CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Sun River Electric Easement Application - Jackson's Corner East Powerline Installation
Proposed Implementation Date:	Fall/Winter 2026
Proponent:	Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc. of 310 1st Ave S, Fairfield, MT 59436
Location:	T22N, R5W Section 36 N2NW4, N2NE4
Counties:	Teton
Trust(s):	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc. proposes to replace and install a new an overhead powerline (transmission line) located on state land, referred to herein as the "Project". The proposed easement route will upgrade the existing transmission lines to maintain a 69,000-volt transmission on state tract Section 36, Township 22N, Range 5W N2NW4, N2NE4. The proposed transmission line will follow the same general route as the existing transmission line but will be moved closer to property fences and the road to mitigate disturbance to existing hay and agricultural fields. The Project will result in approximately 2.08 acres of easement area. See **Exhibit A**, Easement Survey Maps, and **Exhibit B**, Project Location Map. Installation of the overhead powerline will provide power services to the area near Augusta, Montana (local area residences and ranch properties).

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 proponent is Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
The surface owner is the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).
The surface lessee is Harris Hanging V Lazy F Ranch LLC, State Lease No. 4931.

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

DNRC is not aware of other agencies that were informed. The Project will be permitted under a Right–of–Way Easement for Utilities Over, Under, Along, or Across State-Owned Lands for the portion of the Project that crosses state land.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Deny the proponent the requested easement and permission to install the overhead powerline.

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant the proponent the requested easement and permission to install the overhead powerline.

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.

Soil Properties:

There are seven soil types found within the Project area.

(223D) Rothiemay-Crago complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes

These soils consist of clay loams and are more than 80 inches deep to restrictive features. These soils are found within stream terraces. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is high at approximately 9.2 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 11 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(224B) Varney-Rothiemay gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes

These soils are a mixture of clay and sandy loams and are more than 80 inches deep to restrictive features. These soils are found within stream terraces. The available water supply 0 to 60 inches, is moderate at approximately 7.5 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 12 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(230C) Niart-Crago gravelly loams, 4 to 8 percent slopes

These soils consist of clay loams and are more than 80 inches deep to restrictive features. These soils are found within stream terraces. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is moderate at approximately 6.1 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 12 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(523C) Rothiemay gravelly clay loams, 4 to 8 percent slopes

These soils consist of clay loams and are more than 80 inches deep to restrictive features. These soils are found within stream terraces. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is high at approximately 9.0 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 11 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(576F) Delpoint-Cabbart-Crago complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes

These soils contain a mixture of loams and bedrock and are considered shallow, at 20 to 40 inches deep to paralithic bedrock. These soils are found within the landform hills. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is low at approximately 4.9 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 11 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(623D) Rothiemay-Delpoint gravelly clay loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes

These soils consist of clay loams and are considered deep, at more than 80 inches to restrictive features. These soils are found within alluvial fans. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is high at approximately 9.0 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 11 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

(723B) Rothiemay-Niart gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes
These soils consist of clay loams and are considered deep, more than 80 inches to restrictive features. These soils are found within stream terraces. The available water supply, 0 to 60 inches, is high at approximately 9.0 inches. The mean annual precipitation for the region is 11 to 14 inches. (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026).

Soil Stability:

K – Factor:
The soils identified within the Project area have a Soil Erodibility (K) factor of 0.10 to 0.24, See **Table 1**, below for additional information (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026). The K Factor range is 0.02 to 0.69 (0.69 being the most susceptible to sheet and rill erosion by water.) The K Factor is low to moderate for the Project area which indicates a low to moderate susceptibility to erosion by water.

Table 1 – K – Factor Rating by Soil Type

Soil Type		Rating
223D	Rothiemay-Crago complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes	0.24
224B	Varney-Rothiemay gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes	0.10
230C	Niart-Crago gravelly loams, 4 to 8 percent slopes	0.10
523C	Rothiemay gravelly clay loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	0.15
576F	Delpoint-Cabbart-Crago complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes	0.24
623D	Rothiemay-Delpoint gravelly clay loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	0.15
723B	Rothiemay-Niart gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes	0.15

Wind Erodibility Group:
The soils identified within the Project area have a Wind Erodibility Group (WEG) of 4 to 5 See **Table 2**, below for additional information (Soil Survey of Choteau-Conrad Area; Parts of Teton and Pondera Counties, Montana, 2026). The WEG range is 1 – 8 (1 being the most susceptible to wind erosion and 8 being the least susceptible). The WEG is low for the Project site which indicates a low susceptibility to erosion by wind.

Table 2 – WEG Rating by Soil Type

Soil Type		Rating
223D	Rothiemay-Crago complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes	4L
224B	Varney-Rothiemay gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes	5
230C	Niart-Crago gravelly loams, 4 to 8 percent slopes	5
523C	Rothiemay gravelly clay loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	5
576F	Delpoint-Cabbart-Crago complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes	4L
623D	Rothiemay-Delpoint gravelly clay loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	5
723B	Rothiemay-Niart gravelly clay loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes	5

BMPs:
The proposed Project will be constructed single pole style (10.5 feet deep), and the poles will be spaced approximately every 250 feet. The foundation holes will be dug using a hydraulic powered auger. There will be

no roads constructed for the Project, ensuring minimal disturbance. As part of the easement, the DNRC will require that construction and maintenance activities do not occur when the ground is wet to avoid rutting. If any soil disturbance were to occur outside of the pole foundations the DNRC will require Sun River Electric to re-seed the area with an improved seed mix.

Determination:
The proposed action has the potential to impact soils, however, given its low to moderate susceptibility to erosion, minimal disturbance, and the implementation of the BMPs above, the Project is not expected to have a negative effect on the soil.

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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.

There are various "Statement of Claim" water rights located within Section 36, Township 22N, Range 5W from Sun River, Willow Creek, Big Coulee and additional groundwater sources. For additional information see http://wrqs.dnrc.mt.gov/default.aspx. These water resources are in the S2 of Section 36. The proposed Project is in the N2 of Section 36. The Project has the potential to cause stormwater runoff through the construction of the pole foundations, however the BMPs should mitigate the effects. The proposed action is not expected to have an effect on the water resources and will therefore have no effect on water quality.

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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.

There are no Nonattainment areas located on or near the Project area. For more information see Montana Air Quality Non-Attainment Areas | Discover DEQ's Data. The proposed action will not have negative cumulative effects on air quality.

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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.

