, boating, and swimming. A fence would be erected on either side of the dam in an effort to restrict public access to the embankment and spillway of the dam. This would negatively affect those users wishing to access the east side of the lake and East Smith Road by directly crossing the embankment and spillway; however, the fence would be less than 100 feet in length on ether side of dam allowing users to cross Smith Creek just below the spillway.

The City has submitted an application to the DNRC for the purchase of a 600-acre Public Recreational Use Easement that incorporates the Project Area. The easement application includes additional acreage and trails not originally analyzed for in the Close the Loop Trail and Public Recreation Use Easement EA published in January 2019. The additional acreage and trails will need to be analyzed prior to the purchase of an easement. If an easement is approved by the Land Board, the Smith Lake site improvements would be included and managed as part of the Whitefish Trail recreation system.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to population and housing.

No effects to density and distribution of population and housing are anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No effects to disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities are anticipated.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

No effects to any unique quality are anticipated.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

If approved, the DNRC would issue the City of Whitefish a temporary Land Use License (LUL) for the construction and maintenance of the trail and associated improvements. The cost of the license would be $200/year annually until such time a permanent recreational use easement could be purchased by the City.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Nicole Porter	**Date:**	June 1, 2023
	Title:	Special Uses Program Manager		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Upon Review of the Checklist EA and attachments, I find the Action Alternative, as proposed, meets the intent of the project objectives as stated in section **I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION** of this document.

The Action Alternative complies with all pertinent environmental laws, the DNRC SFLMP and HCP, and is based upon a consensus of professional opinion on limits of acceptable environmental impact. For these reasons, and on behalf of DNRC, I have selected the Action Alternative to be implemented on this project.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

After a review of the scoping documents and comments, project file, Forest Management Rules, SFLMP and HCP checklists, and Department policies, standards, and guidelines, I find that all the identified resource management concerns have been fully addressed in this Checklist EA and its attachments.

Specific project design features and various recommendations by the resource management specialists will be implemented to ensure that this project will fall within the limits of environmental change. Taken individually and cumulatively, the proposed activities are common practices, and no project activities are being conducted on important unique or fragile sites. I find there will be no significant impacts to the human environments as a result of implementing the Action Alternative.

In summary, I find that the identified impacts will be controlled, mitigated, or avoided by the design of the project to the extent that the impacts are not significant.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name: Dave Ri**ng **Title: Stillwater Unit Manager**
Signature: /s/ David A. Ring	**Date**: June 2, 2023

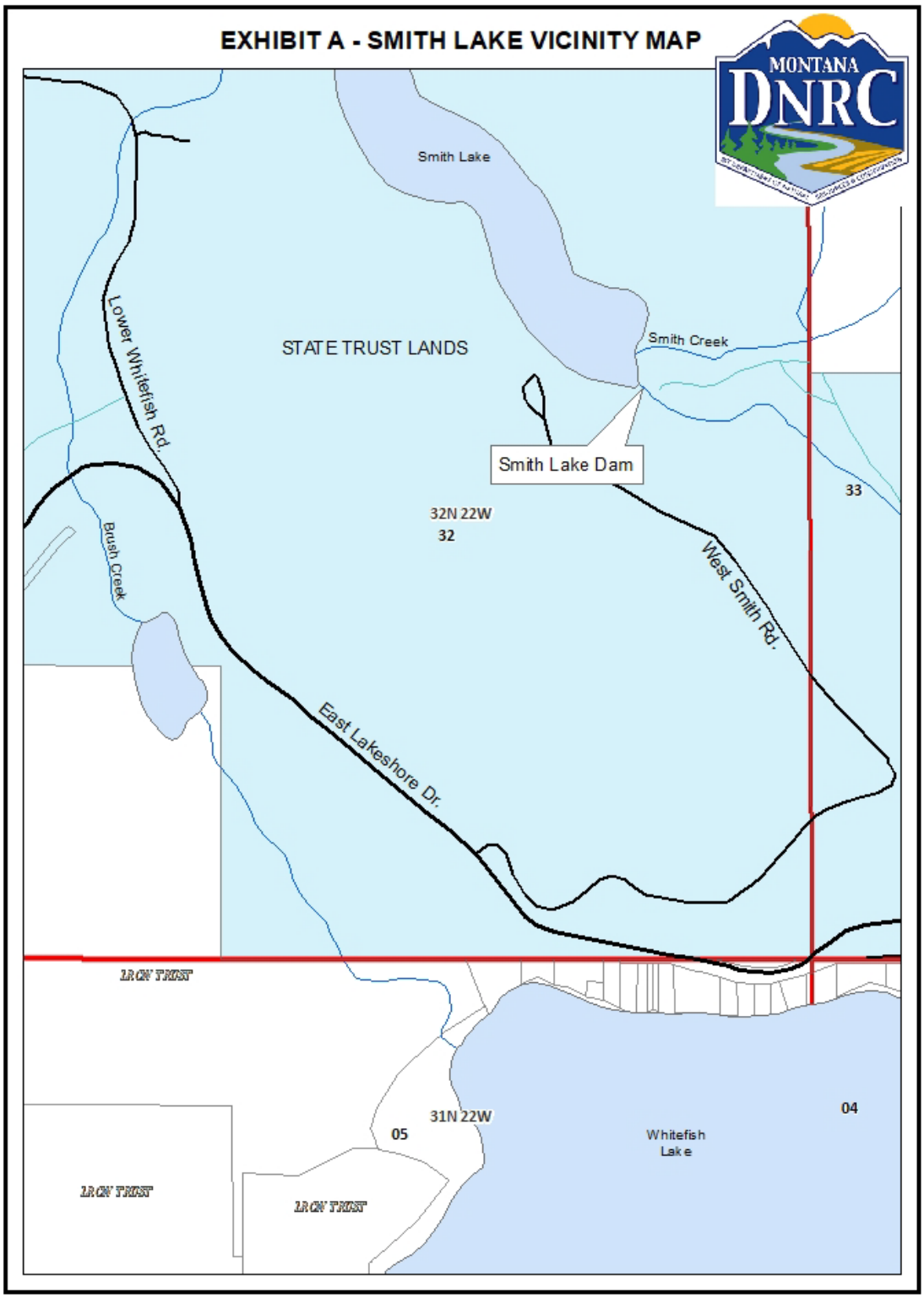
EXHIBIT A - SMITH LAKE VICINITY MAP
MONTANA
DNRC
Smith Lake
Lower Whitefish Rd.
STATE TRUST LANDS
Smith Creek
Smith Lake Dam
33
32N 22W
32
Brush Creek
West Smith Rd.
East Lakeshore Dr.
IRON TRUST
31N 22W
05
04
Whitefish
Lake
IRON TRUST
IRON TRUST

EXHIBIT B – SITE PLAN