

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	LTS Telecommunications Fiberoptic Installation – Chouteau County
Proposed Implementation Date:	Fall 2026
Proponent:	LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc.
Location:	T 23N R16E Sec. 8 SW4SE4 T23N R16E Sec. 16 N2NW4, S2NE4 T29N R9 E Sec. 36 NW4, SW4
County:	Chouteau
Trust:	Commons Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc. is working on a large-scale fiber optic project to expand and strengthen telecommunication infrastructure. This project is intended to install 452 miles of buried fiberoptic infrastructure across Montana. The proposed project will include 11,237 feet of fiber optic on Trust Land. LTS Telecommunications is requesting 20-foot-wide right of way easement for permanent operation and maintenance. DNRC Land impacted by this project totals 5.77 acres and will generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO) & Lewistown Unit Office
Proponent: LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc.
Surface Lessees: William Brown, Gary Gullickson, Larson Homestead Farms INC
Other: Patrick Rennie (DNRC Archaeologist), Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT)

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

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has jurisdiction over this proposed project. The project will be administered by the Lewistown Unit of the DNRC Northeastern Land Office.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits for the proposed project and settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc. the request Utility Right of Way Easement.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department approves LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc. request for a Right of Way Easements across the following tracts of land: T23N R16E Sec. 8 SW4SE4, T23N R16E Sec. 16 N2NW4, S2NE4 and T29N R9E Sec. 36 NW4, SW4. For the purpose of installing and maintaining buried fiber optic telecommunication cable.

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.

See appendix A for additional soil information.

All soil types in the planned project areas are rated as somewhat limited to very limited for shallow excavations. This is due to instability when they are trenched to depths of 5 to 6 feet. Installation of this project will utilize a trenchless method. This method involves using the ripper on the back of a bulldozer that drops the cable and conduit in as it goes, thus negating the possible negative impacts associated trenching in these soils.

The most limiting soil characteristic in the project area is rutting hazard. Soils are rated as severe for rutting hazards, when exposed to equipment operation. To mitigate this hazard, operations will be restricted to dry periods when the soil is most stable.

All soils in sections 16 and 36 are rated as slight to moderate for erosion hazard. While soils in section 8 are rated as having a severe erosion hazard. Since all projects are occurring in previously disturbed areas with established erosion control vegetation, the minimal ground disturbance caused by the trenchless installation method will limit possible erosion issues.

No significant cumulative impacts to geology or soil quality, stability, and moisture are anticipated.

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.

No significant impacts to local or regional water resources are anticipated.

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.

No significant impacts 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 cumulative effects to vegetation.

If re-seeding is necessary the proponent will acquire certified, weed free seed and refer to the Plant Materials Tech Note No. MT-46 (Rev. 4) dated September 2013 for seeding rates.

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant impacts to vegetation are anticipated.

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.

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats 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 cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

See Appendix B for Species of Concern maps.

The primary species of concern across all three project locations is the Greater Sage-Grouse. Consultation through the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program was completed and they outlined mitigation and recommendations to limit disturbance of the species.

No significant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are anticipated, though temporary displacement of local wildlife may occur during the project.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

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.

Because the proposed project is occurring in existing county road right of ways. It has an extremely low likelihood of significantly impacting cultural or palaeontologic resources, the proposed will have *No Effect* to *Antiquities*. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, they should be reported to the DNRC archaeologist.

No significant effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are anticipated.

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.

No significant impacts on the aesthetics of the area are anticipated.

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.

No limited environmental resources will be significantly impacted because of this project. This project will also not add any significant cumulative demands to environmental resources.

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.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

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.

The main risk to human health and safety would be during the construction of the project. It would be the responsibility of the proponent to mitigate any risks during construction. After construction there will be some health and safety benefits provided by increased internet access. The better internet will allow residents of the area to have better access to telehealth and phone service for better communication with emergency services.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

This project will not add to or deter from other industrial, agricultural, or commercial activities in the area.

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.

The project will not create or eliminate any jobs, no significant effects to the employment market are anticipated.

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.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

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

There will not be any significant increases in traffic, school attendance, or need for fire and police protection if this project is approved.

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.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

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.

There will be no significant direct or cumulative effects on access to or quality of recreation and wilderness activities because of this project.

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

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be significantly impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

The proposed project will have no significant impact on any culturally unique quality of the area.

