



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105

Date: 02/06/2004

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

TO: Environmental Quality Council
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Regional Supervisors

Lands Section
Design & Construction
Legal Unit
Federal Aid Coordinator (when P-R, D-J project)

Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana State Library
George Ochenski
Montana Environmental Information Center
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation
Montana Parks Association (land acquisition projects)
Bob Harrington, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office
County Commissioners
Other Local Interested People or Groups

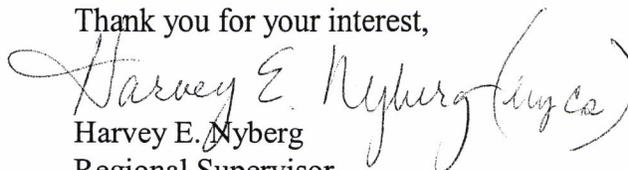
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for **Cooney State Park Infrastructure Improvements**, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until 03/09/2004.

If you have questions or need additional copies of the draft EA, please contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 247-2940. Please send any written comments to the following address:

Cooney Infrastructure Improvement EA
C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings MT 59105 or
dhabermann@state.mt.us

Thank you for your interest,


Harvey E. Nyberg
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis provides an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis fulfills Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks oversight obligations and satisfies rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Some effects may be negative; others may be positive.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Development | _____ |
| Renovation | ___X___ |
| Maintenance | ___X___ |
| Land Acquisition | _____ |
| Equipment Acquisition | _____ |
| Other (Describe) | _____ |

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks has authority to provide for maintenance of facilities and development for public recreation on Department lands (23-2-101 MCA).

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

4. Name of project.

Cooney State Park Infrastructure Improvements

5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date: *Spring 2004*

Estimated completion date: *Spring 2005*

Current status of project design (% complete): 50%

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).

Carbon County Township 4S, Range 20E, Sections 34, 35, & 36.

7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential 0 acres
industrial 0 acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation 5 acres

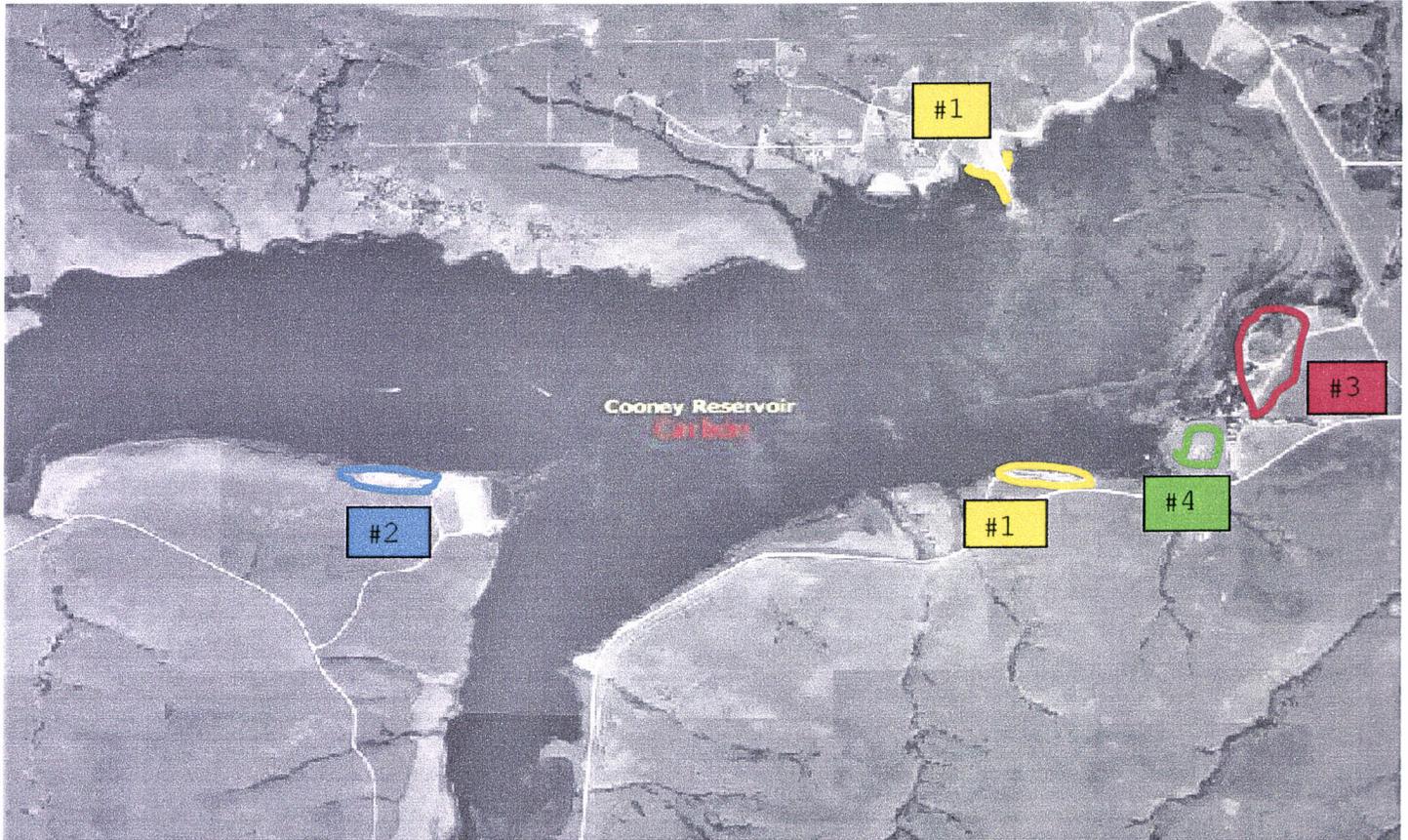
(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas 0 acres

