

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- 1. Type of Proposed State Action Parking lot construction - Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, Townsend, MT.
- 2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 3. Name of Project Pond 4 Access Site
- 4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
- 5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date July 1999

Estimated Completion Date August 1999

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 100 %

- 6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

51 Ranch - Broadwater Co., T7NR1E Section 11

- 7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>	
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
residential	<u>0</u>		
industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>3/4</u>	dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		forestry	<u>0</u>
• Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	rangeland	<u>0</u>
		other	<u>0</u>

- 8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

This project is proposed for the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Figure 1). The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special cooperative agreement with Reclamation (No. 98-FC-60-09540, effective 9/15/97). The Proposed Action consists of building an access road, parking lot, handicapped-accessible interpretive overlook, and boat ramp along Pond 4 on the CFWMA. This project is being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationists, both hunters and non-hunters.

The Pond 4 access will have a gravel road from Highway 12 to Pond 4, a 25 space parking lot, a handicapped-accessible viewing platform with interpretive signs, a trail from the platform to the pond, and a gravel boat ramp. Adequate signage would be erected along Highway 12. This access will provide educational and viewing opportunities to local people as well as passing tourists. In addition, the boat ramp will provide another access point to the pond for waterfowl hunters. The north end of Pond 4 is the only existing boat access and in dry years may not provide access at all because of low water in the pond.

Total estimated cost for the project is \$35,059.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Army Corp of Engineers	#404	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	\$35,059

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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Bureau of Reclamation	Owner of property
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Bureau of Reclamation

FWP Design and Construction

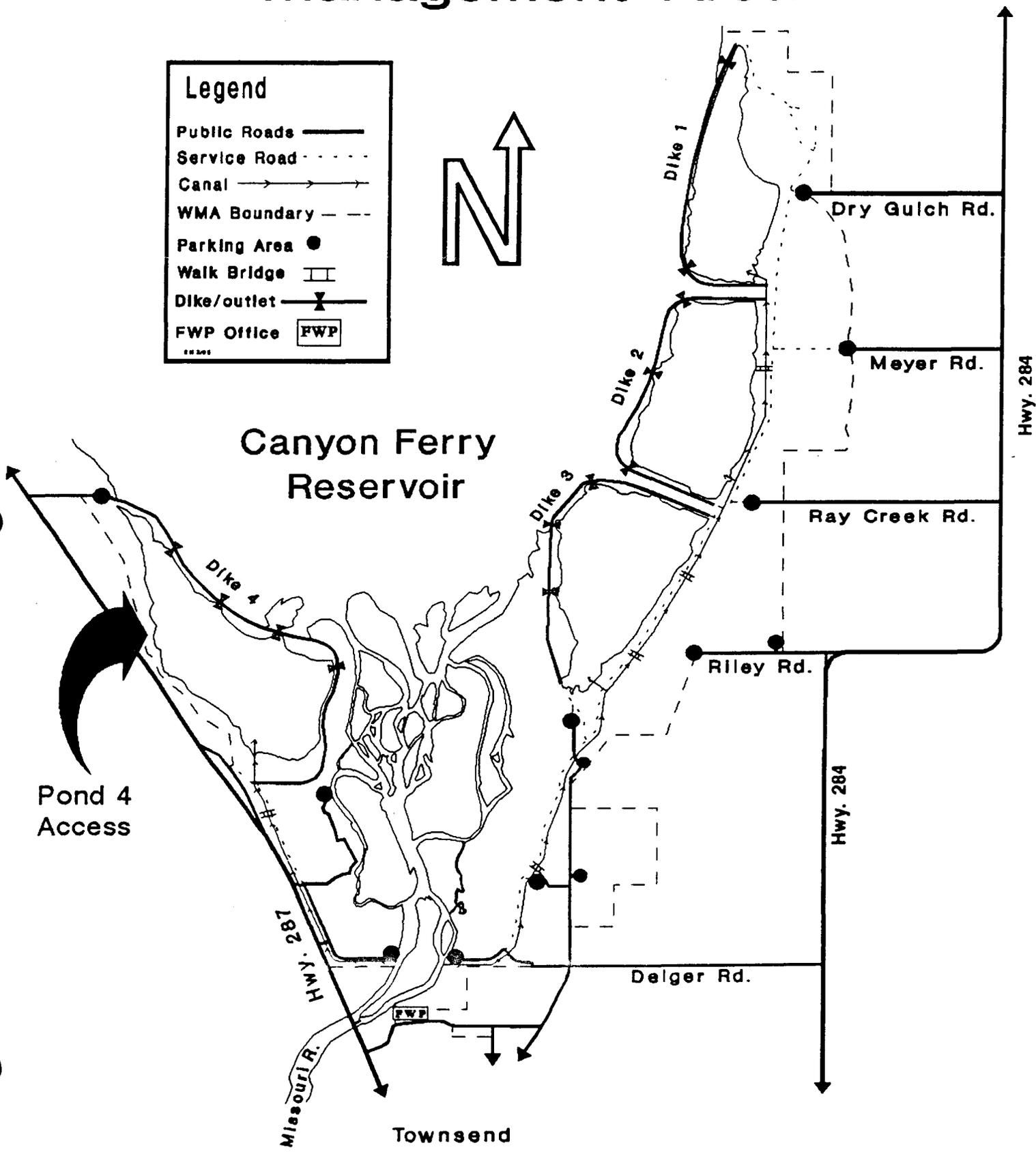
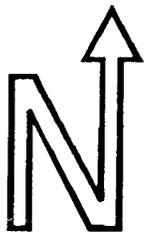
Figure 1.