Vegetative Community:
Vegetation around the Project site consists of native range and hay fields. A field evaluation conducted by DNRC staff on October 9, 2024 found the plant community to consist of Western Wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Green Needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*), Threadleaf Sedge (*Carex filifolia*), Needle and Thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Prairie Sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), and Alfalfa (Medicago sativa). According to the Natural Heritage Program Database, there are no plant species of concern within Township 22N, Range 5W, Section 36.

BMPs:
The proposed Project will be constructed single pole style (10.5 feet deep), and the poles will be spaced approximately every 250 feet. The foundation holes will be dug using a hydraulic powered auger. There will be no roads constructed for the Project, ensuring minimal disturbance. As part of the easement, the DNRC will require that construction and maintenance activities do not occur when the ground is wet to avoid rutting. If any soil disturbance were to occur outside of the pole foundations the DNRC will require Sun River Electric to re-seed the area with an improved seed mix.

Determination:
The proposed action will result in a permanent disturbance to vegetation due to the construction of the pole foundations. However, with the minimal disturbance and proposal of BMPs above, it is expected that long-term adverse effects will be mitigated. Therefore, negative cumulative effects on vegetative resources are not expected.

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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.

Habitat:
The Project area is not considered critical habitat, according to the EPA. However, this state tract provides habitat for a variety of big game species (mule deer, whitetail deer, and pronghorn antelope), predators (coyote, fox, and badger), upland game birds (sharp tail grouse, Hungarian partridge), and other non-game animals, raptors and various songbirds. The proposed action has the potential to slightly impact wildlife temporarily during the construction and operation of heavy equipment. The proposed action is expected to have minimal impact on wildlife forage, cover, or travel corridors. This action will not change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the installation of the overhead powerline. The proposed action is not expected to have long-term negative cumulative effects.

BMPs:
Raptor protection is part of the TP-69 structures. An insulated wire is utilized over the pole ground wire in the area of the high voltage insulators. This has been shown to protect large birds from electrocution. It prevents the raptors from contacting both the high voltage conductor and the ground wire during take-off and landing, when they perch on the insulators. The proposed Project will be constructed single pole style (10.5 feet deep), and the poles will be spaced approximately every 250 feet. The foundation holes will be dug using a hydraulic powered auger. There will be no roads constructed for the Project, ensuring minimal disturbance. As part of the easement, the DNRC will require that construction and maintenance activities do not occur when the ground is wet to avoid rutting. If any soil disturbance were to occur outside of the pole foundations the DNRC will require Sun River Electric to re-seed the area with an improved seed mix.

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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.

Species of Concern/Threatened/Endangered:
Federally listed species that occur in Teton County, Montana include Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*). The National Heritage Program Database identifies Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), and Thick-billed Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) as species of concern within Township 22N, Range 5W, Section 36. See **Exhibit C**, Natural Heritage Report for species of concern within the Project area. The proposed action has the potential to slightly impact wildlife temporarily during the construction and operation of heavy equipment. The proposed action is expected to have minimal impact on wildlife forage, cover, or travel corridors. This action will not change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the installation of the overhead powerline. The proposed action is not expected to have long-term negative cumulative effects.

Wetlands:
The Natural Heritage Program identifies a Palustrine, Aquatic Bed (wetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water surface for most of the growing season) and Emergent wetland (wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season) and Riverine (Rivers), Unconsolidated Bottom (stream channels where the substrate is at least 25% mud, silt, or other fine particles) and Stream Bed wetland (active channel that contains periodic water flow) located near the Project area. (Natural Heritage Report, 2026). See **Exhibit C**, Natural Heritage Report. The National Wetlands Inventory identifies a Freshwater Emergent wetland and Riverine wetland. For more information, see https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html. The proposed action has the potential to cause stormwater runoff through the construction of the pole foundations. However, the Project is not expected to have negative cumulative effects on wetlands.

BMPs:
Raptor protection is part of the TP-69 structures. An insulated wire is utilized over the pole ground wire in the area of the high voltage insulators. This has been shown to protect large birds from electrocution. It prevents the raptors from contacting both the high voltage conductor and the ground wire during take-off and landing, when they perch on the insulators. The proposed Project will be constructed single pole style (10.5 feet deep), and the poles will be spaced approximately every 250 feet. The foundation holes will be dug using a hydraulic powered auger. There will be no roads constructed for the Project, ensuring minimal disturbance. As part of the easement, the DNRC will require that construction and maintenance activities do not occur when the ground is wet to avoid rutting. If any soil disturbance were to occur outside of the pole foundations the DNRC will require Sun River Electric to re-seed the area with an improved seed mix.

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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, but it should be noted that Class III level inventory work has not been conducted there to date.

Because the topographic setting and geology suggest a low to moderate likelihood of the presence of cultural or palaeontologic resources, proposed telecommunications installation activities are expected to 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, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

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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.

The project area is expected to be contained within the ROW parallel to 1st Road NW, which is approximately 9 miles from Fairfield, MT, 13 miles from Choteau, MT, and 13 miles from Augusta, MT. The proposed action has the potential to impact those who utilize 1st Road NW, but only for a short duration until the Project is complete. The Project has the potential to have visual and noise impacts on recreationalists who are enjoying the publicly accessible state lease, only for a short duration. However, there will be no disruption to public access to any areas along the Project route during construction. The Project is consistent with surrounding use and is not expected to have long-term cumulative effects on aesthetics.

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 on environmental resources.

The proposed action does not propose the utilization of limited resources. There will be no effect on 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.

The surrounding land is privately owned and used for agriculture and grazing. Any future development in the area will likely be restricted to utility or mineral development, with minimal impacts to the surface. Future development of projects are not expected to have negative cumulative effects.

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 proposed action will have no effect on human health and safety. This Project is limited to Sun River Electric Coop, Inc.'s personnel, where health and safety risks fall under their day-to-day operations. Per Sun River Electric Coop, Inc. the construction crew is always attentive to safety issues, and a safety tailgate is held every morning before beginning the day's activities. They require any off-site visitors to adhere to their safety practices, such as wearing hard hats and visually distinctive clothing.

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

The current land use on State Lease No. 4931, which the overhead powerline will be installed is 103.1 acres of hay ground and 367.9 acres of grazing land. Of those grazing acres, 87.42 acres are considered hay when cut (HWC). The Project will benefit the Common School Trust in terms of the easement application fee of $50.00 and a one-time easement fee of $2,080.00. The Project will not have any negative effects on the industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities and production.