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.

The proposed project will not have any significant cumulative economic or social effect.

V. FINDING**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department approves LTS Telecommunication Services (USA) Inc. request for a Right of Way Easements across the following tracts of land: T 23N R16E Sec. 8 SW4SE4, T23N R16E Sec. 16 N2NW4, S2NE4 and T29N R9 E Sec. 36 NW4, SW4.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined no significant impact to the environment because of this project.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐

EIS

☐

More Detailed EA

☒

No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist
Prepared By:**

Name: Cole Stumpf
Title: Land Use Specialist

Signature:



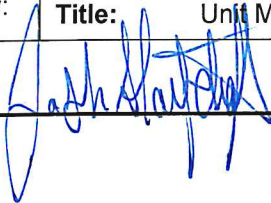
Date:

6 Oct. 2026

**EA Checklist
Approved By:**

Name: Josh Stoychoff
Title: Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

Signature:



Date:

10/6/26

Appendix A: Soils Data

T23N R16E Sec. 8 SW4SE4



Tables — Shallow Excavations — Summary By Map Unit

Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)					
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)					
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres In AOI
Totals for Area of Interest					61.2
					100.0%

Table — Shallow Excavations — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI	
Somewhat limited	31.4	51.3%	
Very limited	29.9	48.7%	
Totals for Area of Interest	61.2	100.0%	

Tables — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary By Map Unit

Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)					
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)					
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres In AOI
Totals for Area of Interest					61.2
					100.0%

Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI	
Severe	61.2	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest	61.2	100.0%	

Description — Soil Rutting Hazard

FOR - Forestry

The ratings in this Interpretation indicate the hazard of surface rut formation through the operation of forestland equipment. Soil displacement and puddling (soil deformation and compaction) may occur simultaneously with rutting.

Ratings are based on depth to a water table, rock fragments on or below the surface, the Unified classification of the soil, depth to a restrictive layer, and slope. The hazard is described as slight, moderate, or severe. A rating of "slight" indicates that the soil is subject to little or no rutting. "Moderate" indicates that rutting is likely. "Severe" indicates that ruts form readily.

Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the specified aspect of forestland management (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00).

The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are only those that have the same rating class as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented.

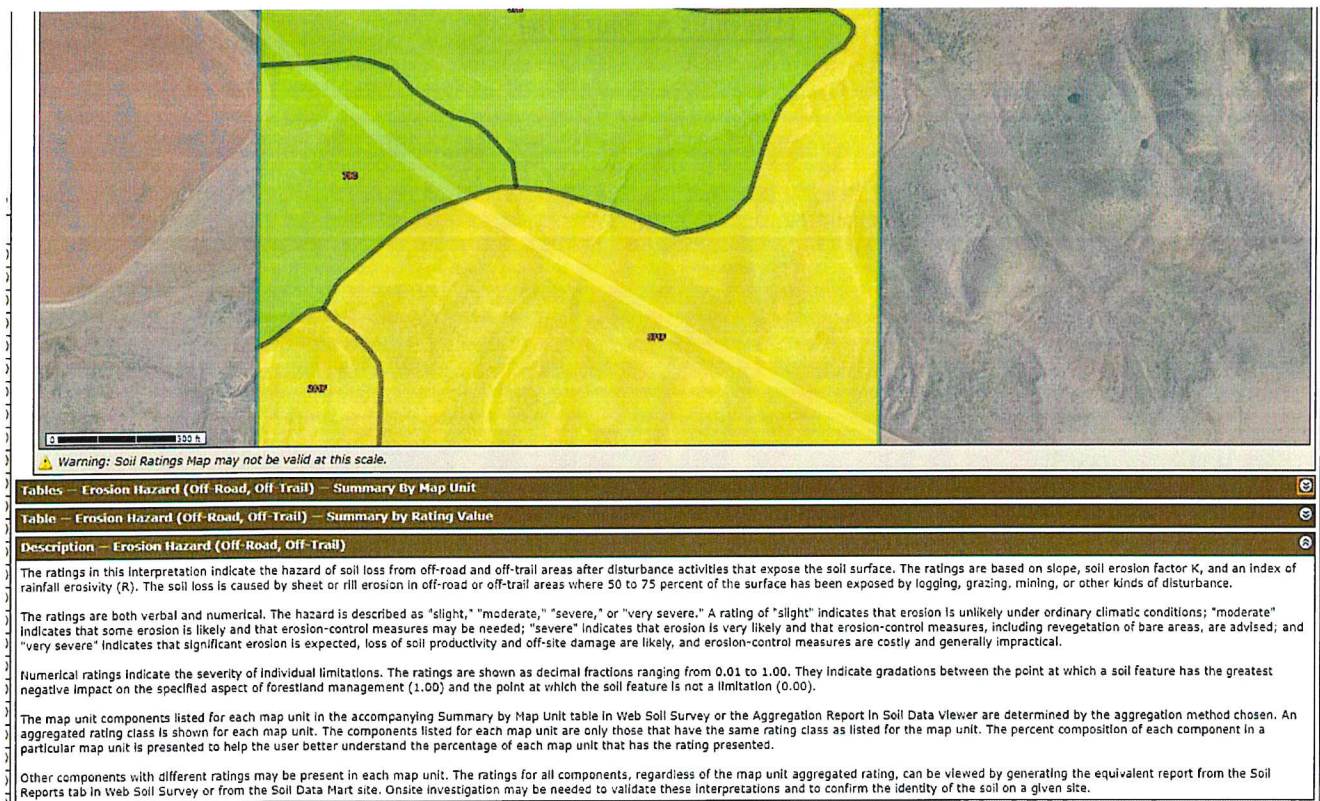
Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. Onsite investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.

