

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## BANNACK STATE PARK Volunteer Campground Host Site Improvement Project

December 2005



*Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks*

**Bannack State Park Volunteer Campground Host Site  
Improvement Project  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

**PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to upgrade the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park in the Vigilante Campground by installing a 1500-gallon holding tank for sewage, running electricity, telephone service, and a water line to the site, and by constructing an ADA-accessible concrete pad.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established “for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational, and economic life of the people and their health”. Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives FWP “jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments”.
3. **Name of project:** Bannack State Park Volunteer Campground Host Site Improvement Project
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **Construction Timeline:**  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Summer 2006  
Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2006  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township:** Bannack State Park is located in the southwestern area of Montana. Take I-15 south of Dillon to exit #59 (Highway 278 exit.) Drive west on Highway 278 for 18 miles. Turn south onto the Bannack Bench Road and travel four miles. Park entrance road will be on the left hand side. Lat 45.157, Lng -112.985. Section 7, Township 08S, Range 11W.
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	___0
Residential	___0	(e) Productive:	
Industrial	___0	Irrigated cropland	___0
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	___2	Dry cropland	___0

(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	0	Forestry	0
		Rangeland	0
		Other	0

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

(a) **Permits:** permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Beaverhead Co. Dept of Health	Septic Holding Tank

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$22,200

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Cultural Artifact Determination

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

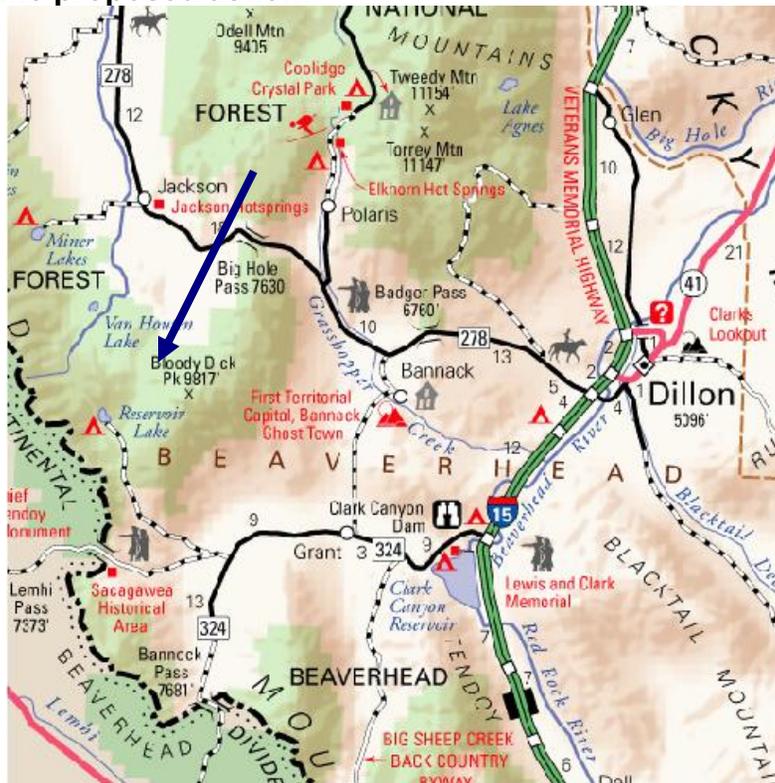


Figure 1. Area map of Bannack State Park.

Bannack State Park in southwest Montana (see Fig. 1) is home to Montana's best-preserved ghost town and the first Territorial Capitol of Montana. The town of Bannack was founded in 1862 after John White discovered gold in Grasshopper Creek. It was Montana's first major gold strike, and the ensuing gold rush swelled Bannack's population to over 3,000 by 1863. Most of Bannack's settlers moved on within a few years, following the lure of more gold in Virginia City and other locations, but a small population continued to live in the town until the 1950's. By 1950 the town was effectively deserted and the State of Montana declared Bannack a State Park in 1954. Over sixty buildings survive from Bannack's heyday, most of which are open to the public. More than 32,000 people visit Bannack State Park every year, many of whom come during the annual Bannack Days Festival. This event features historic displays and activities and is held the third weekend in July each year. Some visitors use the Park as an access point to Grasshopper Creek; a tributary of the Beaverhead River. Bannack is the only access site along Grasshopper Creek maintained by FWP.