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 proposed action will not create nor eliminate any jobs, as the Project will be completed by the proponent itself. There will be no effect on the employment market.

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.

The proposed action is expected to increase the tax revenue via easement fees, therefore having a beneficial effect on the Common Schools Trust.

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

The Project is of small scale and being funded by Sun River Electric Coop, Inc. There will be no excessive stress placed on existing infrastructure of the area. Additional government services (fire protection, police, schools) are not required for overhead transmission line construction and maintenance. There will be no effect on traffic. Overall, there will be no negative cumulative effects on 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.

The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. The Project will be granted under an easement issued by the DNRC. No other management plans are in effect for the area.

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.

The Project is located on legally accessible land via 1st Road NW, Spring Valley Canal Road, and 9th Lane SW. The proposed action is not expected to negatively affect 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

The proposed action does not require changes to housing or developments. There will be no negative cumulative effects on population and housing.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

The Project area is not located within 10 miles of native or traditional lifestyles, or communities. Therefore, there will be no negative effects on native or traditional lifestyles, or communities.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

The proposed action will not affect the 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 Project will benefit the Common Schools Trust in terms of an application fee of $50.00 and a one-time easement fee of $2,080.00. The Project will not impede upon the existing production of State Lease No. 4931. Any future development in the area will likely be restricted to utility or mineral development, with minimal impacts to the surface. Future development of projects is not expected to have negative cumulative effects. The proposed action will serve and benefit the area near Augusta, Montana, while minimizing disturbance of local hay and ag fields.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:** Samantha Johnson	**Date:** 11/03/2026
	Title: Land Use Specialist, Conrad Unit, Central Land Office	

V. FINDINGS

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant Sun River Electric Coop, Inc. the requested easement and permission to install the overhead powerline.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant impacts are expected. A permanent disturbance will occur as a result of Project activities, but it has been determined the effects will not be cumulative or significantly adverse. Granting the easement for the installation of the overhead powerline will serve and benefit the area near Augusta, Montana (local area residences and ranch properties).

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

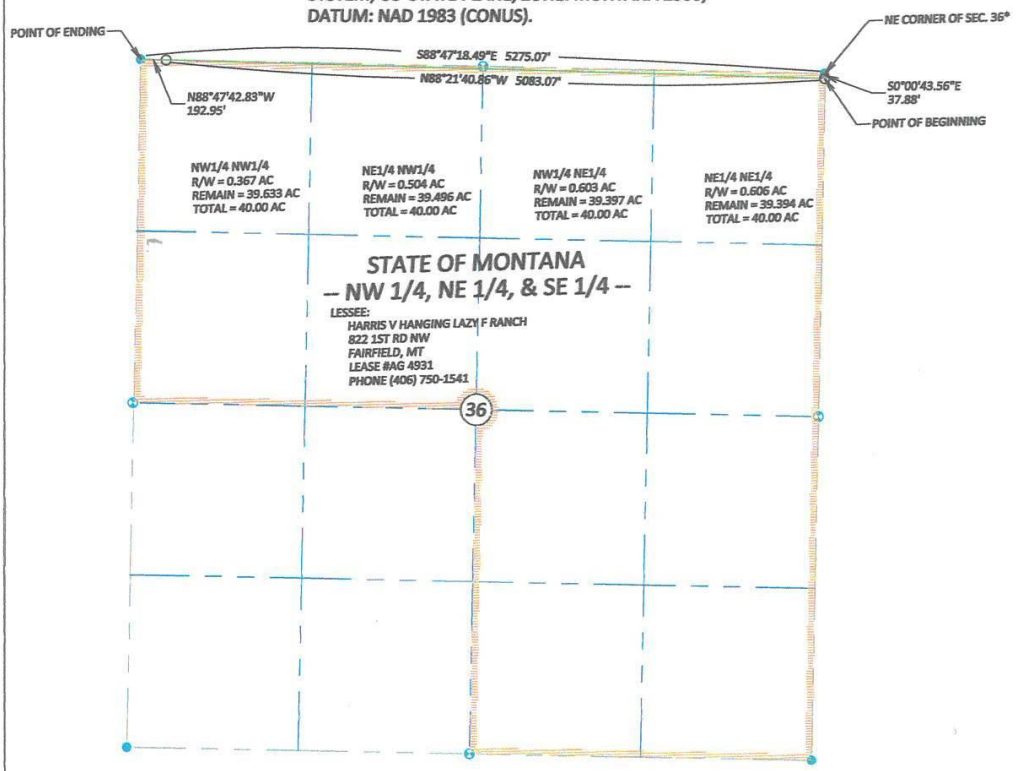
☐	EIS	☐	More Detailed EA	X	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Erik Eneboe
	Title:	Conrad Unit Manager, CLO, DNRC
Signature: 		**Date**: 11/10/2026

Exhibit A
Easement Survey Maps

TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH RANGE 5 WES TION 36

NOTE: ALL BEARINGS AND DISTANCES ON SECTIONS ARE TAKEN FROM FIELD GPS DATA CORRECTED IN SYSTEM; US STATE PLANE, ZONE: MONTANA 2500, DATUM: NAD 1983 (CONUS).

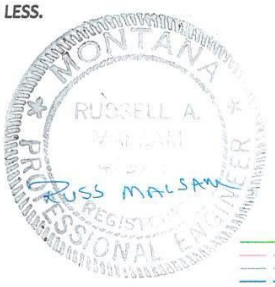


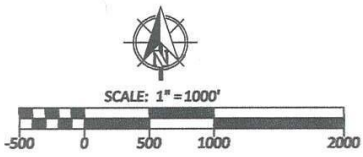
* THE NORTHEAST CORNER WAS SET BY PROJECTION FROM TWO (OFFSET) BLM BRASS CAPS LABELED RM (REFERENCE MARKER). THE SECTION CORNER IS AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE PROJECTION FROM THE NORTH CAP A DISTANCE OF 55' ON A BEARING OF SOUTH 53° 44' 05.22" EAST AND A PROJECTION FROM THE SOUTH CAP 43.1' NORTH 43° 35' 33.15" EAST.

