

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Twin Bridges Fairgrounds Sewer Line Under Beaverhead River Easement
Proposed Implementation Date:	Fall 2024
Proponent:	Madison
Location:	NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 27, Township 3 South, Range 6 West (Public Land Trusts Beaverhead Riverbed)
County:	Madison

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Town of Twin Bridges has applied for a Navigable Waters Utility Right-of-Way Easement to bore an 8" HDPE casing pipe that will be directionally drilled underneath the Beaverhead River for the transport of effluent from the Madison County Fairground to a sewage treatment facility within the City of Twin Bridges. All excavation will occur outside of the Beaverhead River banks and the new pipe will maintain a minimum depth of 6 feet below the riverbed. The easement will be 30 feet in width, (15 feet each side of centerline) and be 98.9 feet in length. The project will encompass 2,967 square feet of riverbed, approximately 0.07 acres.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

This is a joint project between the Town of Twin Bridges and Madison County to move the existing effluent pipeline that runs from the Madison County Fairgrounds over the Beaverhead River on the Highway 41 bridge to a buried pipeline under the Beaverhead River. Madison County and the Town of Twin Bridges scoped the project prior to applying for the easement. The current bridge on HWY 41 has been condemned and will soon be replaced. The town and County believe this is a good time to move the pipe into a better location.

No other public scoping for this project was performed except for contacting Patrick Rennie, MT DNRC Archeologist for review.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The town of Twin bridges applied for a 124 permit for this project. They were told that a 124 permit was not needed because all activity will take place outside of the rivers high water mark. The casing and directional drilling starts and ends will extend beyond the riverbanks to avoid any excavation or fill in the highwater mark. The project has been approved by Montana DEQ. In addition, the proposal was submitted to the Twin bridges floodplain administrator for review. It was determined a floodplain permit was not needed.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Proposed Action Alternative: Grant the town of Twin Bridges a Utility Right- of- Way Easement to bore under a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds to install an 8" HDPE casing pipe under the river to transport effluent to a treatment facility on the north side of the river within the city limits.

No Action Alternative: Deny the town of Twin Bridges a Utility Right- of- Way Easement to bore under a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds to install an 8" HDPE casing pipe under the river to transport effluent to a treatment facility on the north side of the river within the city limits.

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 any cumulative impacts to soils.

Action Alternative: This alternative would allow the drilling of an 8" HDPE casing pipe under the Beaverhead River. The action would not cause any disturbance within the high-water mark of the river. No long term or cumulative effects to soils or geology of the area would be anticipated under this alternative.

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

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

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

Action Alternative: This alternative would allow the drilling of an 8" HDPE casing pipe under the Beaverhead River. The action would not cause any disturbance within the high-water mark of the river. No long term or cumulative effects to water quality, quantity and distribution would occur.

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

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Neither of the proposed alternatives would have any long term or cumulative effects on air quality. The action alternative could cause a small increase in air particulates during the boring and installation of the 8" HDPE casing pipe.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

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

Action Alternative: Some minor disturbance of the riverbank vegetation could occur under this alternative. The disturbance will be minor. No long term or cumulative impacts to the Beaverhead River vegetation are anticipated.

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

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Action Alternative: The Beaverhead River corridor is used by a large variety of wildlife, birds, and fish. The disturbance caused by the installation of the 8" HDPE pipe would be small, and any disturbance will be for a short duration of time. Long term or cumulative impacts to terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life or their habitat would not be anticipated from this alternative.

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

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

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

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

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

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

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search results revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE. Considering that DNRC ownership is restricted to the riverbed it is improbable that cultural resources exist in the State-owned portion of area of potential effect (APE). No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development.

11. AESTHETICS:

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

Action Alternative: The installation of new underground 8" HDPV pipe casing will not affect the aesthetics of the Madison County fairgrounds, the Beaverhead River, or the Town of Twin Bridges.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative no changes to aesthetics would occur.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

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

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

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

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

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

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

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

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

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Action Alternative: Installing an 8" HDPE casing under the riverbed will allow Madison County to continue use of their Fairgrounds into the future without having to worry about meeting DEQ standards for sewage waste.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would not allow the continued use of the County Fairgrounds for the annual County fair and other agricultural purposes.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

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

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

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

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

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

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

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

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

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

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

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

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

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

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

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

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

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

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

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

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

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

No Action Alternative: Choosing this alternative would not support cultural uniqueness and diversity within Madison County. An expensive septic system would need to be installed for continued use of the fairgrounds by Madison County residents.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Action Alternative: The State of Montana Public Land Trust would benefit by receiving a one-time fee for the easement. The fee for the easement is based on surrounding land values (surface land values are divided in half for riverbed values) on a per acres basis and will be determined by the Real Estate Management Bureau.

