



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Four
4600 Giant Springs Road
PO Box 6610
Great Falls MT 59406

Environmental Quality Council
Mt Dept of Environmental Quality
Montana Department of Natural Resources
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Directors Office
Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Lands Section
Design & Construction
Legal Unit
Jeff Erickson
Regions 1-7

State Historic Preservation Office
Montana State Library
Mt Environmental Information Center
Mt Audobon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mt State Parks Association
Mt State Parks Foundation
Rep Bob Raney
Mr George Ochenski
Meagher County Commissioners
Lewis & Clark County Commissioners
Russell Country Sportsmen
Great Falls Cross Country Ski Club
George Willet - Showdown Ski Area
Forest Green Resort
Montana Snowmobile Adventure
Kings Hill Ranger District
Montana Snowmobile Association

June 30, 1998

Dear Interested Parties,

The enclosed Environmental Assessment has been prepared for utilizing State funds to assist in construction of a snowmobile groomer shed at King's Hill. The scope of the proposed project has been determined to not be sufficient to initiate the HB495(Section 23-1-110,MCA) process. The Montana Environmental Policy Act considerations are included in the following document. The King's Hill Ranger District has done additional evaluation of this project including cultural resources and Threatened and Endangered species assessment. For further information, contact Terry Knupp, District Ranger, (406)547-3361, Box A, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59457.

We would like your consideration and any comments you may have on this proposal. Questions and comments will be accepted until August 3, 1998. Complete building plans and specifications are available upon request. Please direct all questions and comments to either Greg McMahon (406)236-5923 from the Great Falls Snowmobile Club or Ray Swartz, FWP at (406)454-5856, POB 6610, Great Falls MT 59601.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely

Mike Aderhold

Mike Aderhold
Regional Supervisor

Cascade



Post Office Box 6032  Great Falls, Montana 59406

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Four
4600 Giant Springs Road
PO Box 6610
Great Falls MT. 59406

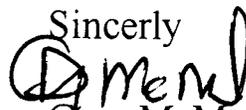
Dear Interested Parties,

The Environmental Assessment has been prepared for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks because of Grooming Funds being used for the construction of a Groomer storage facility. Per Bob Walkers approval some portions of the Great Falls Snowmobile Club grooming fund were spent on the facility.

The present storage facility is not large enough for the present Groomer to be properly stored. In order for the Club and all the other snowmobiling public to upgrade equipment proper inside storage must be procured by the Club. The new facility will be a great improvement used and appreciate by all people who use the area.

The building will be 30'x40' framed, with metal siding, 4/12 roof with metal on a roof, one large overhead door and a passage door. The metal will be colored earth tone and complement the surroundings. There will be no detrimental sight problems because there is no visibility from the highway. All water and other liquids will go through an oil separator, only water will be sent through the drain field.

Grooming funds per Bob Walker will help build the proposed facility, but Club money and donations will be used to augment the State money. With the money amount set aside we should be able to complete the construction in one summer if all the required permits are received.

Sincerely

Greg McMahon
Building Chairman

GREAT FALLS SNOWMOBILE GROOMER STORAGE FACILITY

PART 1 PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed state action

The Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks have allowed the Great Falls Snowmobile Club to set-aside \$7700.00 from our allotted grooming funds for the construction of a Groomer storage and maintenance building. The building will be built on Forest Service land. The Club will be responsible for the building.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action.

DFWP has granted permission to set aside a portion of the grooming allotment for years 1998 and 1999. These funds are provided through the Snowmobile Gas Tax fund.

3. Name of Project

Groomer Storage Facility.

4. Contact person of sponsor.

President, Great Falls Snowmobile Club PO. Box 3062, Great Falls Mt. 59406

5. If Applicable

Commencement Date, as soon as all Government approval is granted, ASAP.

6. Location of Proposed Facility

Cascade County, NE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 34.

7. Project Size: Estimated acres affected that are current:

- a. Developed - 0
- b. Open space -.25
- c. Wetlands/Riparians -0
- d. Flood plain -0
- e. Productive -0

8. Maps site.

See enclosed papers, the proposed location is highlighted in green.

9. Summary of Proposed Action, the benefits, needs for and purpose.

The existing storage building belongs to USFS, Which needs the building for other than Groomer storage. This building is inadequate to accommodate the Groomer, which makes it impossible to secure the building. The present storage facility is listed on the Historical Register so no modification will be allowed.

The Montana Snowmobile Program requires that before any organization receives a new Groomer, approved inside storage must be procured. This building is a needed improvement to the snowmobiling public who use the Kings Hill Area.

The design will not detract from the area because of the earth tone colors and there is no sight from highway 89.

10. Other Agency involved.

United States Forest Service, special use permit applied for, NEPA study is being is being ccompeted. Montana Power, Site power and United

States Forest Service must determined how the power is to be run, underground or overhead.

11 Other Agencies consulted for preparation of said.

Department of Fish Wildlife and Park Region Four Great Falls.
Department of Fish Wildlife and Park Bob Walker Helena.

PART II IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Impact to physical environment.

