

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** Asphalt paving of 0.25 miles of Beavertail Hill State Park connecting road, interior road improvements and the construction of a small amphitheater.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)
Sec. 23-1-101 M.C.A.

3. **Name of Project:** Beavertail Hill State Park Connecting Road Paving, interior road improvements and Construction of an Amphitheater

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 8/01/00

Estimated Completion Date 9/30/00

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 70%

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

Beavertail Hill State Park is located in Missoula County about 25 miles east of the city of Missoula, and approximately 1/4 mile South of U.S. Interstate 90. Township 11N, Range 16W, Section 11, SW 1/4.

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

(a) Developed:
residential _____ acres
industrial 0.0 acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation 1.8 acres

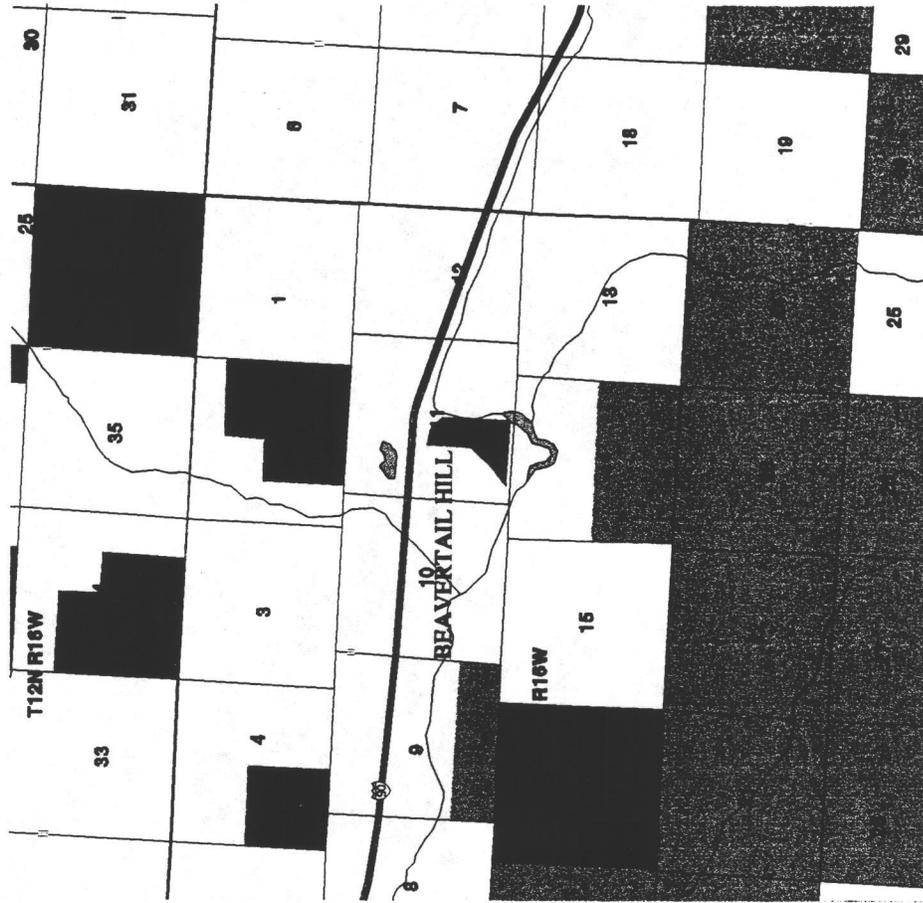
(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas 0.0 acres

(d) Floodplain <0.1 acres

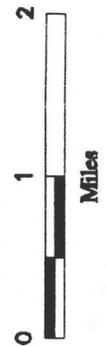
(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland 0.0 acres
dry cropland 0.0 acres
forestry 0.0 acres
rangeland 0.0 acres
other 0.0 acres

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.**

BEA VERTAIL HILL STATE PARK VICINITY MAP



- STATE PARKS
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- INDIAN LANDS OR RESERVATIONS
- MILITARY RESERVES AND WITHDRAWALS
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- NATIONAL FOREST
- NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
- NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- STATE LANDS
- ↖ INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- ↖ STATE OR COUNTY HIGHWAY
- ↖ U.S. HIGHWAY
- ↖ TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- ↖ SECTION BOUNDARY
- ↖ STREAMS



State Parks from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Information Services Unit, Kalispell, MT. Base layer digitized at 1:100,000. State Parks digitized at 1:24,000 from USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle topographic maps and using the COGO module of ARC/INFO by Lisa Derbinson, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Information Services Unit, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406)751-4570

<http://www/parks/wpvic.html> - LB - 11/26/96
bval/vic.cmp - 11/27/96



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks

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

The proposed project for Beavertail Hill State Park consists of the following elements: up-grade the connecting road to a paved road; up-grade the interior road with new gravel; and, build an amphitheater. These project elements will address comments and complaints we have received by the public.