(d) Floodplain 0 acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland 0 acres
dry cropland 0 acres
forestry 0 acres
rangeland 0 acres
other 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.

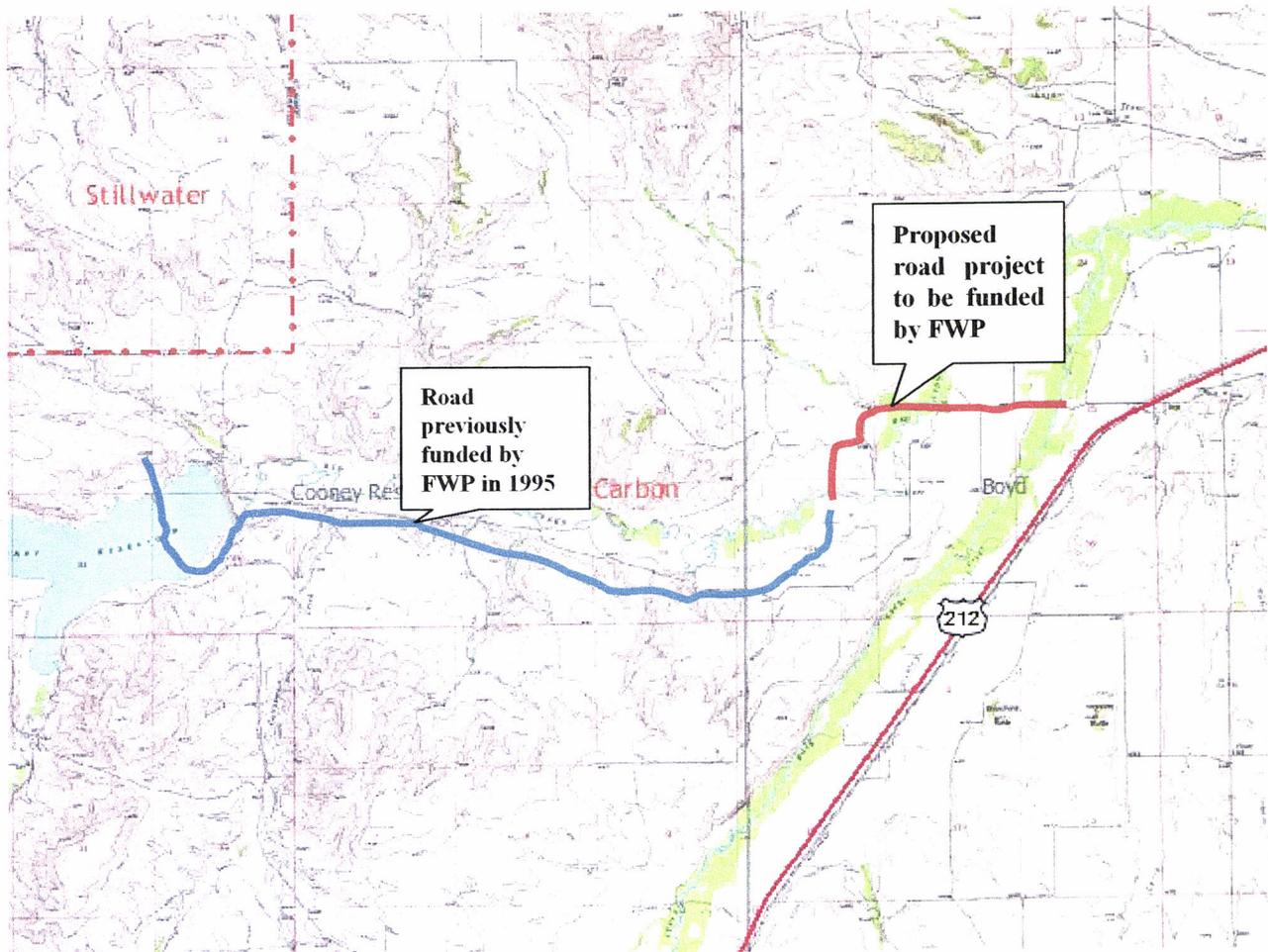