Rating Options — Soil Rutting Hazard

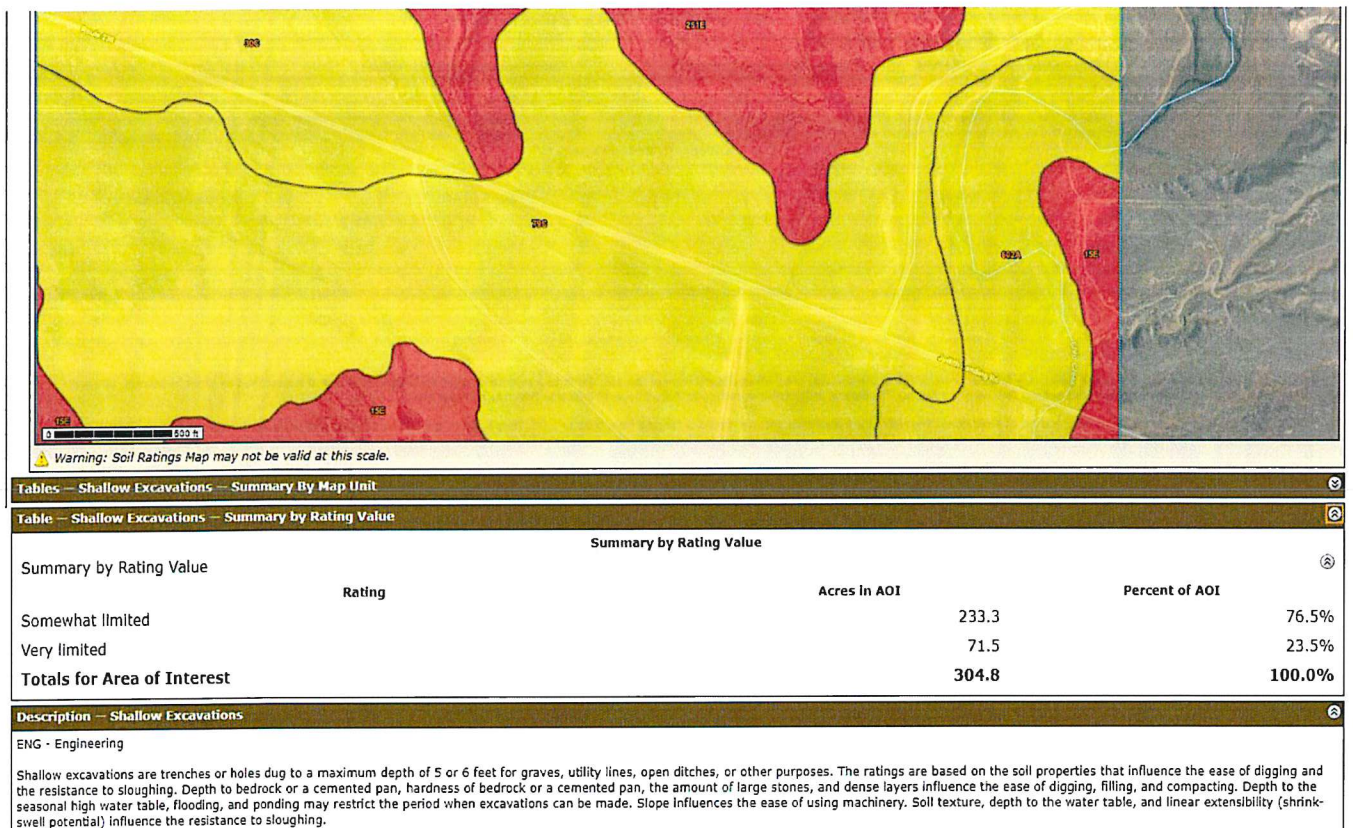
Aggregation Method: Dominant Condition

Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified

Tie-break Rule: Higher



T23N R16E Sec. 16 N2NW4, S2NE4



Tables — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary By Map Unit						
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)						
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Totals for Area of Interest					304.8	100.0%

Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value			
Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Severe	304.8	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest	304.8	100.0%	

Description — Soil Rutting Hazard	
FOR - Forestry	
The ratings in this interpretation indicate the hazard of surface rut formation through the operation of forestland equipment. Soil displacement and puddling (soil deformation and compaction) may occur simultaneously with rutting. Ratings are based on depth to a water table, rock fragments on or below the surface, the Unified classification of the soil, depth to a restrictive layer, and slope. The hazard is described as slight, moderate, or severe. A rating of "slight" indicates that the soil is subject to little or no rutting. "Moderate" indicates that rutting is likely. "Severe" indicates that ruts form readily. Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the specified aspect of forestland management (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00). The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are only those that have the same rating class as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented. Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. Onsite investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.	
Rating Options — Soil Rutting Hazard	
Aggregation Method: Dominant Condition	
Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified	
Tie-break Rule: Higher	



Tables — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary By Map Unit			
Table — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating Value			
Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Slight	233.3	76.5%	
Moderate	71.5	23.5%	
Totals for Area of Interest	304.8	100.0%	

Description — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail)	
The ratings in this interpretation indicate the hazard of soil loss from off-road and off-trail areas after disturbance activities that expose the soil surface. The ratings are based on slope, soil erosion factor K, and an index of rainfall erosivity (R). The soil loss is caused by sheet or rill erosion in off-road or off-trail areas where 50 to 75 percent of the surface has been exposed by logging, grazing, mining, or other kinds of disturbance. The ratings are both verbal and numerical. The hazard is described as "slight," "moderate," "severe," or "very severe." A rating of "slight" indicates that erosion is unlikely under ordinary climatic conditions; "moderate" indicates that some erosion is likely and that erosion-control measures may be needed; "severe" indicates that erosion is very likely and that erosion-control measures, including revegetation of bare areas, are advised; and "very severe" indicates that significant erosion is expected, loss of soil productivity and off-site damage are likely, and erosion-control measures are costly and generally impractical. Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the specified aspect of forestland management (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00).	

