CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	North Central Montana Regional Water Authority- Segment E6 Core Line
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2027
Proponent:	North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA)
Location:	T30N R13E Sec. 8 E2NE4 T31N R14E Sec. 16 Lots 1& 2, N2N2
County:	Hill
Trust:	Commons Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA) is preparing to bid on the work for the installation of a new water line near Havre. This new water line is planned as a 24-inch diameter PVC pipe. The proposed route will cross State Land at two locations. At each location NCMRWA is requesting a 50-foot-wide right-of-way easement for the installation and maintenance of this pipeline. The proposed easement will impact 9.44 acres of State Land 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: North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA)
Surface Lessees: Chad McCormick (AG-4519), Dane Kraske (AG-3991)
Other: Patrick Rennie (DNRC Archaeologist),

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 denies North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA) the requested Utility Right of Way Easement.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department approves North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA) request for a Right of Way Easements across the following tracts of land: T30N R13E Sec. 8 E2NE4 and T31N R14E Sec. 16 Lots 1& 2, N2N2. For the installation and maintenance of a 24-inch water pipeline.

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.

Most soil types in the planned project areas are rated as somewhat limited for shallow excavation. With one soil type rated as severely limited. These limitations result from instability when trenched to depths of 5 to 6 feet. Additional impacts from excavation include high levels of dust. With proper mitigation this limitation can be managed and no negative impacts on soils are anticipated.

The most limiting soil characteristic in the project area is rutting hazard. All soils are rated as severe for rutting hazards, when exposed to equipment operation. This rating comes from the soil having a low strength structure. To mitigate this hazard, operations will be restricted to dry periods when the soil is most stable.

All soils are rated as slight to moderate for erosion hazard. The total project area has relatively little slope which helps reduce the erosion potential. To further mitigate soil erosion the proponent will be required to implement best management practices to limit stormwater and soil runoff in the instance when working during dry periods is not feasible.

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.

Upon completion of this project the water supply infrastructure will provide a net benefit for all users of the system.

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.

Construction will result in heavy ground disturbance that will require reclamation and follow up weed management. Project locations are moderately suited for reclamation with the major challenge being wind erosion. The proponent will need to implement best management practices to mitigate wind erosion potential, allowing for successful reclamation. 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.

Predictive models show there is potentially suitable habitat for 5 species of concern in the proposed project area. Two of these are terrestrial species which are not likely to be impacted by the project. The three aquatic species are associated with Big Sandy Creek. Mitigation of potential impacts to those species is the responsibility of the proponent.

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.

See Appendix C for additional archaeological information.

A Class III cultural resources inventory was conducted of the area of potential effect (APE). Cultural resources identified will be avoided with proposed ground disturbing developments. As such, proposed activities will have *No Effect* to *Antiquities* as defined under the Montana State Antiquities Act. A formal report of findings has been prepared and is on file with the DNRC and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer.

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.

Risks to human health and safety will occur during the construction of the pipeline. It is the responsibility of the proponent and their contractors to mitigate these risks to workers and the public. After construction is complete the pipeline will provide clean drinking water to several communities which will help reduce health concerns associated with poor quality drinking water.

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.

This project will generate $7,529.00 for the Common School's Trust.

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 North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA) request for a Right of Way Easements across the following tracts of land: T30N R13E Sec. 8 E2NE4 and T31N R14E Sec. 16 Lots 1& 2, N2N2. For the installation and maintenance of a 24-inch water pipeline.

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	X	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Cole Stumpf Title: Land Use Specialist
Signature: Cole T. Stumpf	Date: 5 Nov. 2026

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Josh Stoychoff Title: Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Signature: Josh Stoychoff	Date: 5 Nov. 2026

Appendix A: Soils Data

T30N R13E Sec. 8 E2NE4



Shallow Excavations

Tables — Shallow Excavations — Summary By Map Unit

Summary by Map Unit — Hill County, Montana (MT041)

Summary by Map Unit — Hill County, Montana (MT041)

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					**218.7**	**100.0%**

Table — Shallow Excavations — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Somewhat limited	218.7	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**218.7**	**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.

Erosion Hazard

Table — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Slight	218.7	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**218.7**	**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).

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Soil Rutting Hazard-

Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Severe	218.7	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**218.7**	**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).

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T31N R14E Sec. 16 Lots 1& 2, N2N2



Shallow Excavation



Warning: Soil Ratings Map may not be valid at this scale.