Proposed Park Element



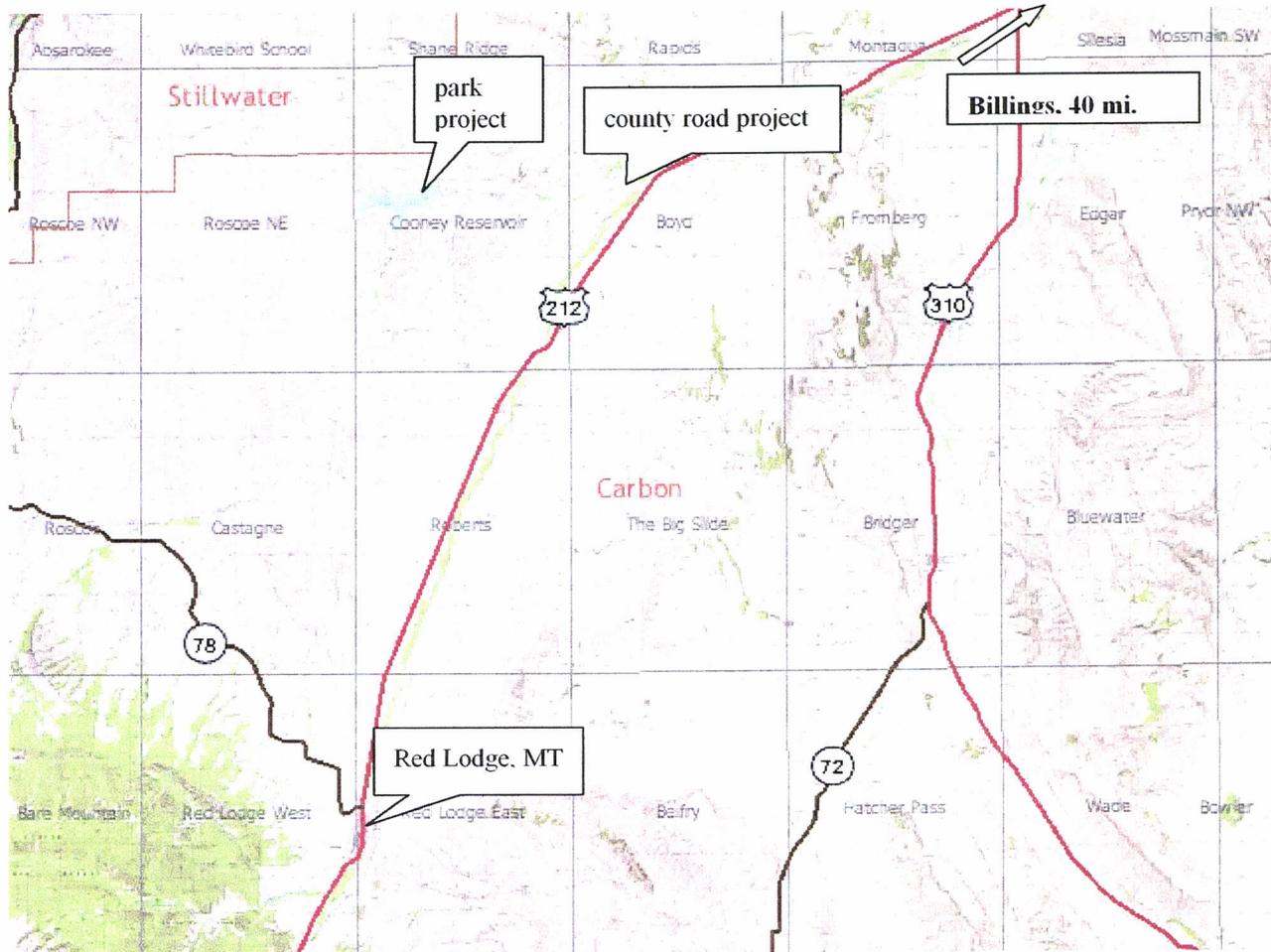
- #1 North Shore & Cottonwood: "rip rap" shore stabilization & boat ramp
- #2 Red Lodge Campground: tree planting & drip irrigation svstem