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

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Timothy Egan	Date: August 13, 2024
	Title: Dillon Unit Manager	

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

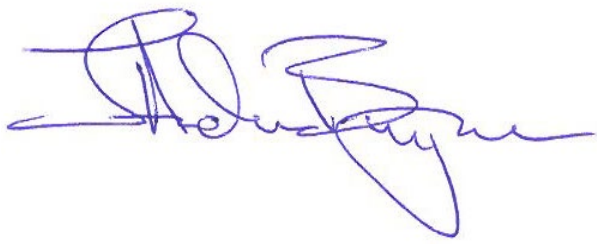
Proposed Action Alternative: Proceed with the process to grant the town of Twin Bridges a Utility Right-of-Way Easement to bore under a navigable portion of the Beaverhead River near the Madison County Fairgrounds to install an 8" HDPE pipe casing to transport effluent to a treatment facility on the north side of the river within the city limits.

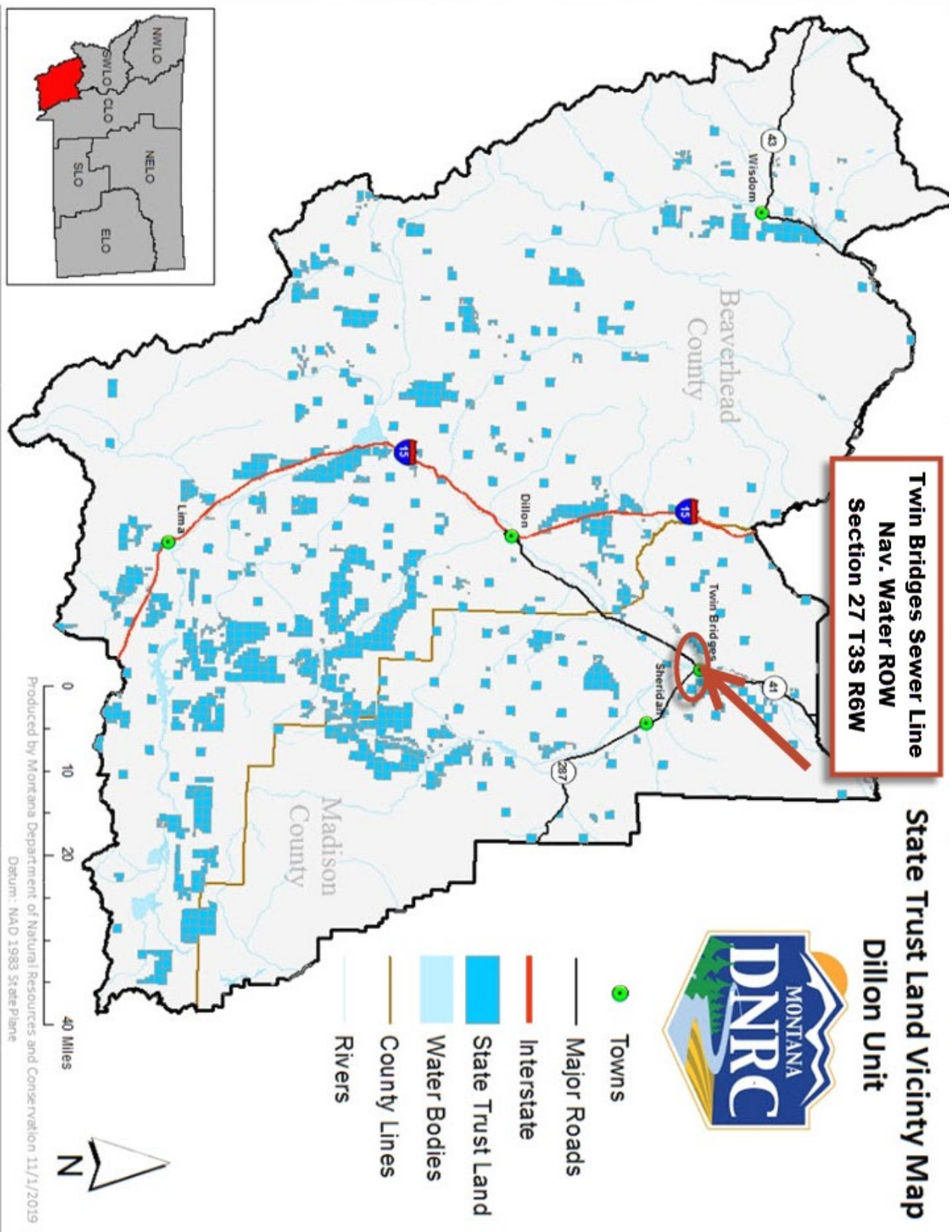
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