The connecting road has a gravel surface and is maintained by Missoula County. The surface has a tendency to become "washboarded" and produces an extreme amount of dust throughout most of the summer. The Department has received complaints about the road dust and the poor condition of the road by both the public coming to the park and the nearby landowners. The Department and Missoula County have teamed up to pave this .25 mile section of road from the Interstate 90 Exchange to the park entrance. The project involves paving a 24' width with a 2' shoulder on each side. This will provide for two 12-foot driving lanes. All of the work will take place on the existing road prism and shouldn't cause drainage changes or require culvert installations. One to two years following the paving, the surface will be chip-sealed to increase the life of the asphalt. This proposed project will be funded by FWP. Missoula County will administer the road improvement project, by either constructing or contracting for the construction of the roadwork. Missoula County will complete the base-work and FWP will pay for the paving. After completion of the project, Missoula County will continue to provide for the road maintenance. This project will provide a safer, all-season, dust free road for neighbors and the state park users.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drafted with Missoula County and FWP. This MOU will better define party responsibilities regarding funding and long term maintenance.

The interior roads of the park will receive a 2-4" lift of ¾" crushed gravel. This will provide for better maintenance of the road. The interior roads were constructed when the park was initially built in the (1970's ?) and have deteriorated over the years. This part of the project only involves FWP and Missoula County is not a part of it.

The final part of this project involves the construction of a small amphitheater. It will consist of (12), 5' benches, a three sided upright wood structure that will serve as a staging area, a fire grill, a light standard, and a disabled accessible trail to accommodate park visitors. Currently, there is not a good place in the park to provide interpretive/educational programs. This project will accommodate this need.

All of these project elements are designed to only better enhance the park visitors experience. This proposed project addresses the concerns raised by the public.

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. 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>
-Missoula Office of Community Development	Floodplain Permit	Forthcoming
-MT Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences	Storm Water Runoff Permit	Forthcoming
-DOC Building Codes	Electrical	Forthcoming

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
MT Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$30,000 (road improvements)
MT Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$3000 (amphitheater)

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
--------------------	-------------------------------

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office
 Missoula City-County Health Department, Environmental Health Division
 Missoula City-County Health Department, Water Quality Division
 Missoula County Road Department
 Missoula County Surveyors Office
 Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Design and Construction
 Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Wildlife Division

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> 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				

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.

b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			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 <u>N/A</u>						

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

1a. This project will not cause any soil instability, or changes in geologic substructures. There are no known unique geologic or physical features at this site.

1b. Soil disturbance will be limited to the construction period only of the amphitheater and will consist of 5 holes for 4"x4"s that will support the backdrop and 24 holes for 2" pipe for the benches. 1 281' long trench will also be dug for the electrical line.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> 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 regulations? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other <u>N/A</u>						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air 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.

2a. The current road is gravel and considerable dust is generated by vehicle traffic. None of the proposed alternatives would increase dust emissions. Dust created during construction can be mitigated by use of water trucks to moisten the road surface. During Amphitheater construction, dust generated will be confined to the work area and will be temporary.

Machinery used for road and amphitheater construction will temporarily increase exhaust emissions both along the 0.25 mile stretch of road and at the State Park. This may irritate some individuals. No increase in vehicle emissions is expected after project completion.

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.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> 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			
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)						
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)						
n. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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

3a. There will be no discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality associated with this project. The paving part of the project will be a benefit. When compared with a gravel-surfaced road, paving would result in improved surface water quality, as the amount of suspended sediments in the water would be lowered.

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.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			
b. Alteration of a plant community?		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?						
g. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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

4a. A new trail approximately 4' X 100' will connect the existing trail to the amphitheater. This is only seen as a minor project.

4e. Control measures will be taken to prevent or limit the spread of noxious weeds during road construction and amphitheater construction at Beavertail Hill State Park in accordance with the DFWP weed management plan.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	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				

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.

g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		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)						
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)						
j. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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

5f. No threatened or endangered bird or mammal species are known to exist on site or in the immediate vicinity (John Firebaugh, wildlife manager, R-2, DFWP).

5g. Trends indicate that recreational use of this area may increase in the future, which could stress local wildlife. However, increased use of the area and associated impacts on wildlife are symptoms of human population growth in western Montana, and most likely not attributable to the implementation of alternatives which improve the roadway or amphitheater facilities.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> 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 severe 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: <u>N/A</u>						

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

6a. Use of machinery for road construction or resurfacing work under alternatives B or C would cause temporary increases in noise levels for up to 30 days. Use of machinery for amphitheater work under alternatives B would cause temporary increases in noise for a few days.