A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR AN OVERHEAD ELECTRIC UTILITY LINE EXTENDING TWENTY (20.0) FEET IN WIDTH WITH TEN (10.0) FEET ON EACH SIDE OF A CENTERLINE WITHIN THE N1/2 NW1/4 AND THE N1/2 NE1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 05 WEST OF THE PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MONTANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 05 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 00° 00' 43.56" EAST A DISTANCE OF 37.88' FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE AND EAST BOUNDARY OF NE 1/4 NE 1/4; THENCE ON AND ALONG THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE ON A BEARING OF NORTH 88° 21' 40.86" WEST A DISTANCE OF 5083.07'; THENCE ON AND ALONG THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE ON A BEARING OF NORTH 88° 47' 42.83" WEST A DISTANCE OF 192.95' FEET TO THE POINT OF ENDING OF THE RIGHT OF WAY AND EAST BOUNDARY OF NW 1/4 NW 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 88° 47' 18.49" EAST A DISTANCE OF 5275.07' FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 36.

SAID EASEMENT AREA CONTAINS 2.08 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.





LEGEND

- (36) SECTION LABEL
- SECTION CORNER
- QUARTER CORNER
- RIGHT-OF-WAY POINT
- RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE
- BEARING AND DISTANCE LINE
- SECTION LINE
- QUARTER SECTION LINE
- STATE LANDS BOUNDARY

EXHIBIT of RIGHT-OF-WAY on STATE LAND
Sec. 36, T 22 N, R 5 W, P.M.M.
TETON COUNTY, MT

SUN RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
310 1ST AVE. SOUTH
PO BOX 309
FAIRFIELD, MT 59436

Exhibit B
Project Location Map

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Sun River Electric Coop, Inc.
69 KV Transmission Line Installation
Exhibit B - Project Location