Overnight camping is available at two different campgrounds at Bannack State Park, and private citizens act as designated volunteer campground hosts when available. Volunteer campground hosts play an important role in private and public campgrounds nationwide. Volunteer campground hosts at Bannack State Park fulfill routine duties such as collection of fees and monitoring of the campgrounds, but they also often aid visitors in various other ways, such as helping them find a suitable campsite, acting as first responders in emergencies, explaining Park policies and attractions, and even leading tours and working in the visitor center. In exchange for providing these services, volunteer campground hosts receive free camping at the park. Competent volunteer campground hosts are highly desirable because of the many services they provide at little cost to parks. It is often difficult to persuade volunteer campground hosts to stay long-term at parks without basic water, sewer and electricity hookups for their private recreational vehicle. The nearest sewage disposal station is in the town of Dillon, 25 miles away. Currently, the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park does not have water, sewage, phone, or electricity hookups, and as a result, Bannack State Park managers are having an increasingly difficult time attracting volunteer campground hosts. The position has been vacant for the entire 2005 season.

In light of these facts, FWP proposes to upgrade the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park. Included in the upgrade would be an ADA-accessible concrete pad for volunteer campground hosts to park their private recreational vehicles on; telephone service to the pad; water and electricity hook-ups; and a 1500-gallon sewage holding tank. The water would be routed via an underground water line from a wellhead about 136 ft. away (see photo 1 and figure 3). Electricity would have to be run about 6/10 of a mile, as would telephone service (see fig.3). Vigilante Electric, who would run the electricity, would trench the wires next to the county road from the transformer into the campground, so there would be minimal disturbance. Mining has taken place along this route as well as disturbance from the installation of the county road and the campground. No undisturbed ground would be disturbed by any aspect of the proposed project. The 1500-gallon sewage storage tank would be installed adjacent to the volunteer campground host site and pumped every fall. The sewage holding tank installation would include a post mounted high-level alarm. When the tank is 3/4 full, a float switch in the tank will activate a red strobe light and an audible alarm to let the volunteer campground host know that the tank is approaching full. The purpose of the alarm is to decrease the chance of an overflow situation. Costs associated with this project would be approximately \$2600 for the well house, water line installation and parts; \$5800 for the 14' X 60' concrete pad; \$2500 for the septic holding tank and installation; \$1300 for installation of the phone line; and \$10,000 for

installation of electrical lines; for an estimated project total of \$22,200. It is possible that these amenities would be installed in phases. Bannack State Park would pay for all utilities for volunteer campground hosts.



Photo 1. Location of the wellhead and route of proposed underground water pipeline.



Photo 2. Bannack State Park Volunteer Host Site and location of proposed sewage storage tank and water, electricity, and phone hook-ups.

The volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park is located in the Vigilante Campground, between the loop road and Grasshopper Creek (see figs. 2 and 3). Vegetation in the area surrounding the volunteer campground host site consists of grass, forbs, sagebrush, and scattered willows and juniper (see photos 1 and 2). The campground as a whole and the volunteer campground host site in particular receive a fair amount of use and vegetation is already in a disturbed state.

In summary, Park managers are confident that if the volunteer campground host site had upgraded amenities, they would be able to attract volunteer campground hosts from spring through fall. The assistance that volunteer campground hosts provide to Park managers is highly valuable, especially during the busy summer months. Volunteer campground hosts help with many of the day-to-day duties of the Park, enabling regular staff to focus more attention on maintenance projects, visitor services, visitor interaction, interpretation, long-term planning, or any other area that protects and improves the environment and structures of the park. The proposed project would have no significant environmental effects and would help to increase public enjoyment of Bannack State Park.