- #3 Marshall Cove: new ramp & latrine, renovate campsites, etc.
- #4 Admin. Area: maintenance shop/storage building

Proposed County Road Element



Project Location



9. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.**

Cooney State Park, located in Carbon County near Joliet, MT, has an annual visitation of over 180,000 people, one of the most heavily used recreation areas in the state. Much of its popularity is due to its proximity to the state's largest city (Billings is only 48 miles away). Yellowstone County's population now exceeds 127,000 residents. Visitors from the other seven surrounding counties in this region also use Cooney for a variety of recreational purposes. Cooney is the only major reservoir suitable for motorboat use between Canyon Ferry and Tongue River State Park. This high level of use has increased the demand for improved facilities, both for the public's use, and for the park's administrative and maintenance responsibilities.

We anticipate, due to legislation providing for free day use of Montana State Parks by residents, that day use at Cooney will significantly increase. This proposal addresses this likely possibility by providing for basic facilities (boa tramps, roads, latrines) and for the daily maintenance of these facilities.

North Shore:

- The area just east and west of the boat ramp needs additional riprap (approximately 60 x 12 feet) to prevent the erosion and loss of the parking area. In addition, a portion of the existing boat ramp will be injected grouted where cracking and voids have occurred. Without this protection, the primary motorboat launching facility and parking area is in jeopardy.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters. Currently we have 2 signs that display differing information.

Marshall Cove:

- This site is a major motorboat launching facility for the lake and the ramp has cracked and buckled due to heavy use and erosion from wave and ice action. We propose to rebuild the ramp as a single-lane launch ramp (16' wide) with additional space (8' wide) for the existing slide-in dock. This would allow easier and safer launching of boats.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters, as there is currently no information posted.
- Grade/gravel existing road and graveled parking area to maintain current parking capacity *and* to increase safety and efficiency of launching motorboats.
- Replace existing wooden vault toilet in the campground with a new pre-cast concrete model. This would be relocated from its current location immediately between two campsites across the campground loop road 50 feet to the south. It would also meet ADA access requirements.

Administrative Area:

- Relocate/reroute existing administrative road away from the lakeshore to prevent bank erosion and provide for public walking and fishing along the shoreline.
- Construct a post and pole building to consolidate the current on-site storage sheds and create space to work on in-house maintenance projects. This would expand our ability to do more timely and economic repairs at the park. The two riding lawnmowers, grader, tractor and work utility vehicle currently are worked on outside. The workbench is a picnic table with a vise on it. This building would provide for employee safety while providing better service to park visitors. During the winter season, boats and other equipment would be stored in this building, extending the life of equipment and increasing the security of storing this costly equipment.
- Construct three-sided pole barn for vehicles, boats, & equipment and fenced area to store maintenance supplies and equipment. This would provide secure storage

Cottonwood:

- Stabilize and rebuild existing riprap along east end of the campground. This popular campground

provides lakeside access for campers with motorboats and personalized watercraft.