As proposed, the installation of an 8" HDPE casing pipe will not cause any identified adverse impacts as they will be avoided, controlled, or mitigated by the design of the project. No significant potential impacts are anticipated from the implementation of the selected alternative.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

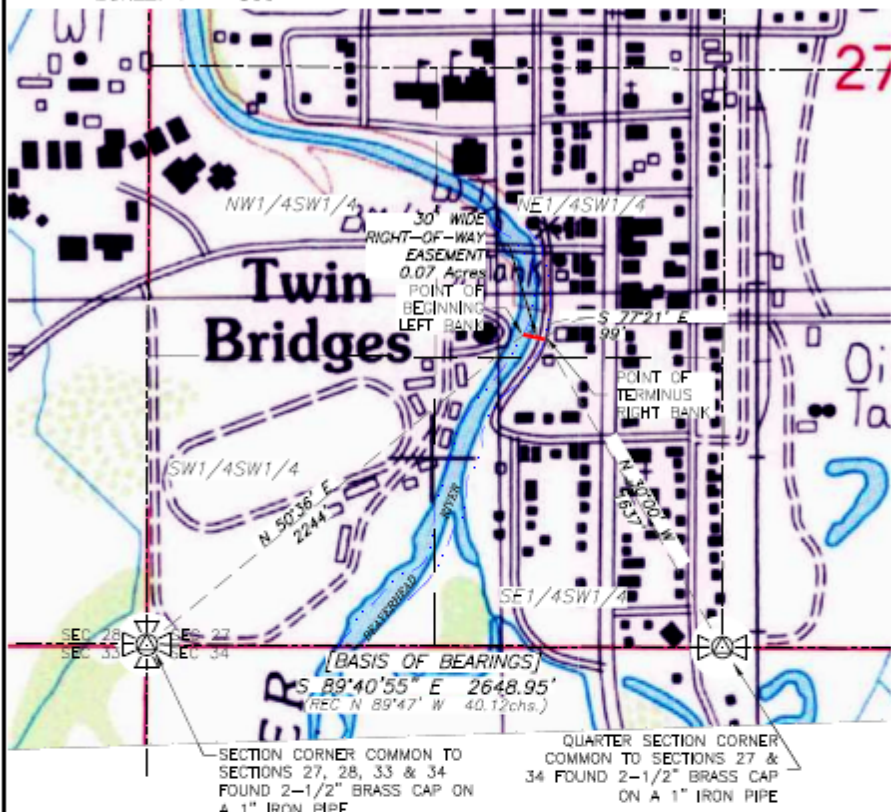
EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Andy Burgoyne Title: CLO Trust Land Program Manager
Signature:	 Date: August 12, 2024



**EASEMENT EXHIBIT "C"
SHOWING A STRIP OF LAND
USED FOR A SEWER MAINLINE
ACROSS THE BEAVERHEAD RIVER**

being within the
NE1/4SW1/4 of Section 27
T. 3S., R. 6W., P.M., MT
MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA



NOTES:

The Basis of Bearings for this survey is referenced to a direct GPS measurement from geodetic north (using WGS 84, NAD83 (2011), EPOCH2010.0000), resulting in a bearing of S 89°40'55" E between the Section corner common to Sections 27, 28, 33 and 34 of Township 3 South, Range 6 West, and the Quarter Section Corner common to said Sections 27 and 34, as shown hereon.

The section subdivision lines as shown hereon are a result of protraction based upon measurements to the monuments located this survey and record information based on the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Dependent resurvey, approved January 17, 1951 (original BLM) dimensions. They are intended to be used for reference only. Only those dimensions as shown hereon are to be deemed of survey quality.