# BANNACK STATE PARK

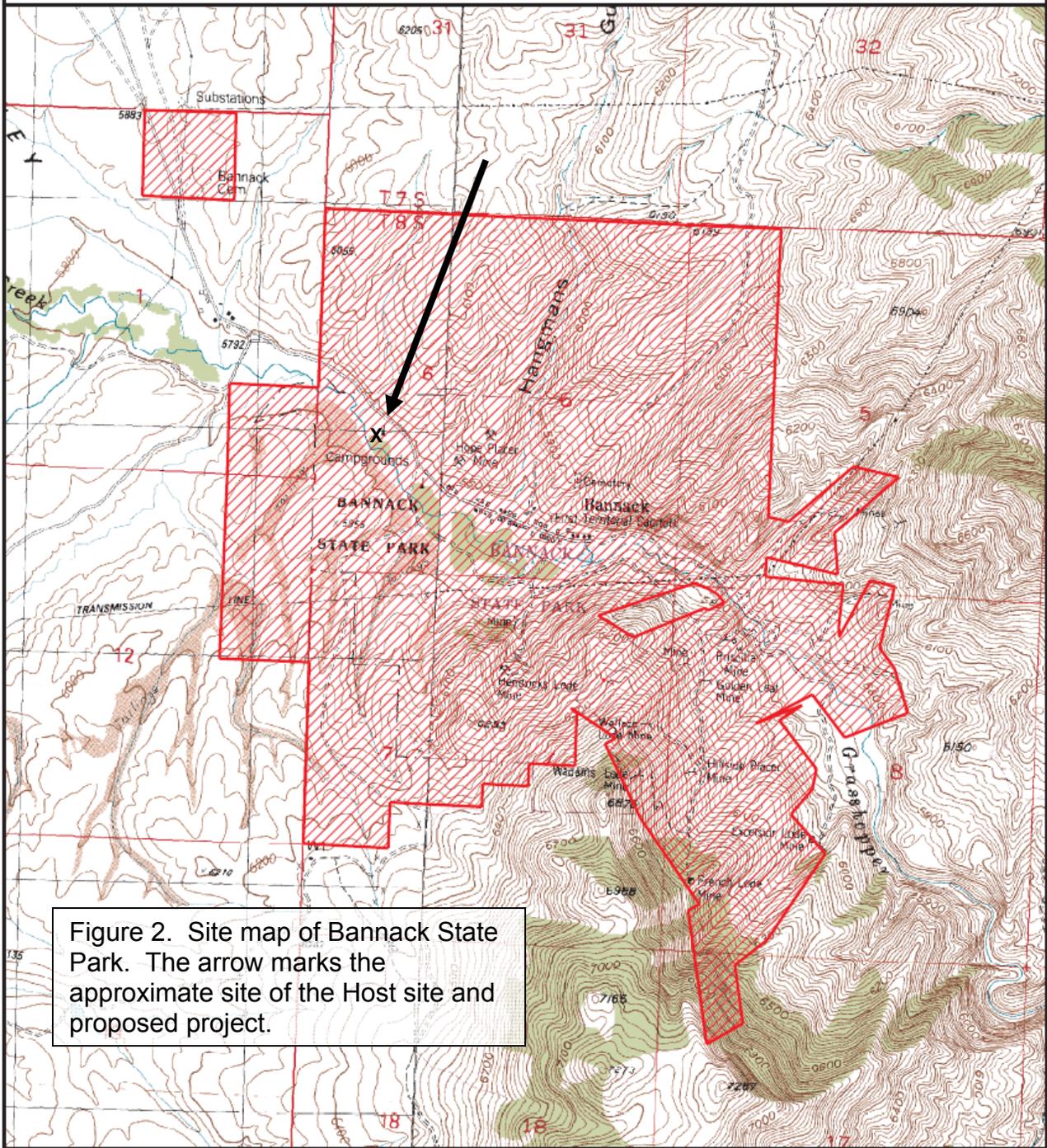


Figure 2. Site map of Bannack State Park. The arrow marks the approximate site of the Host site and proposed project.