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.

6b. Use of machinery for road construction or resurfacing work under alternatives B or C would cause temporary increases in noise levels for up to 30 days, which may be considered a nuisance to some people. Use of machinery for amphitheater work under alternatives B would cause temporary increases in noise for a few days, which may be considered a nuisance to some park visitors.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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. Conflict 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: <u>N/A</u>						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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)						
e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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: <u>N/A</u>						

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

9e. The roadway to Beavertail Hill State Park (existing transportation facility) would be significantly improved under alternatives B or C. Paving the road surface would reduce dust and provide a smooth drive for park users.

Selection of alternatives B or C would result in traffic delays of approximately five minutes during road construction. Traffic control personnel will be used to direct traffic for safety considerations.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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				

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.

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			
f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			
g. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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

10a. Selection of alternatives B or C would alter governmental services with regard to roadway maintenance. Currently, The .25 mile connecting road is maintained by Missoula County. After completion of paving, Missoula County may see a decrease in costs to maintain this section of roadway. Current maintenance costs for Missoula County roads are approximately \$3,500 per mile for paved roads and \$4,500 per mile for gravel roads, (Bob Holm, Superintendent of Operations, Missoula County Road Dept.). Thus Missoula County's road maintenance costs will decrease.

With the addition of a light standard and the need of electricity to run projectors, electrical costs will increase slightly, once the amphitheater is complete.

10e. This project has the potential to raise the amount of revenue collected at the park. There may be an increase in use of the site with the new improvements.

10f. Projected maintenance costs will be limited to costs associated with litter cleanup, fire ring cleaning and other periodic cleaning of the backdrop and benches.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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			
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)						

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.

e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

11c. Road paving and interior road improvements as outlined in alternative B & C would provide state park users a smooth and dust-free ride to the state park from Interstate 90. The proposed amphitheater outlined in alternative B will provide a designated area for interpretive/education programming and provide a more favorable experience to disabled park users and others who are in attendance. The cumulative effects of road improvements and proposed amphitheater in alternatives B or C would do the most to improve the quality of the recreational experience.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> 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)						
e. Other: <u>N/A</u>						

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

12a. There are no known structures or objects of prehistoric, historic or paleontological importance at this site. A Letter of clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office has been received. Asphalt paving of existing road, improvements to the interior road and construction of amphitheater are thought to have low likelihood of impacting cultural resources.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> 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				

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.

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)						
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

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:**

A. Leave the connecting road and interior road in its present condition and continue the routine maintenance on it. Continue educational programs as is. **This alternative represents the No Action Alternative.**

Connecting Road - This alternative would provide for continued poor driving conditions for recreationists accessing the park, as well as nearby landowners and other non-recreationists using the connecting road.

Traffic volume on the road has increased dramatically over the past 10 years. Traffic counts in 1999 showed Beavertail Hill State Park averages approximately 125 visitors per day (from DFWP traffic counter data). Despite efforts and money spent annually by the county for road maintenance, traffic volume on the road is too great, and "washboarding" and dust problems will continue, both from a nuisance standpoint and public health concern. Complaints about the road will continue and may increase in the future.

Interior Road - Without the uplift of gravel the interior road would continue deteriorate.

Amphitheater - Educational programs would continue to be staged at various locations around the park. However, this would limit the size of groups that would be able to participate. It also has a tendency to confuse participants because they have to search out the presentation in the park.

B. Pave over the current gravel road to provide a paved-surface width of 24 feet with 2 foot shoulders and improve the interior road with a lift of 3" of gravel. Construct the amphitheater for educational/interpretive programs. **This is the preferred alternative and represents the proposed action.**

Connecting Road - Implementing this alternative would provide an improved road surface, (asphalt pavement to a width of 24 feet). If the improvements are made it would benefit both state park visitors and nonrecreationists.

Roadway safety will be enhanced under this alternative, but vehicle speeds can be expected to increase. Speed limits will be posted at 55 mph. Dust levels would be decreased significantly.

Interior Road - This alternative would provide improvements to the interior road system. This would benefit state park visitors.

Amphitheater - Construct the amphitheater. This would provide a designated staging area with ample seating for educational/interpretive programming.