T29N R9 E Sec. 36 NW4, SW4

Tables — Shallow Excavations — Summary By Map Unit						
Table — Shallow Excavations — Summary by Rating Value						
Summary by Rating Value						
Rating		Acres In AOI		Percent of AOI		
Somewhat limited		176.0		100.0%		
Totals for Area of Interest		176.0		100.0%		
Description — Shallow Excavations						
ENG - Engineering						
Shallow excavations are trenches or holes dug to a maximum depth of 5 or 6 feet for graves, utility lines, open ditches, or other purposes. The ratings are based on the soil properties that influence the ease of digging and the resistance to sloughing. Depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, the amount of large stones, and dense layers influence the ease of digging, filling, and compacting. Depth to the seasonal high water table, flooding, and ponding may restrict the period when excavations can be made. Slope influences the ease of using machinery. Soil texture, depth to the water table, and linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential) influence the resistance to sloughing. The ratings are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified use. "Not limited" indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. "Somewhat limited" indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. "Very limited" indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected. Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00). The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are only those that have the same rating class as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented. Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. Onsite investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.						
Rating Options — Shallow Excavations						
Aggregation Method: Dominant Condition						
Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified						
Tie-break Rule: Higher						
Tables — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary By Map Unit						
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)						
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)						
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI
50A	Telstad loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Severe	Telstad (90%)	Low strength (1.00)	176.0	100.0%
			Joplin (5%)	Low strength (1.00)		
			Ferd (2%)	Low strength (1.00)		
			Elloam (1%)	Low strength (1.00)		
			Nishon (1%)	Low strength (1.00)		
Totals for Area of Interest					176.0	100.0%
Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value						
Description — Soil Rutting Hazard						
FOR - Forestry						
The ratings in this interpretation indicate the hazard of surface rut formation through the operation of forestland equipment. Soil displacement and puddling (soil deformation and compaction) may occur simultaneously with rutting. Ratings are based on depth to a water table, rock fragments on or below the surface, the Unified classification of the soil, depth to a restrictive layer, and slope. The hazard is described as slight, moderate, or severe. A rating of "slight" indicates that the soil is subject to little or no rutting. "Moderate" indicates that rutting is likely. "Severe" indicates that ruts form readily. Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the specified aspect of forestland management (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00). The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are only those that have the same rating class as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented. Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. Onsite investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.						
Warning: When changing map unit, make sure to save the data.						
Tables — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary By Map Unit						
Summary by Map Unit — Chouteau County Area, Montana (MT615)						
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Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI
50A	Telstad loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Slight	Telstad (90%)		176.0	100.0%
			Joplin (5%)			
			Ferd (2%)			
			Elloam (1%)			
			Fortbenton (1%)			
			Nishon (1%)			
Totals for Area of Interest					176.0	100.0%
Table — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating Value						
Description — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail)						
The ratings in this interpretation indicate the hazard of soil loss from off-road and off-trail areas after disturbance activities that expose the soil surface. The ratings are based on slope, soil erosion factor K, and an index of rainfall erosivity (R). The soil loss is caused by sheet or rill erosion in off-road or off-trail areas where 50 to 75 percent of the surface has been exposed by logging, grazing, mining, or other kinds of disturbance. The ratings are both verbal and numerical. The hazard is described as "slight," "moderate," "severe," or "very severe." A rating of "slight" indicates that erosion is unlikely under ordinary climatic conditions; "moderate" indicates that some erosion is likely and that erosion-control measures may be needed; "severe" indicates that erosion is very likely and that erosion-control measures, including revegetation of bare areas, are advised; and "very severe" indicates that significant erosion is expected, loss of soil productivity and off-site damage are likely, and erosion-control measures are costly and generally impractical. Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the specified aspect of forestland management (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00). The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are only those that have the same rating class as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented. Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. Onsite investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.						

Appendix B: Species of Concern Maps

T23N R16E Sec. 8 SW4SE4

Native Species

USA Sublime (Introduced range)