No impact on physical environment, the building site is in a recently reclaimed gravel pit. No detrimental impact on the physical environmental. See the checklist E.A.

B. Impact on human environment.

No human impact, a building site only. see checklist E.A.

PART II REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE.

No alternatives are applicable as stated throughout this document.

PART IV LEVEL OF ANALYSIS.

An EIS is not required, with no impact to the environment or to the public the EA is appropriate level of analysis.

PART V LEVEL OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.

A thirty-day public comment period will begin June 17, 1998, no other involvement is anticipated.

PREPARED BY:

Greg McMahon

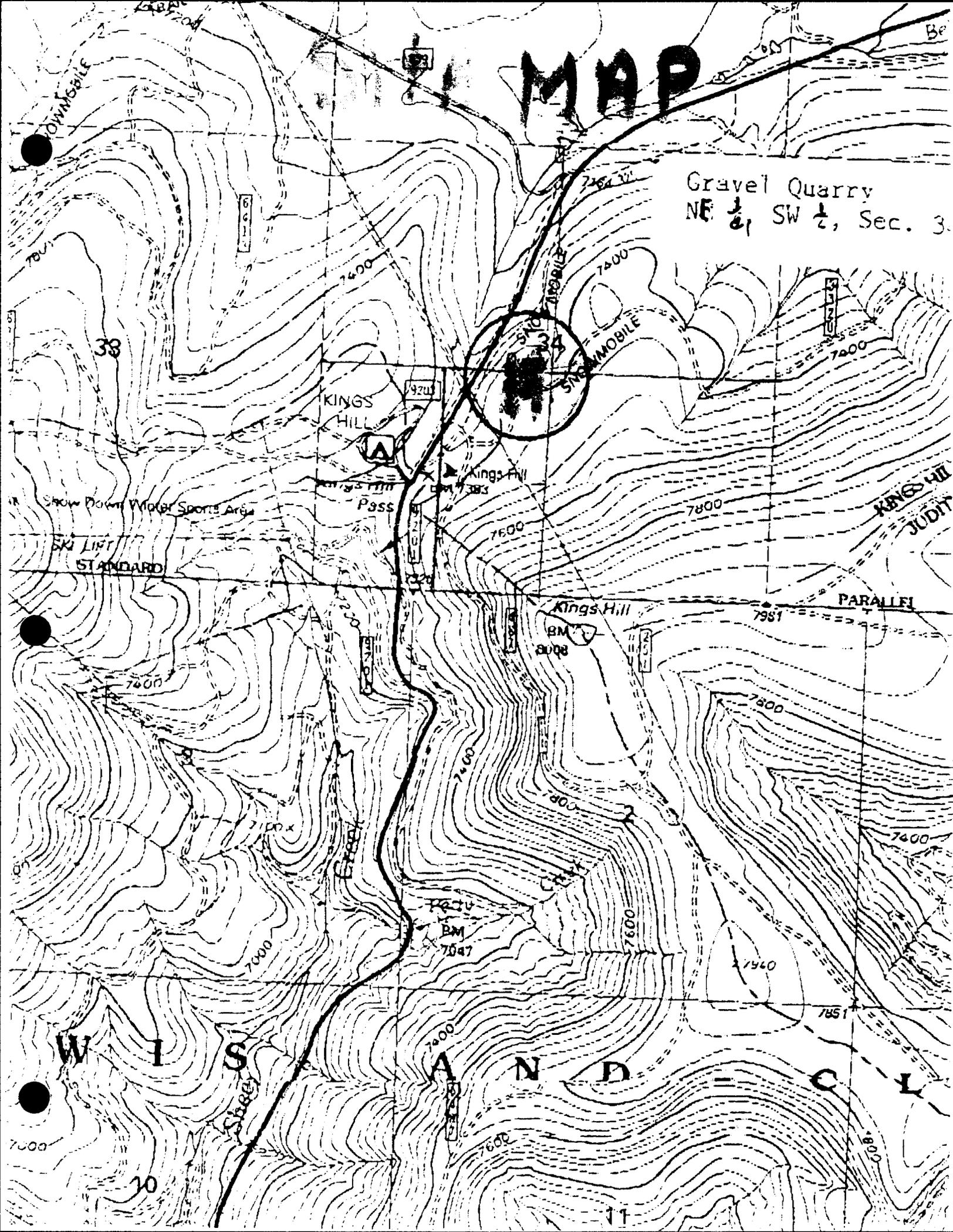
POB 943

Monarch Mt. 59463

727-2417 or 799-0686

MAP

Gravel Quarry
NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 3



33

KINGS HILL

9200

Kings Hill

SKI LIFT
STANDARD

Kings Hill

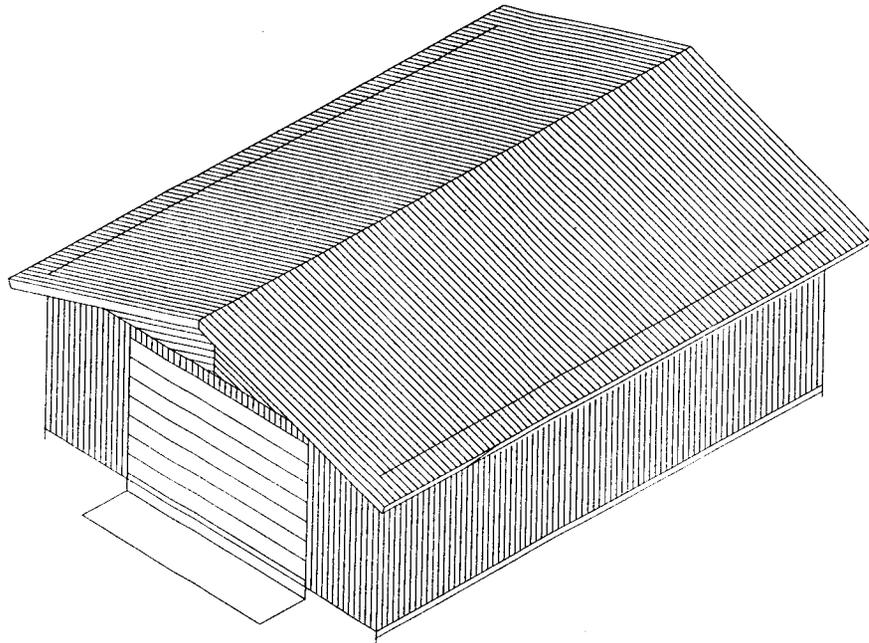
PARALLEL

KINGS HILL
JUDITH

W I S S I A N D I L L I N O I S

10

11



GROOMING BUILDING	PAGE -1	MCMAHON CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN <small>INSPECTION DESIGN REMODEL CONSTRUCTION</small> MC&D
GREAT FALLS	RENDER	
SNOWMOBILERS	SCALE APRIL 3 1998	



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lewis and Clark
National Forest
Kings Hill Ranger District

204 W. Folsom, Box A
White Sulphur Springs,
MT 59645

File Code: 2720

Date: June 12, 1998

Great Falls Snowmobile Club
Attn: B.C. Caffyn, President
P.O. Box 6032
Great Falls, MT 59406

Dear Mr. Caffyn:

This letter is to inform you of the current status of the groomer shed process. The site of the shed and proposed power corridor has been assessed by the Forest archaeologist. He has completed his report with a recommendation for proceeding with the project. Our District biologist has also visited the site and assessed it for Threatened and Endangered wildlife species, and for sensitive plants. We are awaiting the completion of her report, to be done sometime next week. The project was described in a public notice posted in the Great Falls Tribune and the Meagher County News, with a request for comments due by May 10, 1998, to which no comments were received. These considerations should adequately meet our NEPA requirements, and those of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Noelle Meier went to the site with Montana Power Company representatives and discussed the project with them. She gave them a Special Use application for them to fill out and return to the District. They have already sent us their completed application, along with cost estimates for above ground, below ground, and a combination of both for the electrical power.