Tables – Shallow Excavations – Summary By Map Unit

Table – Shallow Excavations – Summary by Rating Value

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.

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Erosion Hazard- moderate area,

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

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Slight	311.3	98.5%
Moderate	4.8	1.5%
Totals for Area of Interest	**316.1**	**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).

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Soil Rutting

Table – Soil Rutting Hazard – Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Severe	316.1	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest	**316.1**	**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).

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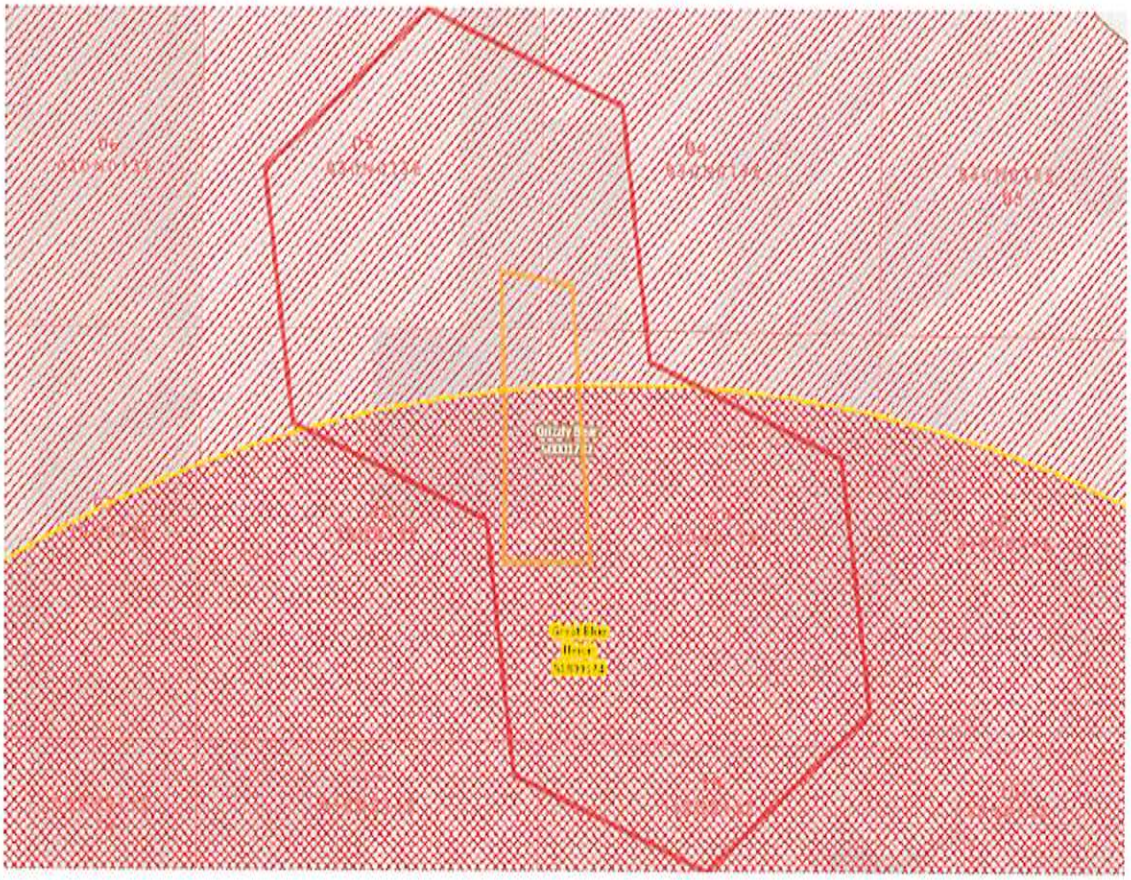
Appendix B: Species of Concern Maps

T30N R13E Sec. 8 E2NE4

Native Species

Suitable (introduced range) Non-native Historical (1001m-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 - Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)* SOC		1			B M

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN

Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 6,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the areas commonly used for foraging near the breeding colony. 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. (Last Updated: Sep 22, 2026)

Predicted Models: 1% Moderate (inductive), 1% Low (inductive)