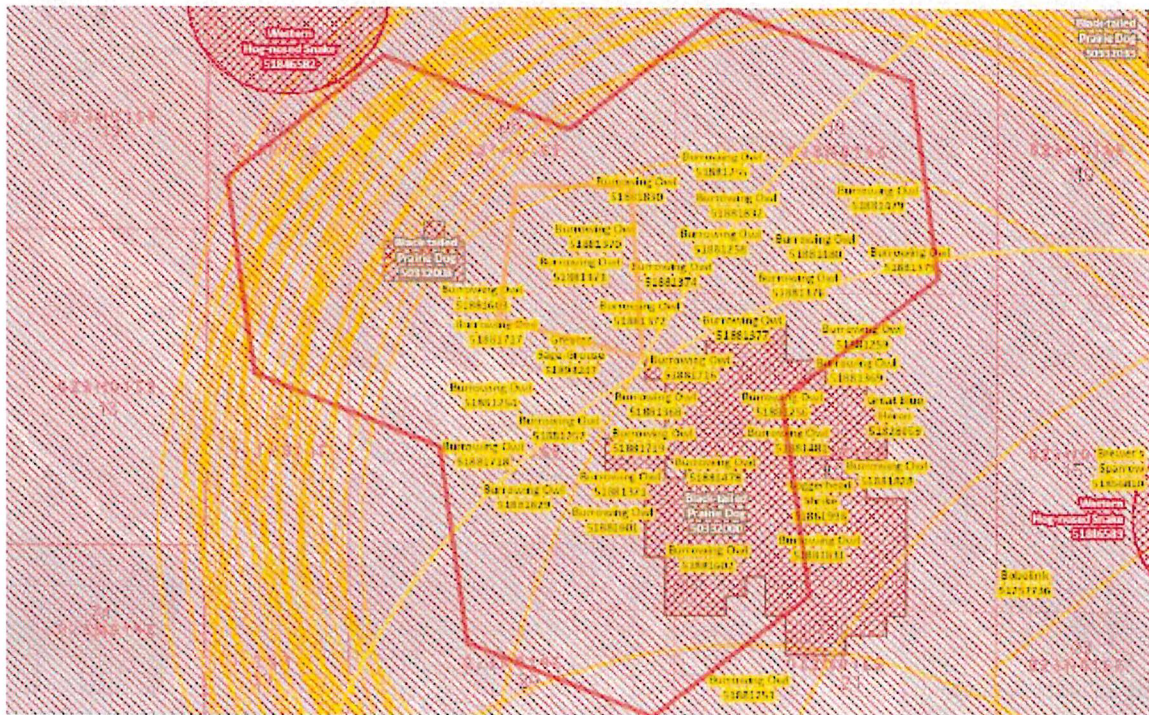
Non-native
Historical

1:1001:~
10,000m

Summarized by: (Custom Area of Interest)

Filtered by:

Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Species of Potential Concern



Species Occurrences

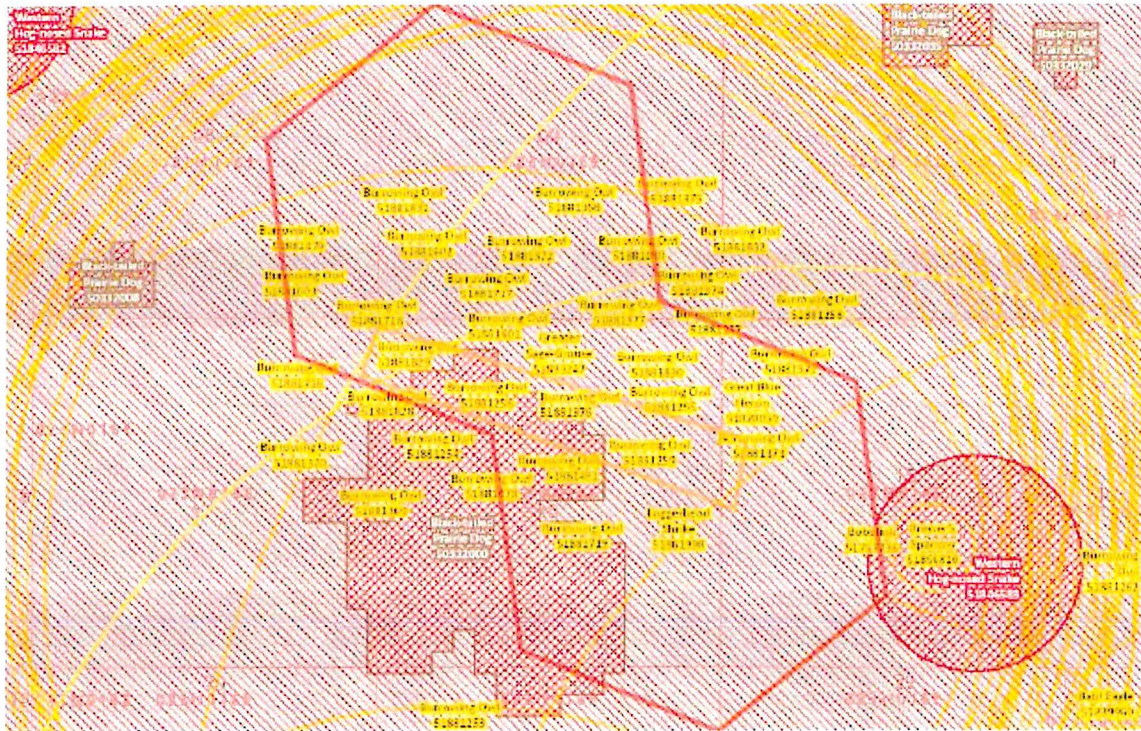
	Spec Reqs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) SOO		33	18		[S] [M]
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCCI7 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Direct observation of a bird or birds at/on a prairie dog town is indirect but sufficient evidence of breeding (b). Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 2,700 meters in order to encompass the maximum foraging distance reported for breeding adults and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 23, 2026) Predicted Models: 1% Optimal (inductive), 67% Moderate (inductive), 32% Low (inductive)					
M - Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>) SOO		12	7		[V]
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN Delineation Criteria Areas with recent evidence of activity (i.e. burrow entrances) visible on recent National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial color photographic imagery that are within a distance of 200 meters of definitive observations buffered by the locational uncertainty of less than or equal to 1,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 03, 2019) Predicted Models: 67% Moderate (inductive), 33% Low (inductive)					
B - Greater Sage-Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) SOO		50	1		[V]
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) Global: G3 State: S2 Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, juveniles, or adults on a lek. Point observations are mapped in the center of a one-square mile hexagon to protect the exact locations of leks. The outer edges of this hexagon are then buffered by a distance of 6,400 meters in order to encompass a body of research indicating that females typically nest within this distance of a lek and that lek numbers are negatively impacted by fossil fuel drilling activities within this distance of a lek. If the locational uncertainty associated with the observation is greater than 5,000 meters, the observation is not valid for creation of a species occurrence. All of the one-square mile hexagons intersecting this buffered area are presented as the Species Occurrence record. (Last Updated: Jul 25, 2026) Predicted Models: 67% Moderate (inductive), 33% Low (inductive)					

