Environmental Assessment Checklist

Project Name: Kona Bridge and Kelly Island stabilization project

Proposed Implementation Date: 2026, 2027 (During low flow and operations will be short in duration)

Proponent: Missoula Unit, Southwestern Land Office, Montana DNRC

County: Missoula

Type and Purpose of Action

Description of Proposed Action:
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing stream stabilization work within the Navigable waterway at the Kona and Kelly island fishing access sites in Missoula County. Coldwater engineering is their authorized agent and prepared the joint application.

Kelly Island: A riprap toe would be installed within the low water mark for approximately 194 feet along the bank and would extend 6-10 feet into the stream (.04 acre).

Kona: A stone toe will be installed within the low water mark for approximately 150 feet along the bank and would extend up to 20 feet into the stream (.07 acre).

Both projects are part of a more extensive stream stabilization project. The portions outlined above are the only operations occurring within DNRC jurisdiction. All work would be completed during low flow. Both proposed areas combined would be less than an acre in size.

Project Development

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:
Montana DNRC, US Army Corps of Engineers, Montana DEQ and Missoula Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: *(Conservation Easements, Army Corps of Engineers, road use permits, etc.)*

- **US Army Corps of Engineers –** Section 404 and Section 10 permits
- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality-**318 authorization and 401 certification
- **Missoula County Floodplain Administrator-**Floodplain permit

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:
No-Action Alternative: Would not grant FWP the Land Use License and they would not be able to provide a rock foundation for the work they would do outside of the low water mark further up the bank.

Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License in each location to enable FWP and Coldwater Engineering to complete stream stabilization projects at each location. This would include

installation of a stone toe at Kona and a riprap toe at Kelly Island both occurring within the low watermark.

Impacts on the Physical Environment

Evaluation of the impacts on the No-Action and Action Alternatives including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Physical Environment.

VEGETATION: Action and No Action Alternative

DNRC only has jurisdiction within the low water mark of the Clark Fork River at both proposed locations. Because there is no vegetation within the low water mark of the Clark Fork River there will be no impacts to vegetation within the low water mark for both the Action and No Action Alternative.

SOIL DISTURBANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY:

No Action: The existing condition of these resources would remain unchanged. Excessive erosion and loss of the river bank material in this reach will continue at an elevated rate due to the impact of the fishing access site.

Action Alternative: The streambed and river wash soils located within the low water mark are, by definition, inundated year-round. These soils will be impacted during excavation and installation of the proposed riprap armored toe of the bank stabilization project. Through the use of BMP's for bank stabilization, proper dewatering and excavation practices, and the installation of riprap that is meant to stabilize the bank, future erosion issues can be mitigated and will likely be improved based on the existing condition. Soil productivity is not a concern within the low water mark of the river.

WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY & FISHERIES:

No Action: The existing condition of these resources would remain unchanged.

Action Alternative: By stabilizing the bank through these two reaches, actively eroding sediment sources, which are currently impacting water quality, would be mitigated. The proposed project would involve dewatering and removing fish from the project area, which would minimize direct impacts to fish populations during operation. Temporary impacts to water quality and fish habitat may exists during and immediately following installation, though these impacts will dissipate rapidly and will result in improved water quality and fish habitat through these reaches.

By implementing streambank stabilization BMP's and by adhering to permit requirements as administered through U.S Army Corps of engineers, Montana DEQ, and the Missoula County Floodplain Administration, negative impacts to DNRC property below the low water mark are expected to be negligible.

WILDLIFE:

Existing Conditions: Limited habitats for terrestrial and avian wildlife exist in the project area. Some use of the DNRC-managed project area by aquatic mammals, birds, and amphibians is possible. Surrounding uplands and riparian habitats likely supports a variety of wildlife species native to western Montana, however proximity to numerous forms of human disturbance, including numerous roads, human residences, and FWP fishing access locations has likely altered wildlife use of the vicinity. A couple of bald eagle nests occur along the Bitterroot River and year-round use of the Bitterroot River is likely by bald eagles.

Habitats for yellow-billed cuckoos could exist in the vicinity, but no habitats occur in the project area. No known great blue heron rookeries are in the vicinity. Northern hoary bats have been documented in the vicinity and while fringed myotis have not been documented in the vicinity, some use is possible by both species given the habitats in the area. A suite of avian species likely travel along the Clark Fork River and could use the project area and/or surrounding terrestrial habitats. Similarly, several waterfowl species likely use the aquatic habitats in the project area for foraging.

No-Action: No further disturbance to wildlife would occur. No changes to exiting habitats would occur. Collectively, no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to terrestrial wildlife would be anticipated.

Action Alternative: By granting a Land Use License, bank stabilization activities would be anticipated, which could introduce some short-duration disturbance to terrestrial wildlife, avian wildlife, and aquatic wildlife species in the vicinity during proposed activities. No long-term changes in disturbance to resident wildlife species would be anticipated. Potential work would likely occur outside of the bald eagle nesting season, so potential effects to nesting eagles would be minimal. No appreciable changes to existing habitats on DNRC-managed portions would be anticipated, thus negligible effects to any of the other species in the vicinity would occur outside of the identified disturbance effects that would be present during activities. Collectively, negligible effects to the existing suite of wildlife species would be anticipated.