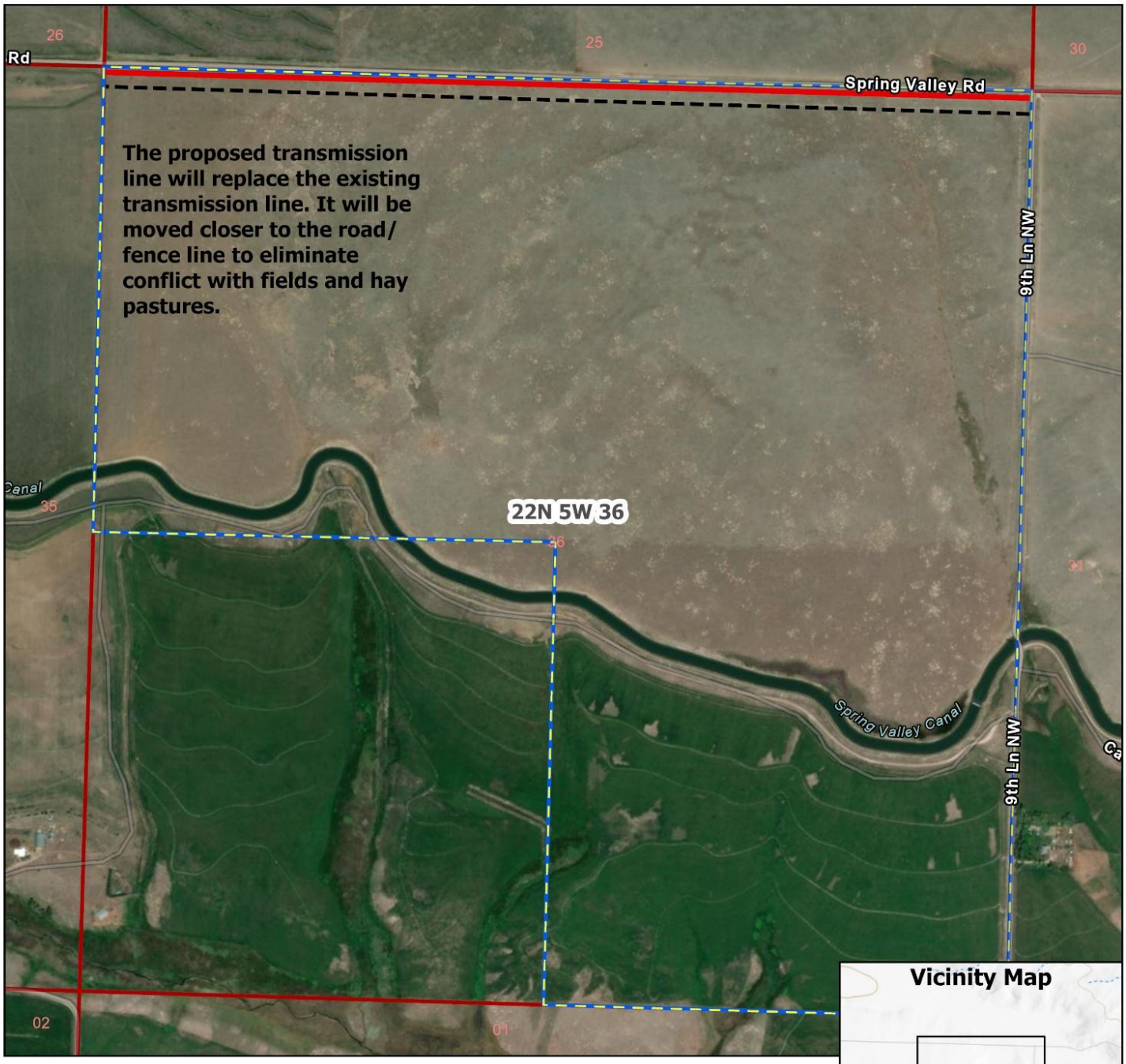


Exhibit C
Natural Heritage Report

Environmental Summary

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM mtnhp.mt.gov

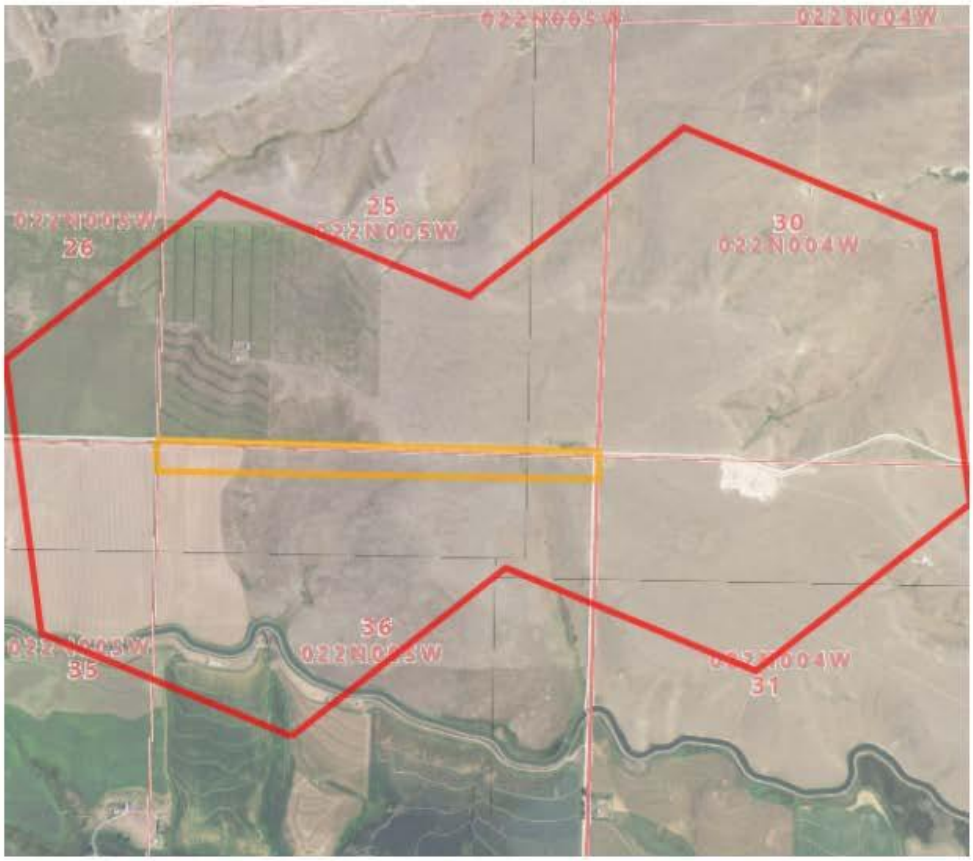
1201 11th Ave · P.O. Box 201800 · Helena, MT 59620-1800 · fax 406-444-0266 · phone 406-444-3989



Latitude	Longitude
47.61583	-112.16090
47.63695	-112.20693

Summarized by:

(Custom Area of Interest)



Suggested Citation

Montana Natural Heritage Program. Environmental Summary Report
for Latitude 47.61583 to 47.63695 and Longitude -112.16090 to -112.20693. Retrieved on 11/2/2026.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System. Since 1985, it has served as a neutral and non-regulatory provider of easily accessible information on Montana's species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. The program is part of the NatureServe network that is composed of over 60 member programs across North America that work to provide current and comprehensive distribution and status information on species and biological communities.

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NATURESERVE

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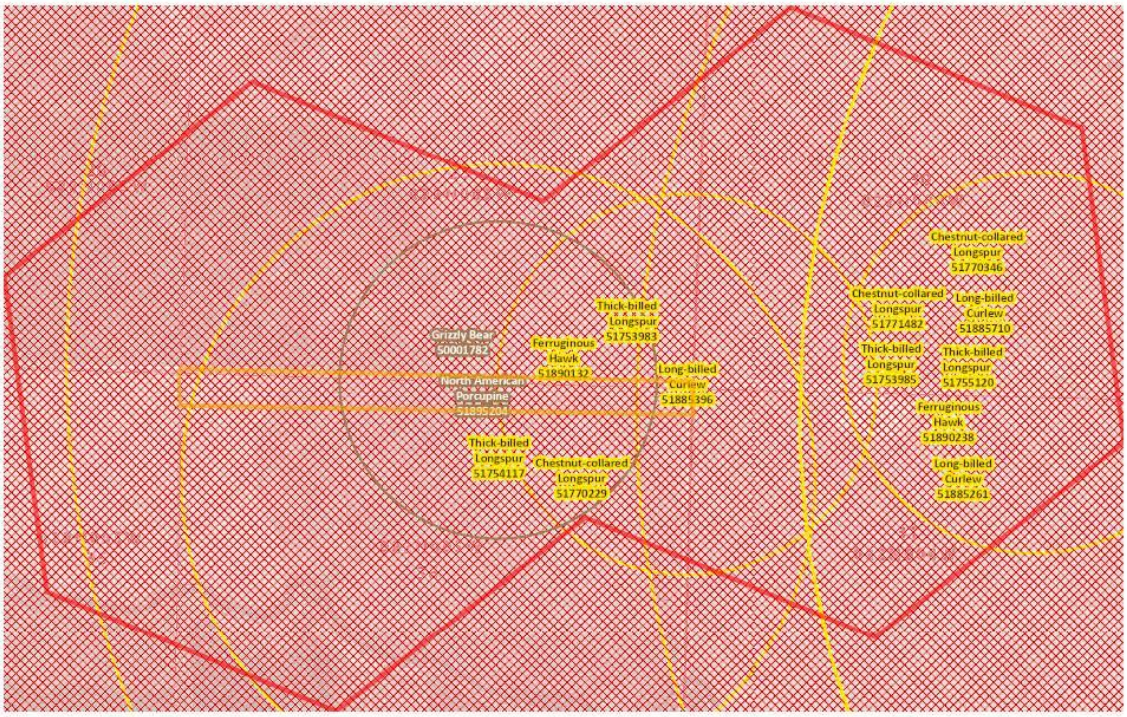
Legend

Model Icons	Habitat Icons	Range Icons	Num Obs
Suitable (native range)	Common	Native / Year-round	Count of obs with 'good precision' (<=1000m)
Optimal Suitability	Occasional	Summer	+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)
Moderate Suitability		Winter	
Low Suitability		Migratory	
Suitable (introduced range)		Non-native	
		Historical	

Latitude	Longitude
47.61583	-112.16090
47.63695	-112.20693

Native Species

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(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 Regs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Long-billed Curlew *(Numenius americanus)* **SOC**		3	3		S M

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

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 200 meters in order to approximate the breeding territory size reported for the species in Idaho and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 25, 2026)

Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive), L 0% Low (inductive)

	Spec Regs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Thick-billed Longspur *(Rhynchophanes mccownii)* **SOC**		4	2		S M

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

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Mar 18, 2026)

Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive), L 0% Low (inductive)

	Spec Regs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Chestnut-collared Longspur *(Calcarius ornatus)* **SOC**		3	1		S M

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

Species of Concern - Native Species Global: **G5** State: **S2B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC11; BCC17** BLM: **SENSITIVE** FWP SWAP: **SGCN** PIF: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 115 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Mar 18, 2026)

Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)