M - Grizzly Bear *(Ursus arctos)* SOC		7	1		M H

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFWS: LT BLM: THREATENED

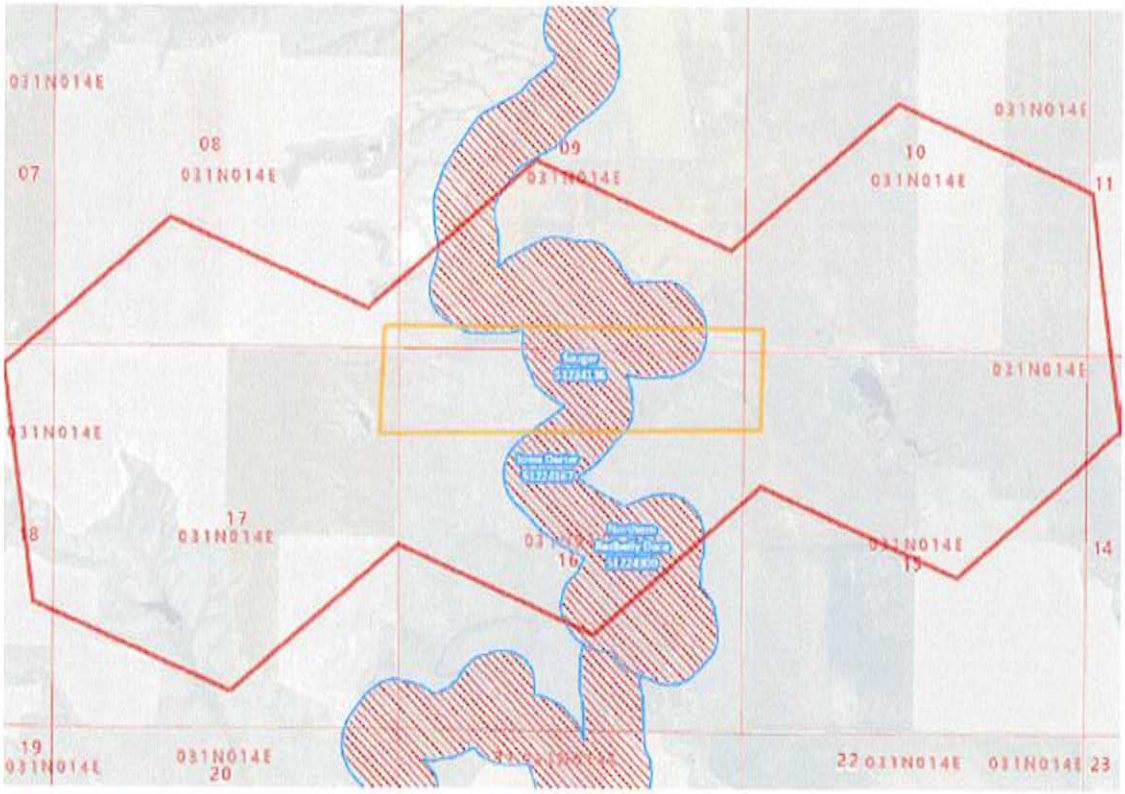
Delineation Criteria Species Occurrence polygons represent areas delineated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that encompass both home ranges and potential transitory movements based on verified sightings. Within these areas, the USFWS wants project proponents to consider whether the species "may be present" when evaluating the potential impacts of a project and to work with the USFWS to develop and implement best management practices to minimize or eliminate project effects on the species. (Last Updated: Jun 16, 2026)

Predicted Models: 1% Low (inductive)

T31N R14E Sec. 16 Lots 1& 2, N2N2

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 Rngs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
F - Iowa Darter *(Etheostoma exile)* SOC		1			Y

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species — Global: **G5** State: **S3** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN**

Delineation Criteria Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards. (Last Updated: Mar 15, 2024)

Predicted Models: N 33% Suitable (native range) (deductive)

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

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native/Non-native Species - (depends on location or taxa) — Global: **G5** State: **S2** FWP SWAP: **SGCN**

Delineation Criteria Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards. (Last Updated: Feb 18, 2026)

Predicted Models: N 33% Suitable (native range) (deductive)

F - Sauger *(Sander canadensis)* SOC					Y

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ | View Predicted Models | View Range Maps

Species of Concern - Native Species — Global: **G5** State: **S3** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN**

Delineation Criteria Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards. (Last Updated: Mar 14, 2024)

Predicted Models: N 33% Suitable (native range) (deductive)