AIR QUALITY:

No Action: The condition of these resources would remain unchanged.
Action Alternative: No impacts to air quality would occur as a result of this project.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES / AESTHETICS / DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Because only the bed within the low watermark of the Clark Fork River is state-owned land in the project's area of potential effect, there are no cultural resource concerns. Issuance of a Land Use License will have No Effect to state owned heritage properties as defined in the State Antiquities Act.

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.

MT FWP-Kelly Island and Kona Bridge FAS Improvements 8/26/26

Impacts on the Human Population

Evaluation of the impacts on the proposed action including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Human Population.

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Health and Human Safety	X				X				X					
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	X				X				X					
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	X				X				X					
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	X				X				X					
Demand for Government Services	X				X				X					
Recreational and Wilderness Activities	X				X				X					

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Density and Distribution of population and housing	X				X				X					
Social Structures and Mores	X				X				X					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	X				X				X					
Action														
Health and Human Safety	X				X				X					
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	X				X				X					
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	X				X				X					
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	X				X				X					
Demand for Government Services	X				X				X					
Access To and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities	X				X				X					
Density and Distribution of population and housing	X				X				X					
Social Structures and Mores	X				X				X					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	X				X				X					

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.*

None.

Other Appropriate Social and Economic Circumstances:
No Action: The No Action alternative would not generate any return to the trust.

Action: Each Land Use License would return approximately $150 to the Public Land Trust-Navigable Rivers annually. An additional application fee of $50/application would also be collected.

Environmental Assessment Checklist Prepared By:

Name: Amy Helena
Title: Missoula Unit Manager
Date: August 7,2026

Finding

Alternative Selected

I select the Action Alternative; granting two Land Use Licenses involving .11 acre of State-owned property below the low water mark of the Clark Fork River, thereby accommodating the installation of riprap and stone toes to stabilize the bank.

Significance of Potential Impacts

The action alternative will not result in significant environmental impacts.

Need for Further Environmental Analysis

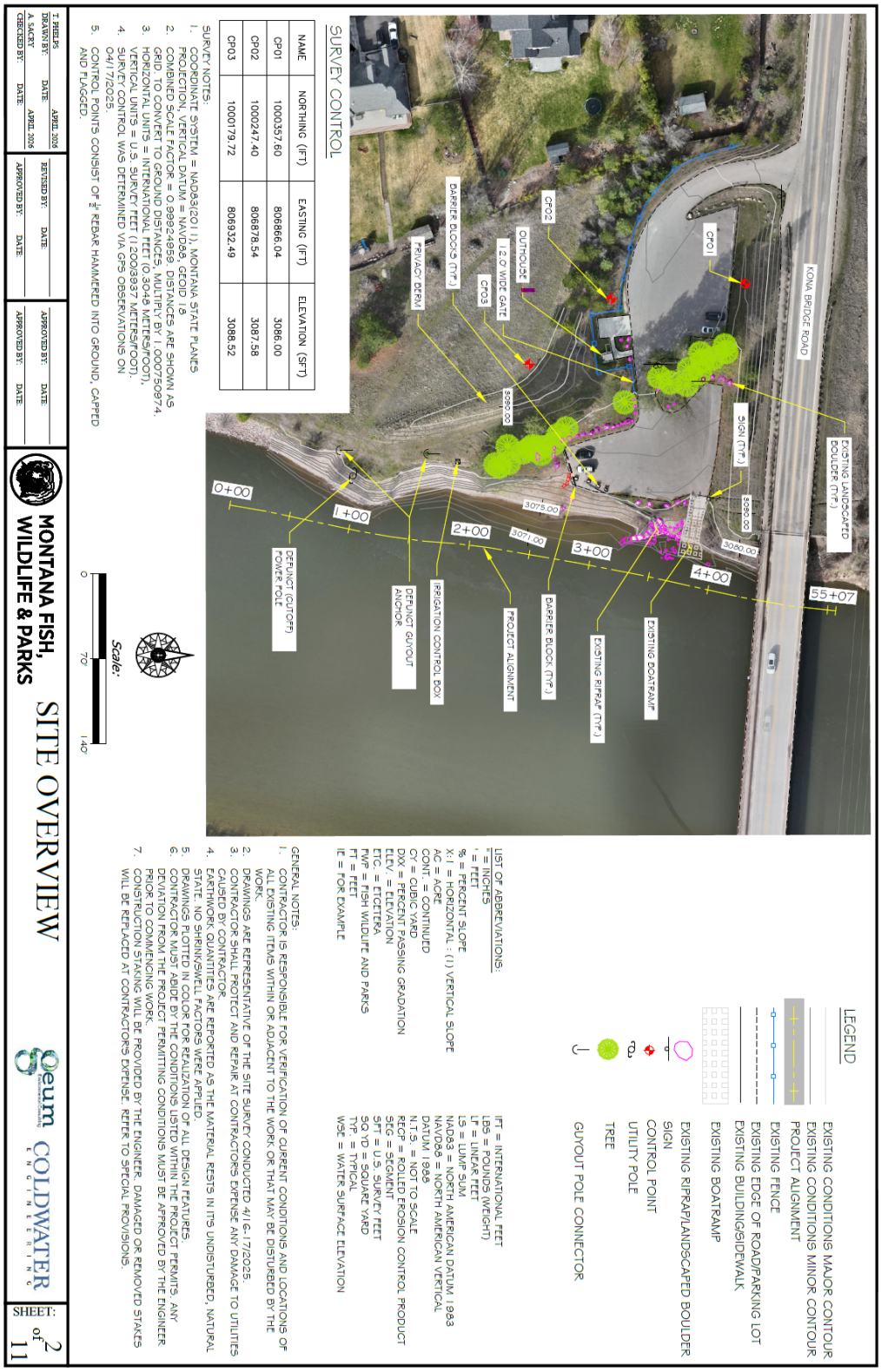
[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