Easements of sight and record not shown hereon may exist.

No title research has been performed as part of this exhibit.

No underground utilities, aerial utilities, subsurface improvements, or surface improvements were mapped as part of this survey except where specifically indicated.

This exhibit is exempt from review as a subdivision, by the definition of a subdivision pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 76-3-103(16), whereas a subdivision "means a division of land", this map represents only an easement.

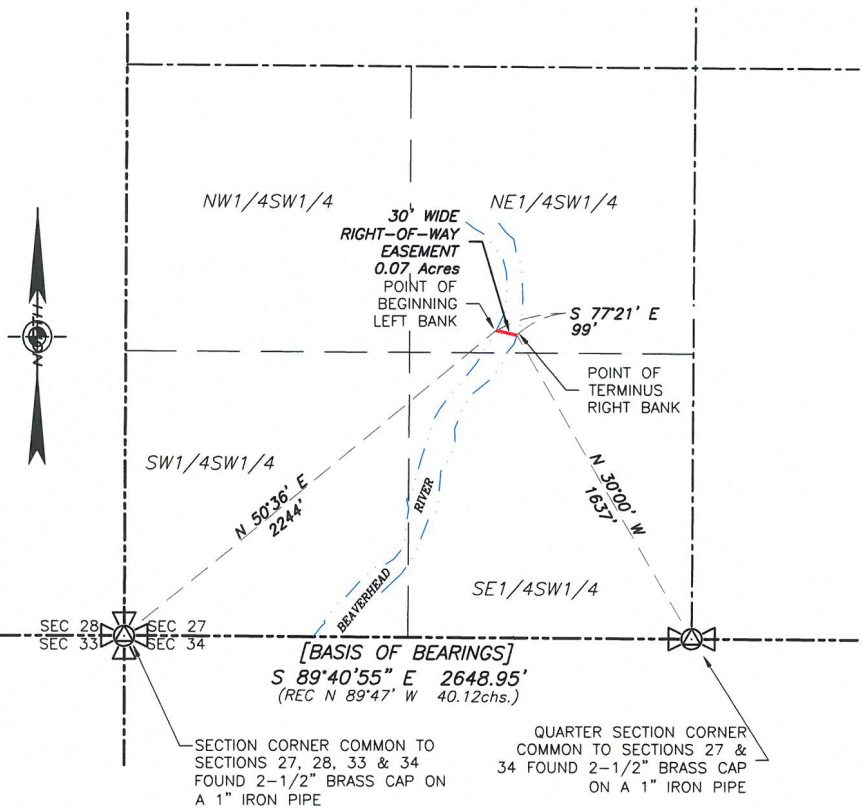
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- LEGEND:**
-  Indicates a brass cap monument found as part of this survey. (Certified Corner Recordation Form on file with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of Madison County).
 -  Section Line
 -  Quarter Section Line
 -  Section Subdivision Line
 -  Beaverhead River Bank
 -  Centerline of Easement

Morris Land Surveys, P.L.L.C.
P.O. Box 513, 19 3rd Ave. NE, Choteau, MT 59422 (406) 466-3550

Project No. 19039 2/1/2019 19039\SC1\19039-Survey.mxd August 6, 2024

EASEMENT EXHIBIT "B"
SHOWING A STRIP OF LAND
USED FOR A SEWER MAINLINE
ACROSS THE BEAVERHEAD RIVER
 being within the
 NE1/4SW1/4 of Section 27
 T. 3S., R. 6W., P.M., MT
 MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA



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CERTIFICATE OF SURVEYOR

I, Matthew D. Morris, of Choteau, Montana, hereby certify that this map was made from notes recorded during an actual survey made under my direction during the months of November 2014 through December 2019, and Record Drawings titled "Madison County Fairgrounds Sewer Main Extension" dated July 30, 2024 as prepared by Great West Engineering and approved by Carrie Gardner, PE.

Matthew D. Morris
 Matthew D. Morris
 Montana PLS 16968
 CfedS 1342



Morris Land Surveys, P.L.L.C.
 P.O. Box 513, 19 3rd Ave. NE, Choteau, MT 59422 (406) 466-3550

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Project No. 19039 D:\2019\19039\SC\19039-Sewerbase.dwg August 6, 2024