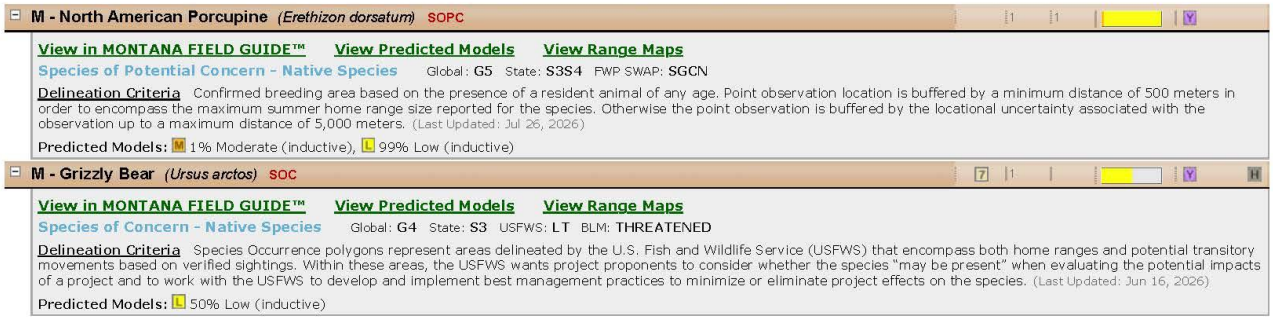
	Spec Regs	# SO	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Ferruginous Hawk *(Buteo regalis)* **SOC**		2	1		S M

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: **2**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to encompass the average home range size reported for the species and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 25, 2026)

Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)


M - North American Porcupine (Erethizon dorsatum) SOPC
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 FWP SWAP: SGCN
Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a resident animal of any age. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 500 meters in order to encompass the maximum summer home range size reported for the species. Otherwise the point observation is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 5,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 26, 2026)
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)
M - Grizzly Bear (Ursus arctos) SOC
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: L 50% Low (inductive)

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Legend

Model Icons	Habitat Icons	Range Icons	Num Obs
N Suitable (native range)	C Common	Y Native / Year-round	Count of obs with 'good precision' (<= 1000m)
O Optimal Suitability	O Occasional	S Summer	+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)
M Moderate Suitability		W Winter	
L Low Suitability		M Migratory	
I Suitable (introduced range)		N Non-native	
		H Historical	



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Native Species

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(Custom Area of Interest)*
Filtered by:
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Other Observed Species

	Spec Regs	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Golden Eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)* SOC		1		Y

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: BGEPA; MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

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Legend

Model Icons	Habitat Icons	Range Icons	Num Obs
N Suitable (native range)	C Common	Y Native / Year-round	Count of obs with 'good precision' (<= 1000m)
X Optimal Suitability	O Occasional	S Summer	+ indicates additional 'poor precision' obs (1001m-10,000m)
M Moderate Suitability		W Winter	
L Low Suitability		M Migratory	
I Suitable (introduced range)		N Non-native	
		H Historical	



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Native Species

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(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

Other Potential Species

	Spec Regs	Predicted Model	Range
B - Short-eared Owl *(Asio flammeus)* SOPC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3 Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive), L 0% Low (inductive)			
V - Carex crawei *(Crawe's Sedge)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3 Plant Threat Score: Low Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive), L 0% Low (inductive)			
V - Elodea bifoliata *(Long-sheath Waterweed)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S2? Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats Predicted Models: M 100% Moderate (inductive)			
M - Merriam's Shrew *(Sorex merriami)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
M - Prairie Shrew *(Sorex hayden)* SOPC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
M - Preble's Shrew *(Sorex preblei)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
B - Sharp-tailed Grouse *(Tympanuchus phasianellus)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 2 Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
I - Bombus occidentalis *(Western Bumble Bee)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S2 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
I - Bombus suckleyi *(Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G2G3 State: S1 USFWS: P FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
V - Centunculus minimus *(Chaffweed)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3 Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
V - Eleocharis rostellata *(Beaked Spikerush)* SOC			Y
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, FLAT, HLC) Plant Threat Score: Unknown CCVI: Less Vulnerable FWP SWAP: SGCN Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			
B - Sage Thrasher *(Oreoscoptes montanus)* SOC			S M
View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 3 Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)			

B - Sprague's Pipit *(Anthus spragueii)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1
Predicted Models: M 50% Moderate (inductive), L 50% Low (inductive)

M - Little Brown Myotis *(Myotis lucifugus)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S2S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT) FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

M - Long-legged Myotis *(Myotis volans)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

I - Bombus pensylvanicus *(American Bumble Bee)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

V - Cypripedium parviflorum *(Small Yellow Lady's-slipper)* SOPC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (LOLO)
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC)
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

V - Ranunculus cardiophyllus *(Heart-leaved Buttercup)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 Plant Threat Score: Low
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

M - Northern Hoary Bat *(Lasiurus cinereus)* SOC

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
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

B - American Bittern *(Botaurus lentiginosus)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 3
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

B - American White Pelican *(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 3
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

B - Bobolink *(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 3
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 99% Low (inductive)

M - Fringed Myotis *(Myotis thysanodes)* SOC

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

V - Impatiens aurella *(Pale-yellow Jewel-weed)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2S3
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 1% Low (inductive)

B - Rufous Hummingbird *(Selasphorus rufus)* SOPC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10 FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3
Predicted Models: M 1% Moderate (inductive), L 1% Low (inductive)

M - Black-tailed Prairie Dog *(Cynomys ludovicianus)* SOC

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
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

M - Long-eared Myotis *(Myotis evotis)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

M - Silver-haired Bat *(Lasionycteris noctivagans)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

I - Bombus insularis *(Indiscriminate Cuckoo Bumble Bee)* SOPC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S3S4
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

V - Atriplex canescens *(Four-wing Saltbush)* SOPC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 Plant Threat Score: Unknown
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Baird's Sparrow *(Centronyx bairdii)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Black Tern *(Chlidonias niger)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 2
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Brewer's Sparrow *(Spizella breweri)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 2
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Burrowing Owl *(Athene cunicularia)* SOC

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
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Common Poorwill *(Phalaenoptilus nuttallii)* SOPC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Potential Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Loggerhead Shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 2
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

B - Mountain Plover *(Anarhynchus montanus)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S2B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN PIF: 1
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

I - Danaus plexippus *(Monarch)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Predicted Models View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2S3 USFWS: P USFS: Sensitive - Migratory in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT) FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: L 100% Low (inductive)

R - Greater Short-horned Lizard *(Phrynosoma hernandesi)* SOC

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
Predicted Models: L 50% Low (inductive)