Appendix C: Archaelogical Data

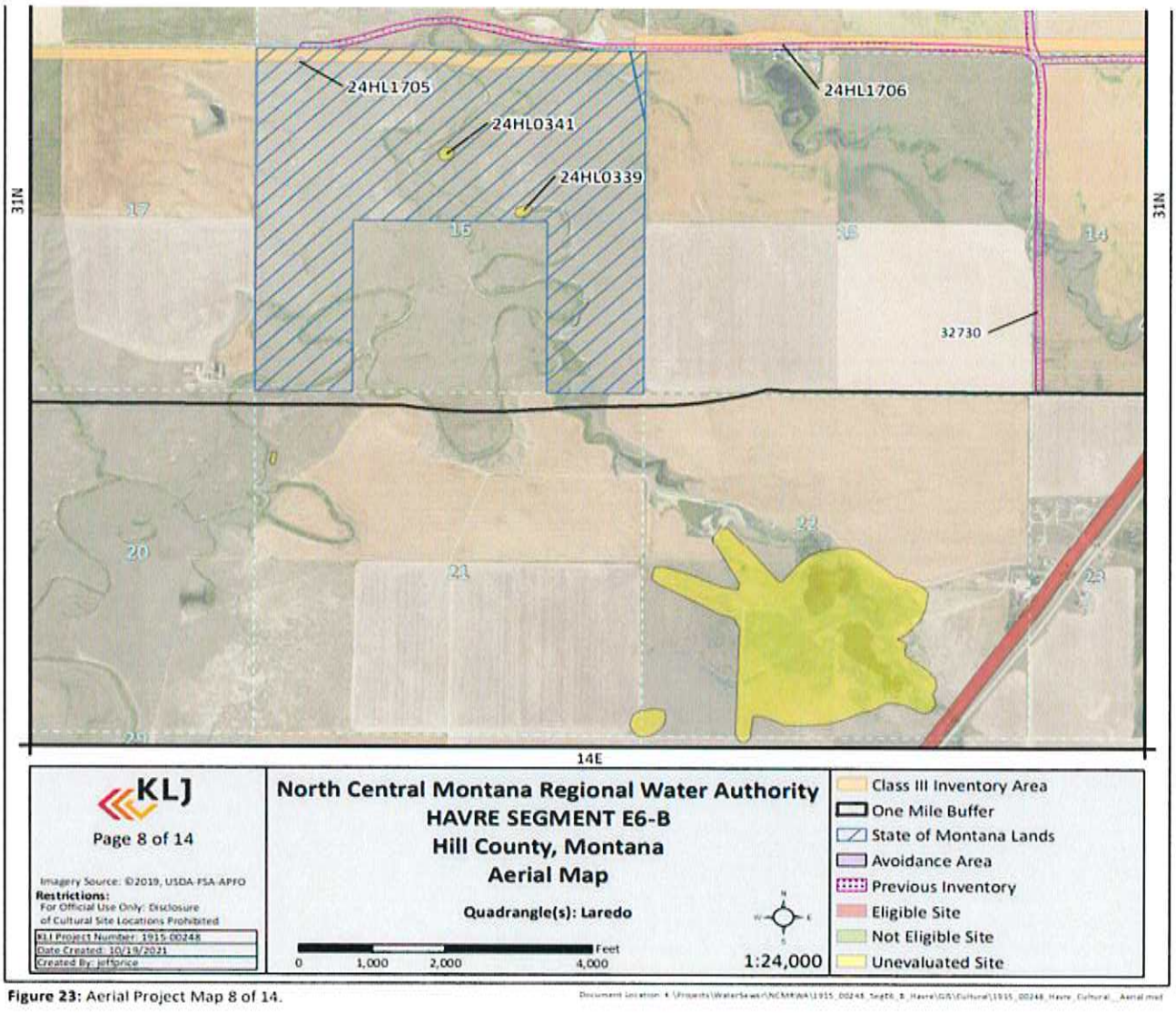


Figure 23: Aerial Project Map 8 of 14.

24HL1705: This site is a single rock cairn or alignment. The feature is 1.75 m north to south and 1 m east to west. There are 32 stones of local granite or quartzite which are lightly to moderately sodded with 25 percent or less lichen covering. The cairn is 30 centimeters high and is on a small rise overlooking a broad drainage valley. GSV at the site is generally good, ranging from 30-50 percent in a native short grass prairie setting. The site is in an uncultivated section of State of Montana managed land which is primarily used for grazing. The site is on a slight drainage hillslope overlooking Big Sandy Creek approximately 0.5 miles to the east.

Although it is unevaluated to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), it can easily be avoided with construction. KLJ recommends "...necking down the proposed work area by 50 feet to the north, fencing during construction, and monitoring. If it is avoided, fenced, and monitored, KLJ recommends a finding of No Historic Properties

Affected for this site.