Environmental Assessment Checklist Approved By:

Name: Seth Goodwin
Title: Area Operations Manager
Date: August 14, 2026
Signature: /s/

Attachment A - Exhibits

A-1: Kona Bridge Project



A-2: Kelly Island Project

SURVEY CONTROL

NAME	NORTHING (IFT)	EASTING (IFT)	ELEVATION (SFT)
CP01	986048.06	818824.88	3112.66
CP02	985922.22	818802.68	3112.12
CP03	985948.72	818901.56	3112.93

SURVEY NOTES:
1. COORDINATE SYSTEM = NAD83(2011), MONTANA STATE PLANES PROJECTION, VERTICAL DATUM = NAVD88, GEOID 18.
2. COMBINED SCALE FACTOR = 0.99992481. DISTANCES ARE SHOWN AS GRID. TO CONVERT TO GROUND DISTANCES, MULTIPLY BY 1.000750753.
3. HORIZONTAL UNITS = INTERNATIONAL FEET (0.3048 METERS/FOOT). VERTICAL UNITS = U.S. SURVEY FEET (1200/3937 METERS/FOOT).
4. SURVEY CONTROL WAS DETERMINED VIA GPS OBSERVATIONS ON 4/15/2025.
5. CONTROL POINTS CONSIST OF ½" REBAR HAMMERED INTO GROUND, CAPPED AND FLAGGED.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:
" = INCHES
' = FEET
% = PERCENT SLOPE
X:1 = HORIZONTAL : (1) VERTICAL SLOPE
CMP = CORUGATED METAL PIPE
CONT = CONTINUED
CY = CUBIC YARD
DIA. = DIAMETER
DXX = PERCENT PASSING GRADATION
ELEV. = ELEVATION
ETC. = ETCETERA
FWP = FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FT = FEET
IE = FOR EXAMPLE
IFT = INTERNATIONAL FEET
LBS = POUNDS (WEIGHT)
LF = LINEAR FEET
LS = LUMP SUM
NAD83 = NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983
NAVD88 = NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM 1988
N.T.S. = NOT TO SCALE
O.C. = ON-CENTER
OHWM = ORDINARY HIGHWATER MARK
RECP = ROLLED EROSION CONTROL PRODUCT
SEG = SEGMENT
SFT = U.S. SURVEY FEET
SQ YD = SQUARE YARD
TYP. = TYPICAL
VGBM = VEGETATED CONCRETE BLOCK MAT
WMT = WOODY MATRIX TREATMENT
WSE = WATER SURFACE ELEVATION

GENERAL NOTES:
1. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFICATION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS AND LOCATIONS OF ALL EXISTING ITEMS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE WORK OR THAT MAY BE DISTURBED BY THE WORK.
2. DRAWINGS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITE SURVEY CONDUCTED 4/15/2025.
3. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT AND REPAIR AT CONTRACTORS EXPENSE ANY DAMAGE TO UTILITIES CAUSED BY CONTRACTOR.
4. EARTHWORK QUANTITIES ARE REPORTED AS THE MATERIAL RESTS IN ITS UNDISTURBED, NATURAL STATE. NO SHRINK/SWELL FACTORS WERE APPLIED.
5. DRAWINGS PLOTTED IN COLOR FOR REALIZATION OF ALL DESIGN FEATURES.
6. CONTRACTOR MUST ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS LISTED WITHIN THE PROJECT PERMITS. ANY DEVIATION FROM THE PROJECT PERMITTING CONDITIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK.
7. CONSTRUCTION STAKING WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ENGINEER. DAMAGED OR REMOVED STAKES WILL BE REPLACED AT CONTRACTORS EXPENSE. REFER TO SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

T. PHELPS	APRIL 2026	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:
DRAWN BY: DATE:			
A. SACEY	APRIL 2026	REVISED BY: DATE:	
CHECKED BY: DATE:		APPROVED BY: DATE:	

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

SITE OVERVIEW

Geum COLDWATER ENGINEERING

SHEET: 2 of 8