F - Arctic Grayling *(Thymallus arcticus)* SOC

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: S1 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN
Predicted Models: I 50% Suitable (introduced range) (deductive)

M - Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* SOC

View in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ View Range Maps
Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: LT; CH BLM: THREATENED FWP SWAP: SGCN

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Structured Surveys

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(Custom Area of Interest)*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) records information on the locations where more than 80 different types of well-defined repeatable survey protocols capable of detecting an animal species or suite of animal species have been conducted by state, federal, tribal, university, or private consulting biologists. Examples of structured survey protocols tracked by MTNHP include: visual encounter and dip net surveys for pond breeding amphibians, point counts for birds, call playback surveys for selected bird species, visual surveys of migrating raptors, kick net stream reach surveys for macroinvertebrates, visual encounter cover object surveys for terrestrial mollusks, bat acoustic or mist net surveys, pitfall and/or snap trap surveys for small terrestrial mammals, track or camera trap surveys for large mammals, and trap surveys for turtles. Whenever possible, photographs of survey locations are stored in MTNHP databases.

MTNHP does not typically manage information on structured surveys for plants; surveys for invasive species may be a future exception.

Within the report area you have requested, structured surveys are summarized by the number of each type of structured survey protocol that has been conducted, the number of species detections/observations resulting from these surveys, and the most recent year a survey has been conducted.

A-Nocturnal Calling Amphibian *(Nocturnal Breeding Amphibian Calling Survey)*	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count: 1	Recent Survey: 2022
B-Long-billed Curlew *(Long-billed Curlew, Road-based, Point Count)*	Survey Count: 4	Obs Count: 3	Recent Survey: 2015

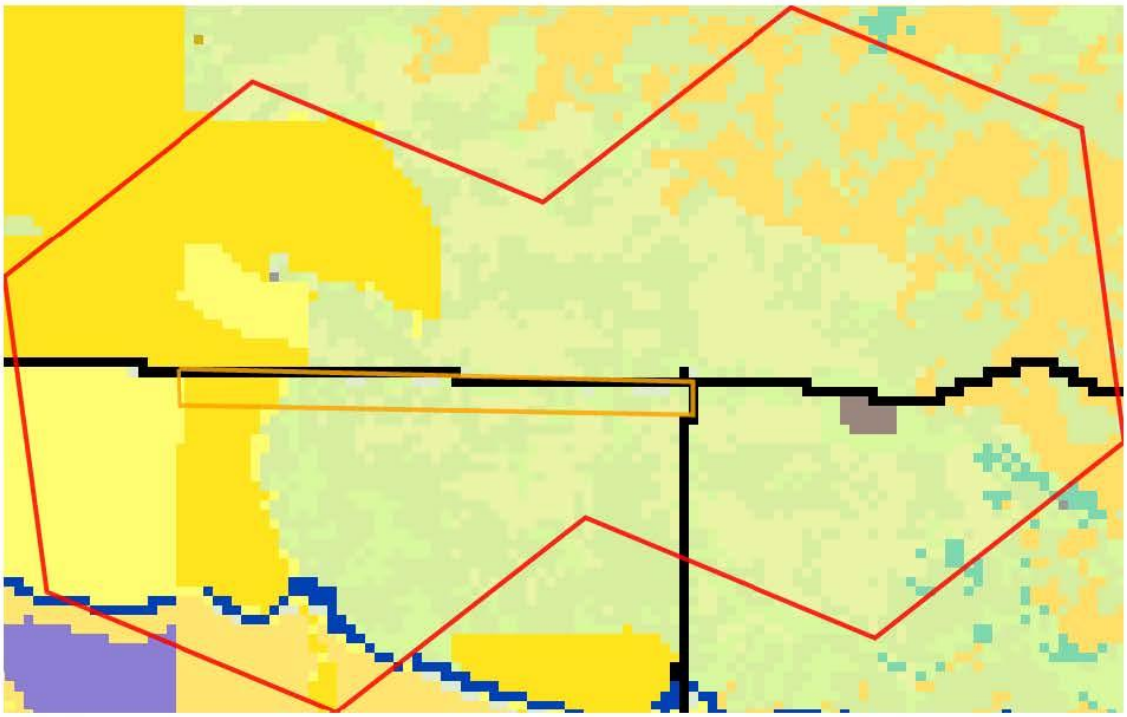
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Land Cover

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(Custom Area of Interest)*





29% (*368 Acres*)

Grassland

Lowland - Prairie Grassland

Rocky Mountain Low Elevation - Dry Grassland HOC HGCN

This National Vegetation Classification Group is the dominant grassland type of western and central Montana in the valleys, foothills and lower montane zone. It is typified by cool-season perennial, bunch grasses and forbs with >25% cover, with a sparse shrub cover (generally <10%). It occurs on both sides of the Continental Divide and extends east to all of the island ranges in central and southern MT. These grasslands are found at elevations of about 2,000-5,500 feet. Grasslands above this elevation are generally referrable to G267 - Montane - Subalpine Dry Grassland. At low to mid-montane settings, grasslands may be transitional between the two groups and not easily placed. East of the Continental Divide, this group transitions to G331 - Great Plains Dry Mixedgrass Prairie along the Rocky Mountain Front and in the foothills and lower slopes of the island ranges. In the lower montane zone, these grasslands range from small meadows to large open parks surrounded by conifers; below the lower treeline, they occur as extensive foothill and valley grasslands. Characteristic bunchgrasses include Rough Fescue (*Festuca campestris*), Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Elymus spicatus*), Sandberg's Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Needle-and-Thread (*Stipa comata*) and Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*). Native, rhizomatous species present at some sites are Western Wheatgrass (*Elymus smithii*) and Thickspike Wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*). Agricultural conversion, invasive species, fire suppression, and overgrazing are major threats to these grasslands and have led to the direct loss of and degradation of habitat.

This group is equivalent to the Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland Ecological System.



19% (*248 Acres*)

Shrubland

Foothills - Montane Shrubland

Lowland - Montane Shrubland HGCN

This National Vegetation Classification Group is dominated by deciduous shrubs at low to mid elevations. It is found in the foothills and montane zone of all mountainous areas across the state. Patches sizes are generally small. These communities occur in relatively warm, dry, upland habitats and may be dominated or co-dominated by the following shrubs: Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*), Skunkbush Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), Woods' Rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). These shrublands often occur below treeline, within the matrix of surrounding low-elevation grasslands and sagebrush shrublands. They also occur in the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir zones, but rarely up into the subalpine zone, where they are restricted to warm, dry sites and southerly exposures. Trees if present within the community are widely scattered. These shrublands occur on all aspects. These communities also develop near talus slopes as garlands, at the heads of dry drainages, and toeslopes in the moist shrub-steppe and steppe zones. Fire, flooding and erosion all impact these shrublands, but they typically will persist on sites for long periods.

This group incorporates the Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland Ecological System as well as a portion of the Rocky Mountain Montane-Foothill Deciduous Shrubland Ecological System.



17% (224 Acres)

Human Land Use
Agriculture
Cultivated Crops, Dryland

These agriculture lands are used for the production of crops without irrigation, such as wheat, barley, pulses, and oilseeds, typically on an annual cycle. Agricultural plant cover is variable depending on season and type of farming.



12% (156 Acres)

Shrubland
Arid - Saline Shrubland
Gardner's Saltbush - Bird's-foot Sage Dwarf-Shrubland

This National Vegetation Classification Group (G301) is composed of open dwarf-shrublands, mostly of relatively pure stands of Gardner's Saltbush (*Atriplex gardneri*) and, in south-central Montana, by Bird's-foot Sagebrush (*Artemisia pedatifida*). It occurs in the Bighorn Basin in the south-central part of the state, on the plains east of the Rocky Mountain Front, and across portions of the Great Plains Region. Sites occur on clay or silt soils that are saline and alkaline. Substrates are generally derived from marine shales found on windswept basins, alluvial flats, and plains. Other low shrubs are sometimes present at these sites. The herbaceous layer is typically sparse with perennial forbs infrequent, while perennial grasses and annual forbs may be common at some sites. These communities are similar to G300 - Intermountain Shadscale - Saltbush Shrubland and G566 - Great Plains Sparsely-Vegetated Badlands, but can be distinguished by the dominant species and by total vegetation cover.

This Group (G301) is equivalent to the Mat Saltbush Shrubland Ecological System.



9% (112 Acres)

Human Land Use
Agriculture
Pasture/Hay, Dryland

These agriculture lands typically have perennial herbaceous cover (e.g. regularly-shaped plantings) used for livestock grazing or the production of hay. There are obvious signs of management such as haying that distinguish it from natural grasslands.



7% (84 Acres)

Grassland
Lowland - Prairie Grassland
Great Plains Dry Mixedgrass Prairie HGCN

This National Vegetation Classification Group of Dry Mixedgrass Prairie is the dominant grassland group across the prairie region in Montana. It is characterized by sparse to dense cover of various short to mid-statured, perennial grasses. Some sites within this group support a short or dwarf-shrub component with a layer of grasses. Dominant species include the following cool season grasses; Needle-and-Thread (*Stipa comata*), Western Wheatgrass (*Elymus smithii*), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Elymus spicatus*), Thickspike Wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*) and Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) are common warm-season grass at some sites. Upland sedges, such as *Carex inops* ssp. heliophila and *Carex filifolia*, are important components of some sites. Short and dwarf-shrubs are common components of some mixedgrass prairie communities and as a result, the Dry Mixedgrass Prairies transition readily into shrub-steppe communities of G302 and G310 as well as some Badlands and Sparsely-Vegetated communities. More mesic grassland sites are part of the much less common G141 - Great Plains Mesic Mixedgrass Prairie while sandy sites are part of G889 - Great Plains Sand Prairie. This group is separated from G141 - Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie Group based on soil moisture and species composition. Stronger constancy and dominance of the short and mid grasses, distinguish this type from the related mesic mixedgrass types. Strong grazing pressures on mesic mixedgrass prairies, which increases the shortgrass component, can blur the distinction between the two types.

This group includes the majority of the Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie Ecological System excluding the more mesic communities.



3% (33 Acres)

Human Land Use
Transportation
Other Road

County, city and or rural roads generally open to motor vehicles.



2% (28 Acres)

Human Land Use
Agriculture
Irrigated Agriculture

These agriculture lands are irrigated, with methods ranging from flood irrigation to center-pivots. Irrigation may enhance pasturelands, hay, or alfalfa production, or sustain crops, including wheat, barley, corn, beets, or potatoes.

Additional Limited Land Cover

1% (*10 Acres*) Open Water Classified in 2025 Land Cover
1% (*7 Acres*) Greasewood Shrubland HGCN
<1% (*5 Acres*) Developed - Vegetation
<1% (*4 Acres*) Great Plains Sparsely-Vegetated Badlands
<1% (*1 Acres*) Great Plains Wet Meadow, Marsh and Shrub Swamp HOPC HGCN
<1% (*0 Acres*) Developed - Low and Medium Intensity

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
A program of the **Montana State Library's**
Natural Resource Information System



Latitude	Longitude
47.61583	-112.16090
47.63695	-112.20693

Wetland and Riparian

Summarized by: **Harris SREC EA** *(Custom Area of Interest)*



Wetland and Riparian Mapping

P - Palustrine

AB - Aquatic Bed — P - Palustrine, AB - Aquatic Bed
Wetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water surface for most of the growing season.

F - Semipermanently Flooded	<1 Acres	
h - Diked/Impounded	<1 Acres	PABFh

EM - Emergent — P - Palustrine, EM - Emergent
Wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season.

1 - Persistent

A - Temporarily Flooded	12 Acres	
(no modifier)	3 Acres	PEM1A
d - Partially Drained/Ditched	6 Acres	PEM1Ad
h - Diked/Impounded	3 Acres	PEM1Ah
C - Seasonally Flooded	6 Acres	
(no modifier)	3 Acres	PEM1C
d - Partially Drained/Ditched	<1 Acres	PEM1Cd
h - Diked/Impounded	2 Acres	PEM1Ch
x - Excavated	1 Acres	PEM1Cx

R - Riverine (Rivers)

3 - Upper Perennial

UB - Unconsolidated Bottom — R - Riverine (Rivers), 3 - Upper Perennial, UB - Unconsolidated Bottom
Stream channels where the substrate is at least 25% mud, silt or other fine particles.

F - Semipermanently Flooded	8 Acres	
x - Excavated	8 Acres	R3UBFx

4 - Intermittent

SB - Stream Bed — R - Riverine (Rivers), 4 - Intermittent, SB - Stream Bed
Active channel that contains periodic water flow.

C - Seasonally Flooded	<1 Acres	
x - Excavated	<1 Acres	R4SBCx

End of Documentation