Red Lodge Creek:

- Plant native trees to provide shade, reduce wind and improve the appearance in campsites. This campground saw major improvements in 2002 and provides for day use including boat launching and fishing as well as camping for both tents and RVs. Quality of the visitors experience is raised by having trees around their campsite and the existing shoreline trees have died due to an elevated reservoir water level. Campsites with trees are always the first to be occupied. Both the extreme hot temperatures and strong area winds can be addressed by the protection of trees. Trees also provide benefits to wildlife for food and shelter.
- Install a drip irrigation system to water new trees. This would utilize the existing water system that was designed to accommodate this use. This will include the existing volunteer host pad that will increase our ability to recruit quality volunteers. Hosts contribute significantly to the level of service we can provide visitors.
- Install timer/sprayer on fish cleaning station to reduce maintenance needs and improve composting.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters, as there is currently no information posted.

Boyd-Cooney Road

- Provide funding to Carbon County for necessary safety improvements by widening and resurfacing two miles of existing county road, the main access road leading to Cooney State Park. In 1995, 6 miles of this county road was widened and repaved as a cooperative project with Carbon County. This is the primary access road to the park and these improvements increase the road safety and durability. This component of this project will widen and repave the final portion of the Boyd-Cooney road, providing safer travel for Park visitors and local residents alike as well as reducing Carbon County's maintenance costs. Carbon County will provide design, oversight and bidding of this project. Although no official estimates are available as to how many vehicles drive on this road, we estimate there are between 65 and 75 thousand vehicles traveling this road, on average, per year.

The improvements described above are required to meet public demand as outlined in the Parks Division's 2020 Vision Plan. The proposed projects will help maintain an appropriate standard of operations, as well as enhance resource protection such as the lake shoreline, and increase public safety and satisfaction.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

No Action: This will require continued operations at a sub-standard level. Natural resources and facilities will continue to degrade, possibly costing a great deal more to fix in the future. Visitor satisfaction will not be addressed. Also, without strengthening our ability to perform in-park maintenance safely and effectively, FWP will continue to depend on regional crews and commuting between the park and Billings. This will continue to inflate fuel consumption and vehicle maintenance costs, as well as delay the response time in dealing with repair needs, possibly reducing park safety for visitors.

Proceed as Planned: This will positively affect the natural resources at the park, address exiting safety issues related to the county road providing primary access to the park, and promote a positive public image of the agency.

11. Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Permits | | |
| Agency Name: Army Corps of Engineers SHPO | Permit: 404 Archeological Clearance | Date Filed: Spring 2004 Spring 2004 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (b) Funding: \$389,850 | |
| Agency Name: FWP Federal | Funding Amount: \$86,757 State Special (for park projects) \$60,000 Highway Fuel Tax (for county road) Total: \$146,757 \$183,093 Federal W-B (for park projects) \$60,000 Federal W-B (for county road) Total: \$243,093 |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| (c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities | |
| Agency Name: | Type of Responsibility: |

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:

- State Historic Preservation Office

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:

Steve Brown, Manager
Cooney State Park
P.O. Box 254
Joliet, MT 59041
(406) 445-2326

Doug Habermann, Regional Manager
Montana FWP, Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2954

14. Date submitted: 02/06/2004

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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 | | | | |
| 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 | | | | 1d |
| e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard? | | X | | | | |
| f. Other | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

1d. The riprap portions of this project is designed to reduce water caused erosion occurring at the site.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

| 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 | | | 2a. |
| 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. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? | | X | | | | |
| f. Other | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

2a. There may be some increased dust in the air temporarily, during the construction process.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

| 3. WATER | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | 3b |
| c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater 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. Effects to a designated floodplain? | | X | | | | |
| m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? | | X | | | | |
| n. Other: | | X | | | | 3n |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

3b. When the administrative road is relocated to the proposed location, there will be a reduction in run-off into the lake from that road. The proposed location will have a considerable amount of native grasses and vegetation between it and the lake, as well as undisturbed soils. The county road that is to be widened and resurfaced already exists, so changes in runoff should not occur.