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area

Legend

- Public Roads ———
- Service Road - - - - -
- Canal ———>>>
- WMA Boundary - - - - -
- Parking Area ●
- Walk Bridge [H]
- Dike/outlet [X]
- FWP Office [FWP]

1:1200



PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
> a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			X
> c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other (list)		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Project proposes to cover idle ground with fill material to provide a road surface and parking surface. Due to the small acreage involved (0.75) there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on the Land Resources.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
> a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Air.

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			X
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Water.

⊙

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			X
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			X
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Covering of ground may alter plant species, productivity or abundance and replace current vegetation with a less potentially productive surface. However, due to the small acreage and the fact that similar vegetation is not limited adjacent to the proposed project there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Vegetation.

- ⊛ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.804-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^g				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^g	Comment Index
	Unknown ^g	None	Minor ^g	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			X
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Increased human activity along the shore of Pond 4 will create a short term disturbance to waterfowl in the immediate vicinity, but will not have a cumulative impact on nesting or distribution.

g Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

g Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

g Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Noise or Electrical Effects.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Land Use.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Risk/Health Hazards.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Community Impacts.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
> e. Define projected revenue sources			X			X
> f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			X
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
>c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			X
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

This project will enhance recreational opportunities on the WMA by providing for better access to the area. There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation.

- ⊕ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.804-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There has been a cultural survey on the entire WMA in the past and recently a class III cultural review (see attached memo) was conducted on the Pond 4 access site by the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist. A cultural resource was detected on this site which was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Construction activities will be monitored and if any items are discovered which may be of potential cultural value, construction activities will be halted and the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist will be immediately notified to review the items. Because there will be no surface disturbance in known cultural sites there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects anticipated on Cultural/Historical Resources.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⊛ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action Alternative - The construction of the Pond 4 access would not be done.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Not Applicable

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

The appropriate level of analysis for these proposals is an Environmental Assessment (EA) and an EIS is not required. Based on this analysis there are no significant impacts on the Physical or Human Environment.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The EA was sent to a standard mailing list and put on the State bulletin board. A legal notice was also placed in the Townsend Star newspaper announcing the Proposed Action, detailing how to get information on the project, how to get copies of the EA, and how to comment on the proposal. A 21 day public comment period (February 3, 1999 to February 24, 1999) was set and this level of public involvement was felt to be appropriate given the magnitude of these projects.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

21 days.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Tom Carlsen
Wildlife Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
P.O. Box 998
Townsend, MT 59644
406-266-3367

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1 b. Approximately 3\4 acre of idle ground will be covered with fill/surface material to provide for a road surface and parking surface. The area is currently idle land. Due to the small acreage involved the impact on soil is considered to be minor.

3a. Construction of the boat ramp may result in a short term increase in turbidity in the pond.

4 a & b. The site currently is vegetated by non-native grass species. The fill/surface material will cover this grass but due to the small area impacted (0.75 acres) this is a very minor impact.

5 g. Increased activity along pond 4 may result in short-term displacement of waterfowl when visitors are present. There will not be long-term impacts to local waterfowl populations.

10 e. The cost of the project will be funded by FWP's statewide WMA operation and maintenance dollars and will be a one time expenditure of funds for this project.

10 f. There will be some maintenance associated with this parking lot such as fence maintenance, signs, and parking lot surface maintenance. All these maintenance items occur on a very infrequent basis and will be incorporated into regular maintenance activities already occurring at other adjacent sites at little additional costs. Maintenance costs are estimated at around \$100-\$200 annually and funding will come out of existing FWP budgets.

11 c. There may be displacement of birds near the viewing platform, possibly affecting hunters during the waterfowl season. This effect is expected to be minor to non-existent as most viewing will probably take place during the summer months.

*Tom Carlsen
Townsend, FW*



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION



Great Plains Region
Montana Area Office
P.O. Box 30137
Billings, Montana 59107-0137

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

MT-426

DEC 15 1998

DEC 16 1998

Paul Putz
State Historic Preservation Officer
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201202
Helena MT 59620-1202

CONCUR
MONTANA SHPO

DATE 1/6/99 SIGNED

Josef
Josef J. Winkler

Subject: Request for Comment - Cultural Resources Inventory for the 51 Ranch
Fishing Access, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Broadwater County, Montana
MTAO No. MT-98-83

Dear Paul:

The Montana Area Office is proposing to approve a proposal by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the construction of an access to Pond 4 on Canyon Ferry Reservoir in Broadwater County, Montana. This access is also known as the 51 Ranch Access. The undertaking will involve the construction of approximately 7,500 feet of new road and fence, and the installation of a fishing access on the edge of the Reservoir. A more detailed description of the undertaking is presented in the attached cultural resources inventory report.

Based on these identification efforts, one cultural resource was detected. This site (24BW890) is a historic period site containing evidence of several ephemeral structures. Based on the survey data, Site 24BW890 does not appear to meet the significance criteria in 36 CFR Part 60.4 to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Your comments on this proposed determination are requested. If you have any questions concerning this information, please feel free to contact me at (406) 247-7315 or by e-mail at mandrews@gp.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,
Mike Andrews
Mike Andrews
Area Archeologist

cc: Paul Valle
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

Enclosure
Subject Report