Lands Site Number: 3501



1622 acres  Fee Simple Parcel  
 0 acres  Agreements, Leases or Easements Parcel

0 2000 4000

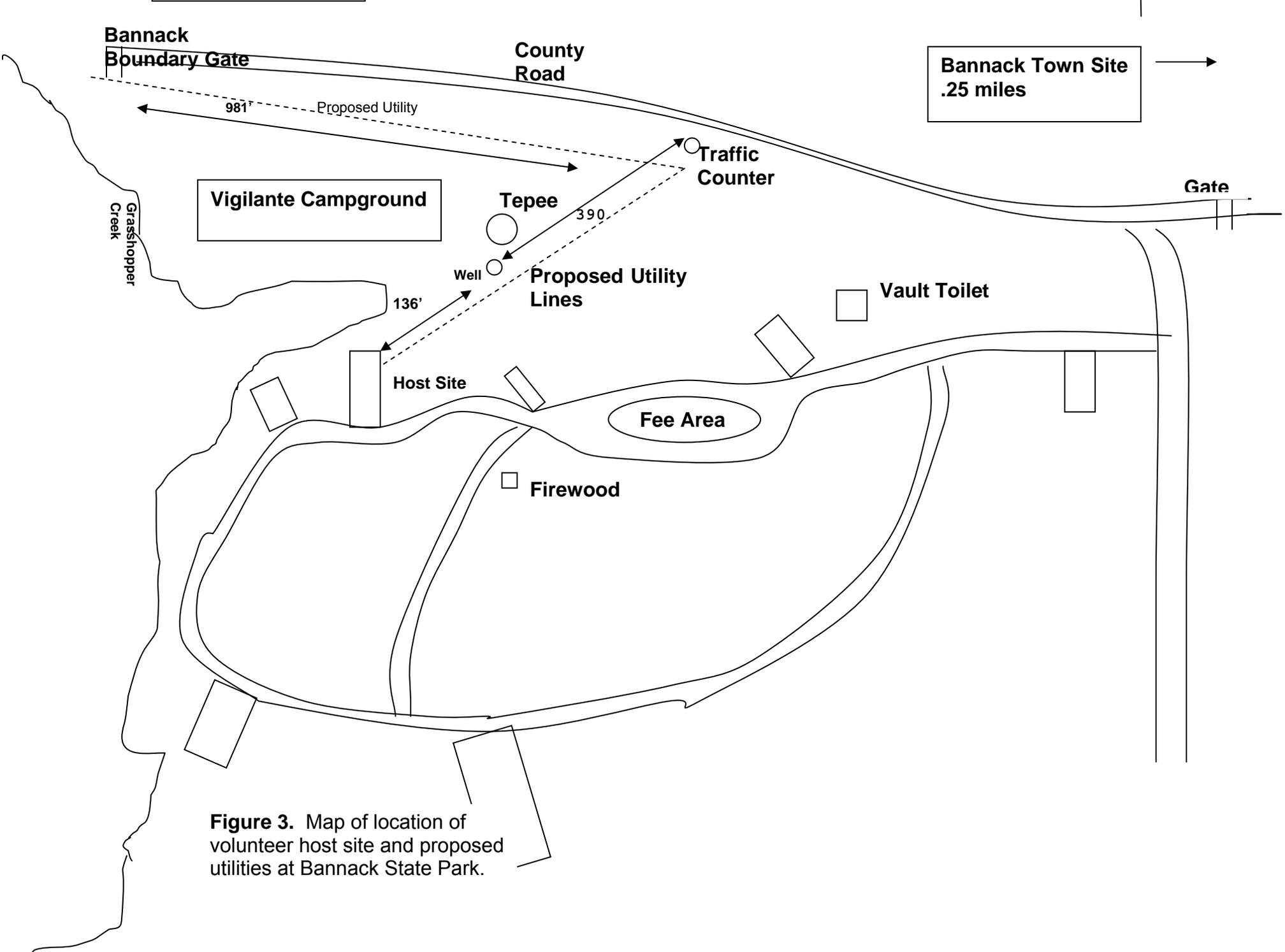
Scale in Feet  
 Scale 1:24000

State Parks from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Information Services Unit, Kalispell, MT. State Parks digitized at 24:000 from USGS 7.5 minute quad topographic maps and using COGO module of ARC/INFO by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Information Services Unit, Kalispell, MT. State Parks boundaries are accurate as of 1/1/02. Background USGS 1:24000 DRG Images.



**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**  
 SERVICES

Map produced by NRIS, request# 01FWP42 - January 16, 2003



**Figure 3.** Map of location of volunteer host site and proposed utilities at Bannack State Park.

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

- 1. 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:**

### **Alternative A: No Action**

If no action is taken, the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park would not be upgraded, and the Park would continue to have a difficult time attracting people to volunteer to be campground hosts. Duties usually assumed by volunteer campground hosts would have to be fulfilled by regular staff, taking them away from visitor services and other projects. In addition, the absence of a volunteer campground host can lead to site degradation, vandalism of facilities and natural sites in the park, and inappropriate or illegal behavior by park visitors.

### **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. Environmental Review Checklist beginning on page 9.

In the preferred Alternative, FWP would upgrade the amenities at the Vigilante Campground volunteer host site. Phone, electricity, and water would be run to the site, an ADA-accessible concrete pad would be poured, and a 1500-gallon sewage holding tank would be installed. The total estimated cost of this project is \$22,200. Phone and electrical service would be run underground for 6/10 of a mile and would cost \$1300 and \$10,000 respectively. An underground water line would be run about 136 ft from an existing well to the volunteer host site at a cost of \$2600, including the construction of a well-house on the well. The cost of the septic storage tank and installation is estimated to be \$2500, and the cost of an ADA-accessible concrete pad is estimated to be \$5800. All cost estimates were provided by staff in FWP's Design and Construction Dept. FWP managers feel confident that this investment would enable Bannack State Park to regularly recruit competent private citizens to act as volunteer campground hosts for the Park. These volunteer campground hosts provide valuable services to the Park at little cost, allowing regular staff to focus more time on interpretation, visitor services, visitor interaction, long-term improvements to the Park, maintenance, and preservation. In addition, the presence of a volunteer campground host can effectively deter vandalism and inappropriate behavior in the park, such as excessive noise after-hours and public consumption of alcohol. The reduction of such incidents improves the experience for the public and encourages return visits.

### **Alternative C:**

In Alternative C, FWP would commit to upgrading the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park but would install the amenities in phases. In phase I, phone and electrical service would be installed at a cost of \$11,300 (\$1300 for phone, \$10,000 for electricity). In phase II, a septic holding tank would be installed at a cost of \$2500. In phase III, a pressurized water line would be run 136 ft. from the existing wellhead to the volunteer host site. A well-house would also be constructed on the well. Costs for this phase would be \$2600. In phase IV, an ADA-accessible concrete pad would be poured at a cost of \$5800. Total costs for the project would be \$22,200. This alternative is not preferred because Bannack State Park managers do not feel they will be able to attract competent volunteer

campground hosts until all of the amenities mentioned above are in place. Delayed implementation of the proposed project would most likely result in continued vacancy of the volunteer campground host position.

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

There are no formal stipulations of mitigation or other controls associated with the proposed action. This action does not involve any permits or granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

**PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

Bannack State Park is an important historical and cultural site for the State of Montana and of the West in general. As the location of Montana's first Territorial Capitol and best-preserved ghost town, Bannack State Park attracts thousands of visitors a year, especially during July's popular 'Bannack Days'. Staff at state parks face many demands for their time, and Bannack is no exception, especially during peak visitation times. Volunteer campground hosts take on the burden of many of the day-to-day duties, freeing regular staff to attend to other issues. In the past few years, Bannack State Park managers have had trouble attracting people to act as volunteer campground hosts because of the lack of amenities at the volunteer campground host pad and the remote location. In light of this, FWP has proposed providing a concrete pad, phone, electricity, water, and a sewage holding tank for hosts. Park managers feel they will be more successful at attracting volunteer campground hosts if they have these services to offer.

This EA did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. No threatened or endangered species have been observed in the area, and no unique or physical features would be affected. In short, the proposed project would help Bannack State Park staff better care for the Park and visitors, thereby increasing visitor enjoyment of the site and without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

**PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 1. 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 public will be notified by way of two statewide press releases, and legal notices in the Dillon Tribune, Montana Standard and the Helena Independent Record and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>. Individual notices will be sent to the region's standard EA distribution list and to those that have requested one.

**Duration of comment period: December 12, 2005 – January 12, 2006**

A 30-day comment period is proposed. This level of public involvement is appropriate for this scale of project.

## **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

- 1. 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 an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed volunteer campground host site upgrade project. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

- 2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Dale Carlson  
Park Manager  
4200 Bannack Road  
Dillon, MT 59725  
(406)834-3413

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith  
Independent Contractor  
1027 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406)495-9620

- 3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Parks Division  
Wildlife Division  
Fisheries Division  
Design & Construction Bureau  
Lands Division

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism

Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

## PART VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

### 3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### A. 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				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
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:		X				

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

- 1a. The excavation of the trench for the water pipeline and installation of underground utility lines would not affect geologic substructure or soil stability.
- 1b. Soil would be disturbed during construction of the sewage holding tank and concrete pad and installation of the 136-ft underground water pipeline, but the effects would be small. No previously undisturbed ground would be disturbed by the concrete pad, water pipeline, utility lines, or any other aspect of this project.
- 1c. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action.

\* 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 cannot 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. <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			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. ***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.)						
f. Other:		X				

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

- 2a. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by heavy equipment during construction, but would end after completion of the project.

\* 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 cannot 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. <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				1a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
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			3g.
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		yes	3h.
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:		X				

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

- 3a. The proposed action would not result in a discharge of any material into surface water or cause an alteration of the quality of surface water including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.
- 3g. The proposed project would not affect the quantity of groundwater in any appreciable amount, as the usage would be seasonal and limited.
- 3h. There is a very slight risk that an extreme high water event could flood the sewage storage tank and lead to contamination of Grasshopper Creek. This risk would be essentially eliminated by pumping the storage tank every fall, leaving it nearly empty during spring melt and possible flooding.

\* 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 cannot 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. <b>VEGETATION</b>  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			4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			4b.
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. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):4a.**

- 4a. The volunteer campground host pad is located in Vigilante Campground, which is semi-developed (gravel loop road, gravel driveways in camping sites, fire rings, campground latrines, etc. Vegetation in the area of the volunteer campground host pad consists mainly of grass, sagebrush, willows and juniper. Construction of the sewage storage tank and installation of the underground water pipeline would temporarily reduce the abundance of these plant species in the area around the volunteer campground host pad until revegetation efforts were complete. The concrete pad would permanently cover a 14' X 60' area of ground. The combined effects of these actions do not constitute significant or potentially significant changes to the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species in the area.
- 4b. Please see comment 4a.
- 4c. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 6 plant species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because all construction would occur over previously disturbed ground, which does not contain populations of those species of concern.

\* 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 cannot 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>** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
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				5f.
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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

5f. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 5 wildlife species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because all construction would occur over previously disturbed ground and in areas of high traffic.

\* 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 cannot 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. 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			6a.
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 Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 6a. There would be a temporary increase in noise level during construction of the concrete pad and installation of the septic storage tank and of water, phone, and electricity lines and hook-ups.

\* 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 cannot 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.

7. <b>LAND USE</b>  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				7a.
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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

7a. There would be no alteration or interference with the existing land use in the greater Bannack State Park area.

\* 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 cannot 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. <b>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</b>  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		yes	8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?			X positive			8b.
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		yes	8c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 8a. There is a very minor risk that spring flooding or other events could cause the sewage storage tank to leak and contaminate the site and Grasshopper Creek with untreated sewage. The tank would be pumped every fall and maintained carefully to reduce the chance of this occurring. The sewage holding tank installation will include a post mounted high-level alarm. In addition, when the tank is 3/4 full, a float switch in the tank will activate a red strobe light and an audible alarm to let the volunteer camp host know that the tank is approaching full. The purpose of the alarm is to decrease the chance of an overflow situation.
- 8b. The proposed project would include the installation of a phone line to the volunteer campground host site, which would make it possible for the host to call for help more quickly if there was an emergency in the campground.
- 8c. Please see comment 8a.

\* 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 cannot 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.

9. <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>  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				9a.
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 Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

9a. It is unlikely that the proposed project would have any discernable effect on the community surrounding Bannack State Park.

