



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Decision Notice for Proposed

*Cascade County/Ulm Pishkun Cooperative Road Improvement Project
(Goetz County Road Project)*

RECEIVED

OCT 13 2004

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT. 59405

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

October 8, 2004

Description of Proposed Action:

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks proposes to provide funding to Cascade County to do road maintenance project on a one-half mile stretch of Goetz County Road.

The proposed construction project will create a new road alignment, smooth the alignment profile, increase the radius of an existing switchback, widen/flatten the slopes adjacent to the existing road, and provide an all-weather gravel driving surface, that will better serve anticipated future traffic between the Visitor Center and the jump site at Ulm Pishkun State Park.

Completion of this project will improve public access to the jump for large vehicles (buses, RVs, trailer units, utility/service vehicles, farm/ranch implement vehicles); and improve the roadway serving Ulm Pishkun State Park. It will also straighten out a right-of-way issue between FWP and Cascade County.

Decision:

Based on the analysis in the EA, I have decided to proceed with this proposal.

Comments received for this project generally supported the recommendation for widening the road at the top of the hill and placing a guardrail on the north side of the road.

I have reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal.

Goetz County Road Improvement Comments

“ I lived on top of the hill on Goetz Road from 1930 to 1935. My folks went up and down the hill road many times. The top of the hill should have the road widened and a guardrail placed on the north side as it makes the turn to the right starting down the hill. It is unsafe for two-way traffic as it now is.” Mr. Clayton M. Braden, Great Falls, MT

“The project has a low likelihood of adversely impacting cultural resources.” A report prepared by Ted Birnie of Birnie Cultural Consultants indicated that there was no cultural material recorded during their survey.

“CONCUR- project will have no effect on NRHP qualities.” “would be helpful to have re-alignment on map etc.” Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Dated 8-11-04 and signed by Stan Wilmoth.

Reminder to obtain “Storm water Discharge Permit” for construction activity –
Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/wqinfo/MPDES/StormwaterConstruction.asp>

“Yes” this site development project would have an impact on the tourism economy - “as described, the project appears to improve public access and safety at the Ulm Pishkun State Park facility. These improvements should better serve the residents and non-resident visitors to this site”.

“Yes”, this impending improvement would alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings – “the project, as described, appears to improve the recreation & tourism opportunities available at Ulm Pishkun State Park. The visiting public will benefit from these improvements”. *Tourism Report*, Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, Signed Sept. 29, 2004

The Final Environmental Assessment may be viewed, or obtained from the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region Four, Great Falls, MT. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, or the final EA please direct requests and questions to: Mr. Mike Aderhold, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls MT 59405, (406) 454-5840.

Signed Mike Aderhold (bjm) Date 10/8/04
Mike Aderhold
Region 4 Supervisor