C. Resurface the current road with crushed asphalt.

Connecting Road - Under this alternative, crushed asphalt would be used to resurface the existing road. This would cause the least environmental impact when compared with the other road improvement alternatives, and would be the least costly, but it would not adequately address the dust problem. Crushed asphalt is less dusty than gravel, but dust production would continue. The surface would probably not hold up well to logging trucks and the volume of recreational traffic. Thus "washboarding", although lessened, would likely continue. Additionally, sources of crushed asphalt are not always easily secured.

PART III. LEVEL OF ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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

Mitigation measures are listed in the checklist under the appropriate items.

2. **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:

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, it is determined that an EIS is not required. The EA is the appropriate level of analysis since only minor impacts can be expected to the natural and human environment.

3. **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?**

Legal notices advertising the availability of this EA for public review were published in the Missoulian and Helena Independent Record newspapers. Legal notice was also placed on the state's Electronic Bulletin Board.

4. **Duration of comment period if any.**

Comments will be accepted over a 30-day period.

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

Dale Carlson	Lee Bastian
Park Operations Supervisor	R-2 Parks Manager
DFWP	DFWP
3201 Spurgin Road	3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804	Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5531	(406) 542-5500

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The funding source for the road improvement portion of this project comes from highway fuel tax dollars. This is an appropriate use of this money, as outlined by the State Park Futures Committee recommendations to Governor Stephens in 1990, which cited extensive needs for state park interior and county connecting road improvements.

Educational/Interpretive Programming and road improvements conform to DFWP goals and long range planning process. They specifically relate to goal B, which is to provide increased opportunities for public enjoyment of Fish, Wildlife and Parks's resources, while maintaining our commitment to improve landowner/sportsperson/department relations. The road improvement project addresses complaints received from both recreationists and area landowners. This road also serves as a main entry point to Beavertail Hill State Park, which provides recreational opportunities to the public.

These improvement projects also conform to DFWP goal C, to achieve a quality, financially sound state park system.

**PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST
HB 495**

Date 2/2/00 Person Reviewing Dale Carlson

Project Location: Beavertail Hill State Park

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK Asphalt paving of 0.25 miles of Beavertail Hill State Park connecting road, interior road improvements and the construction of a small amphitheater.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary). Capital Construction projects - Prepared by D & C; Force Account Projects - Prepared by Region.

A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

Comments: A connecting trail 4'x100' will be constructed. This connecting trail will connect the existing nature trail to the amphitheater.

B. New building construction (buildings < 100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?

Comments: N/A

C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?

Comments: A 281' long trench will be dug for an electrical line from the comfort station to the amphitheater. Approximately 64 cubic yards of soil will be excavated.

D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?

Comments: N/A

E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or disabled fishing station?

Comments: N/A

F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?

Comments: N/A

G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments: N/A

H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments: An electrical line will be trenched in underground from the comfort station to the amphitheater.

I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?

Comments: N/A

J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects.

Comments: N/A

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE CHECKED, HB 495 RULES APPLY TO THIS PROPOSED WORK AND SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED ON THE MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg
Tourism Development Coordinator
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name

Beavertail Hill State Park Connecting Road Paving and State Park Improvements.

Project Description

The .25 mile connecting road from I-90 to the entrance of Beavertail Hill State Park will be paved. The interior road of the park will get an up lift of gravel and a small amphitheater will be constructed adjacent to the campground.

1. Would this site development project have a impact on the tourism economy?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

It would appear to improve the Beavertail Hill state park facilities and provide more opportunities to attract visitors, both resident & non-resident

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Both quality & quantity of the visitors' opportunities would appear to be enhanced

Signature

Victor Bjornberg

Date

2-18-00



2000030709
**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

JOSEF
FWP-
PAR

**Design and Construction Bureau
600 North Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

March 3, 2000

**State Historic Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1202**

RE: [Beavertail Hill State Park]

To Whom It May Concern:

ALL CULTURAL PROPERTIES ON OR ELIGIBLE
FOR NHP APPEAR LIKELY TO
EXIST WITHIN PROJECT IMPACT AREA
MONTANA SHPO
24MO712 SIGNED *Joseph Warbank*

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is proposing some work at Beavertail Hill State Park. T-11N, R-16W, Sec-11, Missoula County. Please review attached Memo dated Feb. 2 for a description of the proposed scope of work.

In review of a Cultural Report for a previous project, Site 24MO712 is the only cultural property located on FWP administered property. The Consultant stated that this site is ineligible for listing due to its loss of integrity, thus we feel this new proposed project will have a low likelihood of impacting any known cultural resources.

Please provide comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Horn

Michael D. Horn
Landscape Architect
Assistant Cultural Coordinator
Design and Construction Bureau

File; 55.3
Attachment

RECEIVED
MAR 07 2000
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS