

RECEIVED

JUL 17 1992

File 016.3

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

DS-252

PROPOSED ACTION Montana Highway Dept. Easement - Riverbed - Scotty Brown Bridge

COUNTY Powell County TOWNSHIP 15N RANGE 13W SECTION 33

*(Yes) (No) (NA)

- X _____ _____ 1. Significant use of area by important wildlife and fish species.
- _____ X _____ 2. Important vegetation communities present which may influence or be influenced by proposed project.
- _____ _____ X 3. Significant historical, archaeological, or paleontological resource present.
- X _____ _____ 4. Significant topographic features, terrain or aesthetic values are present.
- X _____ _____ 5. Reconstruction of existing roads or trails or new road are proposed.
- X _____ _____ 6. Important surface or groundwater resources present.
- _____ X _____ 7. Fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present.
- _____ X _____ 8. Buildings, structures, pipelines, powerlines or other utilities located nearby.
- _____ X _____ 9. Land has been included as a part of a baseline study or other type of report, for any purpose. (e.g. Natural Area Program, Resource Development Bureau projects, rights-of-way, easements, or other leasing actions)
- _____ X _____ 10. Previously permitted or leased activities on this tract resulted in special protective stipulations.
- X _____ _____ 11. Present tract management is influenced significantly by adjacent state, federal or private land management practices.
- _____ X _____ 12. Tract is near designated Class I air area, or non-attainment area.
- _____ X _____ 13. Tract contains areas with unique or special reclamation considerations (past mining, erosion, saline seep, etc.).
- X _____ _____ 14. Public Interest.

* Explain all "Yes" answers in narrative form and attach to checklist.

(Yes) (No) (NA)

X _____ _____

15. Additional Comments: (If so, explain in attached narrative.)

Prepared by: ROBERT H. STORER ^{RHS} Title Forest and Lands Program Mgr.

Based on my review of the above action, I have included that a EA is is not required (Circle appropriate response.)
because:

Area Manager/Bureau Chief *Chas E. [Signature]* Date Mar 2, '92

1. The proposal is for construction of a new bridge crossing the Big Blackfoot River. Upon completion of the new bridge, the old existing bridge will be torn down. The river is a blue ribbon trout fishery. Construction will require a 124 Permit from Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I have talked with Dennis Workman of DFW&P and he reports that he is working with Highway Dept. on this project. *Highway Dept. is preparing an E.A. on this project.*
4. This is a scenic stretch of river.
5. The project is to build a new highway bridge and tear down an old bridge. The State Highway Dept. is applying for Powell County.
6. The bridge crosses the Big Blackfoot River. This is a major western Montana river.
11. The bridge site is somewhat limited to existing easements. The new bridge will be located immediately upstream from the existing bridge. The old bridge will not be demolished until the new bridge is serviceable.
14. This bridge is a major recreation access point. The construction of this bridge is to facilitate this use and is supported by all landowners and most recreationists. A take-in/pull-out site for floaters would be nice. I have discussed this idea with both DFW&P (Workman) and Highway Dept. (Horton). At this time, no arrangements have been made for a put-in/take-out site, but the DFW&P is pursuing it.
15. I recommend approval of the easement at a fair market value.

Route copies to: File (016.3)