

EA-34-06

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FISHERIES DIV.
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Project Title City of Billings – Blonco Circle Culvert Replacement

Division/Bureau Fisheries/Management

Program Fisheries

Description of Project This project is an emergency replacement of two culverts where Blonco Circle crosses Alkali Creek at T1N, R26E, S20, SE1/4. The two 90 inch corrugated steel culverts that partially collapsed will be replaced by the same sized culverts inserted into a concrete headwall. Two 12 inch storm drain inlets will also be replaced with two 18 inch inlets. The culvert work area will be approximately 72 ft long by 40 ft wide. Replacing the storm outfall will disturb an area 6 ft by 10 ft. Rock riprap will be used to re-enforce an undermined section of sidewalk.

I. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			I.1.
2. Water quality, quantity & distribution			X			I.2.
3. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality			X			I.4.
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or				X		

limited environmental resources						
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		

II. POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Social structures & mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness & diversity				X		
3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity & distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution & density of population & housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		

11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction US Army Corps of Engineers

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA None

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS None needed; no significant impacts

EA prepared by : Jim Darling

Date: April 26, 2006

COMMENTS

I.1. Stream habitat in the immediate vicinity of the culverts will be disturbed during construction.

I.2. Turbidity in the project vicinity will increase during construction.

I.4. Some bank vegetation will be disturbed where heavy equipment accesses the culverts. Riprap will replaced a short section of vegetated bank.

No Action Alternative

The existing culverts would continue to collapse putting the public at risk and cutting off homeowner access to houses surrounding the Blonco Circle cul-de-sac. The entire crossing would eventually need replacement at a higher cost.

Bridge or Single Culvert

The hydrology and aquatic habitat of Alkali Creek would best be served by replacing the two culverts with a bridge or single large culvert spanning the creek. The cost and emergency nature of this project preclude this option.

Double Cell Box Culvert

A double-cell box culvert would allow more flow through and trap less debris than the proposed steel culverts. They represent double the cost to the City.

**APPENDIX A
PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT CHECKLIST**

The 54th Legislature enacted the Private Property Assessment Act, Chapter 462, Laws of Montana (1995). The intent of the legislation is to establish an orderly and consistent process by which state agencies evaluate their proposed actions under the "Takings Clauses" of the United States and Montana Constitutions. The Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution provides: "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." Similarly, Article II, Section 29 of the Montana Constitution provides: "Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation..."

The Private Property Assessment Act applies to proposed agency actions pertaining to land or water management or to some other environmental matter that, if adopted and enforced without compensation, would constitute a deprivation of private property in violation of the United States or Montana Constitutions.

The Montana State Attorney General's Office has developed guidelines for use by state agency to assess the impact of a proposed agency action on private property. The assessment process includes a careful review of all issues identified in the Attorney General's guidance document (Montana Department of Justice 1997). If the use of the guidelines and checklist indicates that a proposed agency action has taking or damaging implications, the agency must prepare an impact assessment in accordance with Section 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act. For the purposes of this EA, the questions on the following checklist refer to the following required stipulation(s):

(List any mitigation/stipulations required, or note "None".)

None.

**DOES THE PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION HAVE TAKINGS IMPLICATIONS
UNDER THE PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT?**

YES	NO	
_____	___X___	1. Does the action pertain to land or water management or environmental regulation affecting private real property or water rights?
_____	___X___	2. Does the action result in either a permanent or indefinite physical occupation of private property?
_____	___X___	3. Does the action deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of the property?
_____	___X___	4. Does the action deny a fundamental attribute of ownership?
_____	___X___	5. Does the action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or to grant an easement? [If the answer is NO , skip questions 5a and 5b and continue with question 6.]

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|-------|--------------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 5a. Is there a reasonable, specific connection between the government requirement and legitimate state interests? |
| _____ | _____ | 5b. Is the government requirement roughly proportional to the impact of the proposed use of the property? |
| _____ | <u> X </u> | 6. Does the action have a severe impact on the value of the property? |
| _____ | <u> X </u> | 7. Does the action damage the property by causing some physical disturbance with respect to the property in excess of that sustained by the public generally? [If the answer is NO , do not answer questions 7a-7c.] |
| _____ | _____ | 7a. Is the impact of government action direct, peculiar, and significant? |
| _____ | _____ | 7b. Has government action resulted in the property becoming practically inaccessible, waterlogged, or flooded? |
| _____ | _____ | 7c. Has government action diminished property values by more than 30% and necessitated the physical taking of adjacent property or property across a public way from the property in question? |

Taking or damaging implications exist if **YES** is checked in response to question 1 and also to any one or more of the following questions: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 7c; or if **NO** is checked in response to questions 5a or 5b.

If taking or damaging implications exist, the agency must comply with Section 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act, to include the preparation of a taking or damaging impact assessment. Normally, the preparation of an impact assessment will require consultation with agency legal staff.