\* 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 cannot 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			10a.
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				10c.
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d.
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 10a. The proposed action would result in one new phone line and one new electrical line within Bannack State Park, but no new facilities would be required and the electrical usage would be very small.
- 10c. Please see comment 10a.
- 10d. Please see comment 10a.
- 10e. The cost of the project is estimated at \$22,200. Funding would come from Parks (capitol major maintenance funds). Breakdown Costs are as follows:
- ADA-accessible concrete pad 14' X 60': \$5,800
  - Septic Holding Tank and installation: \$2,500
  - Pressurized Water Line installation parts and well house: \$2,600
  - Phone line: \$1,300
  - Electrical service provided by Vigilante Electric Company: \$10,000.
- 10f. Additional maintenance costs for the host site per year would be approximately \$700.00 for electricity, phone service, and septic pumping.

\* 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 cannot 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.

** 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.)						11c.
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.)						
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

11c. The proposed project is not expected to affect the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings. Please see Tourism Report in Attachment A.

\* 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 cannot 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.

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				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				12b
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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 12a. The proposed project would not result in the destruction or alteration of any site, structure, or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance. Please see the clearance letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed project in Attachment B.
- 12b. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) believes that the proposed volunteer campground host site development project would have a low likelihood of impacting unique cultural resources. Please see the clearance letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed project in Attachment B.

\* 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 cannot 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.

## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <b>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  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 that 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. ***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 Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

13a. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action.

\* 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 cannot 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.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**HB495**  
**PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**Date** September 20, 2005      **Person Reviewing** Linnaea Schroeer-Smith

**Project Location:** Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to upgrade the campground host site at Bannack State Park by installing phone, electricity and water lines and hook-ups, and by constructing a 1,500 gallon sewage storage tank and a 14' X 60' ADA-accessible concrete pad.

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.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: None
  
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: None
  
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?**  
Comments: The digging of the trench for the water pipeline might require excavation of 20 c.y. or more.
  
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**  
Comments: None
  
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?**  
Comments: None.
  
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?**  
Comments: None.
  
- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?**  
Comments: SHPO clearance has been obtained for the proposed project.

- H. **Any new above ground utility lines?**  
Comments: New electrical and phone lines would have to be run about 6/10 of a mile to the volunteer campground host pad, but these would all be underground.
- I. **Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?**  
Comments: None.
- J. **Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?**  
Comments: None

**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.**

## APPENDIX 2

### Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Bannack State Park Area

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database ([nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal](http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal)) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site.

#### Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

**Montana Species of Concern.** The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

#### ▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

#### Status Ranks

Code	Definition
<b>G1</b> <b>S1</b>	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G2</b> <b>S2</b>	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G3</b> <b>S3</b>	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
<b>G4</b> <b>S4</b>	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
<b>G5</b> <b>S5</b>	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

### 1. *Centrocercus urophasianus* (Greater Sage-grouse)

State: **S2**  
Global: **G4**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A documented lek occurs approximately 1.5 miles north of the proposed project site, but population data is unavailable. It is unlikely that the proposed action would affect this species, as inferred extent of this species range does not overlap with the volunteer campground host site area (or Vigilante Campground), and the type of habitat present in the campground is not typically favored by greater sage-grouse.

### 2. *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi* (Westslope Cutthroat Trout)

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S2**  
Global: **G4T3**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service:  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Westslope cutthroat trout occur in many tributaries to the Beaverhead River Basin, but as no populations are known to occur in Grasshopper Creek, this project would not affect this species.

### 3. *Buteo regalis* (Ferruginous Hawk).

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S2B**  
Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service:  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This sensitive species has been regularly observed from 1977 through the present, in short-grass prairie habitat and brushy draws. The full extent of occupied breeding habitat is unknown, but most sightings have occurred in the Lima-Sweetwater breaks northwest of Dillon. It is unlikely that the proposed project would affect this species.

### 4. *Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin Pocket Mouse).

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S2S3**  
Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service:  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This species was first observed at two survey sites east and west of Badger Pass in 1961. No current population information is available.