Native Species

Summarized by: (Custom Area of Interest)

Filtered by:

Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Species of Potential Concern



Species Occurrences

	Spec. Range	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cucularia</i>) ● ● ●		32	22		G M
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Direct observation of a bird or birds at/on a prairie dog town is indirect but sufficient evidence of breeding (b). Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 2,700 meters in order to encompass the maximum foraging distance reported for breeding adults and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 23, 2026) Predicted Models: ■ 50% Optimal (inductive), ■ 50% Moderate (inductive), ■ 0% Low (inductive)					
M - Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>) ● ● ●		1	6		G M
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN Delineation Criteria Areas with recent evidence of activity (i.e. burrow entrances) visible on recent National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial color photographic imagery that are within a distance of 200 meters of definitive observations buffered by the locational uncertainty of less than or equal to 1,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 03, 2019) Predicted Models: ■ 100% Moderate (inductive), ■ 0% Low (inductive)					
B - Greater Sage-Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) ● ● ●		24	1		G M
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S2 USFWS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, juveniles, or adults on a lek. Point observations are mapped in the center of a one-square mile hexagon to protect the exact locations of leks. The outer edges of this hexagon are then buffered by a distance of 5,400 meters in order to encompass a body of research indicating that females typically nest within this distance of a lek and that lek numbers are negatively impacted by fossil fuel drilling activities within this distance of a lek. If the locational uncertainty associated with the observation is greater than 5,000 meters, the observation is not valid for creation of a species occurrence. All of the one-square mile hexagons intersecting this buffered area are presented as the Species Occurrence record. (Last Updated: Jul 26, 2026) Predicted Models: ■ 100% Moderate (inductive), ■ 0% Low (inductive)					

Native Species

Summarized by: (Custom Area of Interest)

Filtered by:

Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Species of Potential Concern

**Species Occurrences**

Spec Reps	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Greater Sage-Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)	500	2		
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps USFS: Sensitive - Known In Forests (BD) Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S2 Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, juveniles, or adults on a lek. Point observations are mapped in the center of a one-square mile hexagon to protect the exact locations of leks. The outer edges of this hexagon are then buffered by a distance of 6,400 meters in order to encompass a body of research indicating that females typically nest within this distance of a lek and that lek numbers are negatively impacted by fossil fuel drilling activities within this distance of a lek. If the locational uncertainty associated with the observation is greater than 5,000 meters, the observation is not valid for creation of a species occurrence. All of the one-square mile hexagons intersecting this buffered area are presented as the Species Occurrence record. (Last Updated: Jul 25, 2026) Predicted Models: 100% Moderate (inductive)				
M - Eastern Red Bat (<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>)	500	1		
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3B BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN 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 <i>Lasiurus borealis</i> and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 22, 2026) Predicted Models: 1% Low (inductive)				