3n. With the increased stabilization of shoreline, there will be a decrease in the amount of dissolved sediment into Cooney Reservoir, thus creating a more desirable habitat for existing fish populations, and improving overall appearance of the water. This should also reduce the amount of sedimentation on the lakebed.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

4a/b. With the tree planting that is proposed, we would be increasing the number and variety of plant species. The species of trees and/or shrubs that will be planted will be native to this area, or predetermined to be suitable for this environment. We will re-vegetate disturbed soils with native grasses to prevent erosion and run-off. We do not have any plans to introduce any other types of vegetation.

4c. The areas of Cooney State Park that will be affected by this project have never been identified as supporting known threatened or endangered species.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

| 5. FISH/WILDLIFE | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? | | X | | | | |
| b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species? | | X | | | | 5b/c |
| c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species? | | X | | | | 5b/c |
| 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 | | | | 5f |
| g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)? | | X | | | | |
| h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat? | | X | | | | |
| i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location? | | X | | | | |
| j. Other: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

5b/c. With the tree planting that is proposed, we hope to increase habitat that the bird species present can utilize.
 5f. The areas to be affected by this project, have never been identified as supporting threatened or endangered species.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Increases in existing noise levels? | | | X | | | 6a |
| 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: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

6a. There will certainly be an increased level of noise during any construction processes. We will, however, limit construction to regular business hours, so that noise will not disturb people during unusual times. Park visitors will not be affected, as noise levels will likely be lower than that which are caused by motorboats on the lake. In addition, the proposed trees that will be in the campground may reduce the transmission of noise beyond that campground.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 7. LAND USE | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area? | | X | | | | 7a |
| b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance? | | X | | | | |
| c. A 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. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space? | | X | | | | |
| f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods? | | | X | | | 7f |
| g. Other: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

7a: Most construction/improvements will take place on FWP owned or managed lands, therefore, there will be no other agency affected. We hope to greatly increase the productivity of our staff and equipment with a shop and storage facilities. We hope to increase the capacity and efficiency of the Marshall Cove boat ramp area by improvements to that area. The county road project will not interfere with any other land, except what is currently within the existing right of way.

7f. There will be a temporary increase in the volume of construction/commercial vehicles during the construction/renovation period. The overall traffic caused by this project will not be a significant increase over current conditions.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| 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. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan? | | X | | | | |
| c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard? | | X | | | | |
| d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials? | | X | | | | |
| e. The use of any chemical toxicants? | | X | | | | |
| f. Other: | | | | | | |

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | 9e |
| f. Other: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

9e. There will be a temporary increase in the volume of construction/commercial vehicles during the construction/renovation period. The overall traffic caused by this project will not be a significant increase over current conditions. The improved county road project will improve public safety conditions on the main public access route to Cooney State Park.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|---|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. 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 so, specify: | | X | | | | 10a |
| b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues? | | X | | | | 10b |
| c. 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. Increased used of any energy source? | | | X | | | 10d |
| e. Other. | | | | | | |
| Additional information requested: | | | | | | |
| f. Define projected revenue sources. | | | | | | |
| g. Define projected maintenance costs. | The county road will be maintained exclusively by Carbon County. The other projects should reduce maintenance costs on both the physical environment and on park equipment. | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

10a: The proposed action is a response to positively affect recreational facilities.

10b: There is the possibility that these improvements will increase visitor satisfaction, and in course, increase the state's revenue through increased collection of user fees, primarily camping and non-resident use fees.

10d: There will be an increase in the use of electricity at this location. These utilities are well within the regular scope of local utility companies' production and distribution of services.

10g. Since most of these improvements are to existing facilities, very little additional maintenance is expected. It is anticipated that with proper drainage and ditches, road maintenance costs will be reduced. The shop facility will require periodic maintenance of approximately \$200-300 per year. Proper storage of equipment will offset this cost through prolonged equipment life. Overall. It is hoped that maintenance costs for Cooney State Park will be neutral, excepting inflational costs.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | 11c |
| d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas? | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

11c. These improvements will significantly improve the quality of recreational settings for the park. The Tourism Report is attached.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance? | | X | | | | 12a |
| b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values? | | X | | | | |
| c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area? | | X | | | | |
| d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources? | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: | | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

12a. These project areas have not been identified as having historically, archeologically, or anthropologically significant sites in the areas that will be affected by this project. The Carbon County road project will take place on an existing paved road within the existing road right of way.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

| 13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action, considered as a whole: | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | 13a |
| 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. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? | | X | | | | |
| Additional information requested: | | | | | | |
| g. List any federal or state permits required. | US Army Corps of Engineers 404 | | | | | |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

13a. As discussed in earlier sections of this document, the cumulative effects of this project will have a significant positive affect on recreational settings, visitor satisfaction and safety, and effectiveness of maintenance and management.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.