## 5. *Lepus californicus* (Black-tailed Jack Rabbit).

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

This record is a summary of multiple observations in the area south of Bannack, with dates ranging from 1937-1997. The proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species, as all construction would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

## 6. *Thelypodium sagittatum ssp. sagittatum* (Slender Thelypody).

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A specimen for this sensitive species was first collected during the tenth census of the United States Department of Forestry, Northwestern Territories, in 1880. No current population data for this species is available.

## 7. *Lesquerella pulchella* (Beautiful Bladderpod).

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of approximately 1,000 plants belonging to this species was observed on an adjoining ridge and within the Grasshopper Creek valley about 1 mile to the west of the proposed project site in 1995. The amount of distance between the host pad and element occurrence of this species acts makes it improbable that this species would be negatively affected by this project.

## 8. *Sphaeromeria argentea* (Chicken Sage).

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G3G4**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of between 1,000 and 10,000 plants occurs on a dry, open residual upperslope and ridge crest about ¼ mile from the proposed project site. As no *Sphaeromeria argentea* have been observed within the campground, and stream valleys are not the usual habitat of this species, it is unlikely that the proposed project would affect this population or this species as a whole. Also, all construction would occur in areas that are already heavily trafficked and disturbed.

**9. *Lomatium attenuatum*** (Taper-tip Desert-parsley).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 10,000 plants occur within the larger Bannack State Park area, but it is unlikely that this project would affect this species, as no previously undisturbed soil would be disturbed during the implementation of the proposed project.

**10. *Astragalus scaphoides*** (Bitterroot Milkvetch).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Approximately 300 plants occur in 3 subpopulations about 2 1/2 miles from the proposed project site. There is sufficient distance between the element occurrence of this species and the host pad to ensure that this population would not be affected by the proposed project.

**11. *Phacelia incana*** (Hoary Phacelia).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 1000 plants occur in patches on ridge complex within Bannack State Park. The proposed project would not occur in the vicinity of this population of plants and would not affect them.

*Interested parties may contact MFWP Region 3 offices for a detailed map of sensitive species Element Occurrences (EOs).*

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- B. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**TOURISM REPORT**  
**MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 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  
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce  
PO Box 200533  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

**Project Name:** Bannack State Park Volunteer Campground Host Site Improvement Project

**Project Location:** The proposed project would take place in Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

**Project Description:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to upgrade the volunteer campground host site at Bannack State Park by installing phone, electricity, and water hook-ups, and by constructing a 1,500-gallon sewage storage tank at the host pad. Park managers are hoping that they will be able to attract volunteer campground hosts more reliably and for longer periods of time with these improvements.

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

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

Signature Victor A. Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, MT Department of Commerce, Date: September 20, 2005

ATTACHMENT B  
SHPO Clearance Letter



Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks  
RECEIVED

COPY

OCT 17 2005

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

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

2005092802

FWP - Parks  
Bannack Campground  
Host Site Utilities  
# Septic

CONCUR  
MONTANA SHPO

DATE 14 Oct 05 SIGNED [Signature]

RECEIVED  
OCT 17 2005

BY: SHPO

October 5, 2005

Josef Warhank  
State Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 201202  
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Dear Josef:

In discussions with Dale Carlson at Bannack State Park I realized that I was not as clear as I had intended when explaining the potential impacts of the Bannack camp ground host pad project in my previous letter SHPO # 2005092802.

I apologize for that oversight on my part and I will attempt to further explain the project and what we believe the potential impacts will be.

This work will involve the installation of new telephone and electrical lines in the county road right of way from the Bannack bench road to the park approximately .6 miles; this area has previously been disturbed by the construction of the existing county road, and then from the Bannack road into the campground. The project will also require the installation of a septic holding tank, and water/power lines from the new host site to the existing water well in the campground.

I have reviewed our files and have no records of either historic or prehistoric cultural sites in the proposed project area. The project area is located in the active flood plain and has been previously dredged and disturbed by the development of the non-historic campground. Previous cultural resource survey work at Bannack has not documented any intact historic cultural remains in the proposed project area of impact. We believe that the proposed campground host pad development will have a low likelihood of impacting cultural resources based on the previous disturbance. Please review the proposed project and provide us with your comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Valle  
Bureau Chief  
Design and Construction Bureau

att