Ron Meyers (civil engineer) and Ron Yates (landscape architect) have reviewed the Groomer Building plans, specifications and application submitted by your club, and request the following additional information:

- A site plan which shows the proposed placement and orientation of the building on the site, as well as any exterior excavation improvements surrounding and leading to the building (proposed road, etc.)
- A more detailed plan which shows the proposed electrical wiring of the building and the location of the service line, whether above or below ground. There is a concern whether or not 50 amp circuits can be run in 1/2" conduit (noted on page six of plan). The electrical work must be conducted by a licensed electrician.



- Page six of the submitted Groomer Building plan also indicates a 125,000 BTU forced air propane heater. Where will the propane storage be located? Rigid insulation is indicated for the foundation. What is intended for insulating the building?
- Gasoline storage for the groomer will be on-site, or will it be brought in by truck, as needed?
- Are there any considerations for toilet facilities, either immediately or in the future? Please include plans for a drain field, etc.
- Galvanized metal siding is indicated in the plan and specifications, however, color is not. Please state the proposed color. I believe dark brown was proposed in previous discussions.

Many of the above items may be addressed in a memo to myself. Some of the items may be best illustrated with an addition to the plan drawings. Please contact Noelle Meier if you have any questions, or you feel that a meeting is necessary to move forward. She can certainly arrange such a meeting with Ron Meyers and Ron Yates, if necessary, or you may feel free to give them a call about their concerns and how to best address them.

Once the above concerns are adequately addressed, and I review the entire proposal, the NEPA documentation, and the Montana Power Company's application, I will issue a decision memo to proceed with the project, with certain specifications. This memo will be sent to Ray Swartz of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to satisfy their Environmental Review Criteria, and the Kings Hill Ranger District will issue your club a Special Use Permit to begin construction, as well as a Special Use Permit to the Montana Power Company for their portion of the project. We certainly appreciate your work and cooperation, and look forward to this project getting underway. We hope that completion of these few more steps will bring us there very soon.

Thank you also for sending the signed Challenge Cost Share Agreements to us. I will have them signed by Gloria Flora and mail your copy to you.

Sincerely,


TERRY KNUPP
District Ranger

cc: Ray Swartz, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
cc: Ron Meyers, Civil Engineer
cc: Ron Yates, Landscape Architect