Overall, this project will provide positive benefit by addressing a number of maintenance needs at Cooney State Park. These will include improved visitor safety in getting to and within the park; winter season storage of expensive and valuable boats, vehicles and maintenance equipment; increased visitor enjoyment due to improved boating, day use and camping facilities and infrastructure.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO X

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

This EA is adequate to review the potential environmental impacts and there are no potentially *significant* adverse impacts or degradation of the environment anticipated.

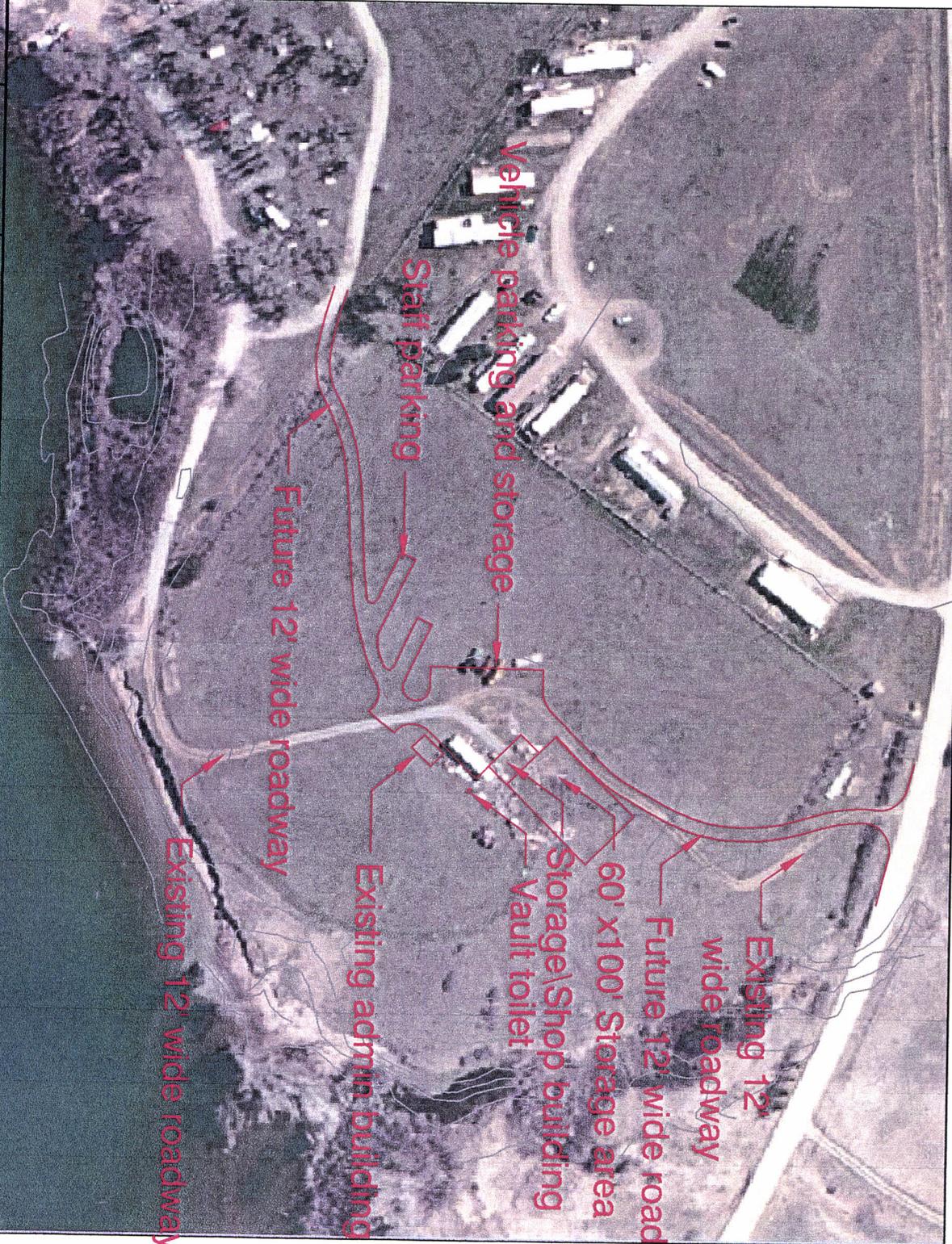
3. Describe the public involvement for this project.

Written public comments will be accepted for 30 days. Notices of this proposal will be published in the Billings, Joliet and Helena newspapers as well as posted on the state electronic bulletin board.

4. What was the duration of the public comment period?

30 days. We will be accepting and reviewing public comments from 02/09/2004 to 03/09/2004.

Appendix A



DESIGNED BY: P. Valle, Nov 2008
DATE:

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

APPROVED BY:

DATE:



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks

COONEY ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

SHEET:
1 of 1

APPENDIX B

23-1-110 MCA PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: 02/06/2004

Person Reviewing: _____

Project Location:

Description of Proposed Work:

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: ***New administrative road will be built.***
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 square feet and vault latrines are exempt)?
Comments: ***New building is focus of project.***
- C. Any excavation of 20 cubic yards or greater?
Comments: ***New road and building will meet this standard.***
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: ***I do not believe it will increase capacity by 25%, but fingers are crossed.***
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double-wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: ***Rip rap erosion control of about 500'***
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments:
- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: ***This project does not apply.***

Appendix C

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/23-1-110MCA TOURISM REPORT

Project Name: Cooney State Park Improvements FY '04

Project Description: Creating maintenance facilities, improving erosion control, improving existing ramp & parking area. This will include a new maintenance building near Marshall Cove Campground, repair to the boatramp at Marshall Cove CG, replacement of an old latrine at Marshall Cove CG, road and parking improvements at Marshall Cove CG, and riprap and ramp repair at the North Shore recreation area.

12.8.604(l) ARM:

- i. tourism is defined as the guidance or management of tourists (residents and nonresidents), who are the individuals who make tours for pleasure or education; and,
- ii. site development projects will be sent to the department of commerce with a request for review as to the impacts on tourism economy.

MEPA:

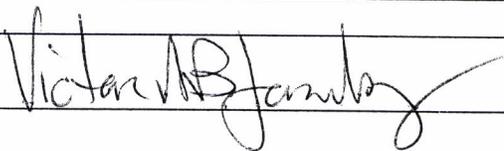
Human Environment. 11:

- c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

Considering (1) ii under ARM rules and MEPA Human Environment 11, listed above, describe how this project will impact the tourism economy:

From information provided, project appears to improve quality of recreation and tourism services and settings at Cooney State Park.

Signature



Date 10-14-03

Please return to Steve Brown, P.O. Box 254, Joliet, MT 59041.

- [] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments:
- [] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: **Additions will be under 25%.**
- [x] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments: **We hope this project will have a significant positive effect on use patterns.**

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA 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.

Appendix C

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/23-1-110MCA TOURISM REPORT

Project Name: Cooney State Park Improvements FY '04

Project Description: Creating maintenance facilities, improving erosion control, improving existing ramp & parking area. This will include a new maintenance building near Marshall Cove Campground, repair to the boatramp at Marshall Cove CG, replacement of an old latrine at Marshall Cove CG, road and parking improvements at Marshall Cove CG, and riprap and ramp repair at the North Shore recreation area.

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MEPA:

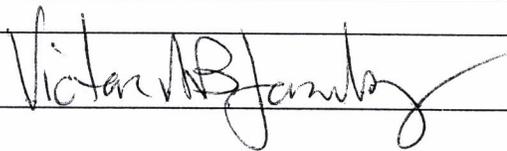
Human Environment. 11:

- c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

Considering (1) ii under ARM rules and MEPA Human Environment 11, listed above, describe how this project will impact the tourism economy:

From information provided, project appears to improve quality of recreation and tourism services and settings at Cooney State Park.

Signature



Date 10-14-03

Please return to Steve Brown, P.O. Box 254, Joliet, MT 59041.