ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MEPA NEPA Checklist

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 is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

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PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development	___x___
Renovation	_____
Maintenance	___x___
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	_____

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
   Parks Division
   C/O Beth Shumate
   PO Box 1630
   Miles City, MT 59301
   (406) 234-0900
   bshumate@mt.gov

4. Name of project.
   Hell Creek State Park in a cooperative effort with Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge—Hell Creek Trails Project

5. If applicable:

   Estimated construction/commencement date
   May 2006

Estimated completion date
July 2008

Current status of project design (% complete)
10-15%

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
Trailhead to Bone Trail & Trail # 452: T 22N, R 38E, S6 Garfield County
Cold Turkey Trail: T 21N, R 38E, S 1 Garfield County
Trail # 452: T 22N, R 37E, S 36 T 21N R 37E, S 31 Garfield County

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..... 7 acres

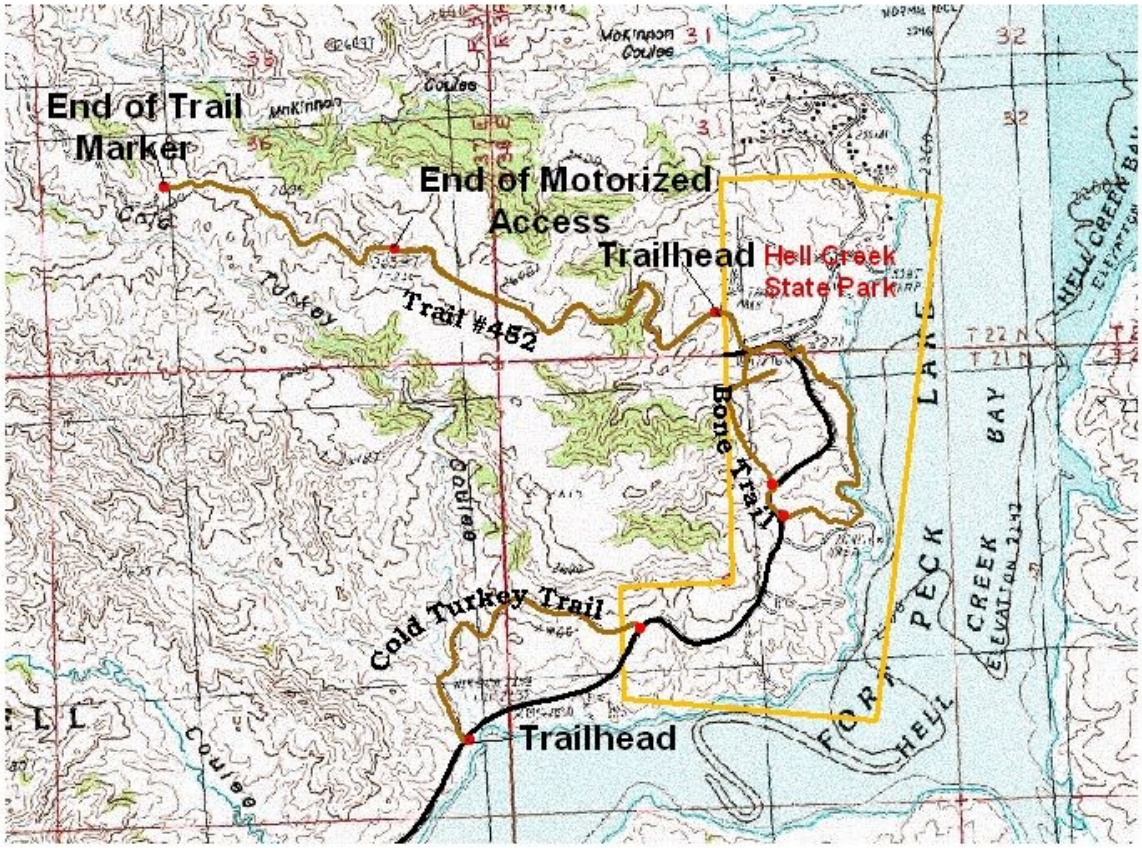
(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas ..... ___ acres

(d) Floodplain ..... ___ acres

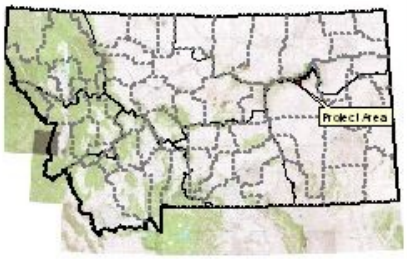
(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... ___ acres
dry cropland ..... ___ acres
forestry ..... 4 acres
rangeland..... 3 acres
other..... ___ acres

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 Trail Locations



0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles



- Proposed Sign Locations
- Proposed Trails
- County Road

FWP Lands

- Fee Simple
- Leases and Agreements
- Conservation Easements

Map produced in 2006. All layers from NRIS, Helena, Montana. All points and lines gathered with a trimble gps unit. This is not a survey grade map.

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

Hell Creek State Park, 26 miles north of Jordan, Montana, is located on the south shore of the 150 mile long Fort Peck Reservoir. Hell Creek is the closest access point on Fort Peck to the Interstate Highway system and Montana's major population centers. Hell Creek State Park has seen a significant increase in visitation over the past few years due to consistent fishing success and the solitude and enjoyment that people experience while staying at the park. Park visitation increased from 9,300 visitors in 1995 to over 35,000 in 2003. Park visitors consist of a diverse group of people from mainly Montana, Wyoming and the Midwest with a trickle of Colorado and Idaho residents as well. The top activities at Hell Creek involve fishing, boating, jet skiing, camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, and riding ATV's. Visitors often camp in the park for a week or longer and boat from the park daily to the popular fishing areas. This area of the CMR Wildlife Refuge is also considered one of the highest use areas and it has been designated as a National Natural Landmark (NPS) due to the numerous fossils found in the area. The Hell Creek State Park area is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and leased to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Along with the increase in visitation and park improvements, visitors are now often traveling from further distances with intentions of staying longer and therefore with higher expectations. Due to families vacationing at the park for extended periods of time, Hell Creek State Park's users are requesting further recreational opportunities. Over the last two years, comment cards have been provided to visitors at the park. A significant amount of comment cards (approximately 20%) from park visitors and Marina customers have expressed the need for a trails system within and near the park. Motorized and non-motorized trails would allow various users to access the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Charles M. Russell (CMR) Wildlife Refuge and enhance their stay at Hell Creek. Recreation trails offer a wide variety of benefits to the individual users and to the surrounding communities. They can certainly contribute to local economies and enhance the park's recreational amenities by offering more diverse activities that enhance the park visitor's experience with greater educational, cultural, and physical activities for all ages to enjoy. Most trail users will shop at local stores for food, beverages, last minute items, keepsakes and will often pay for lodging and gas. These trails will provide both refuge and park visitors the opportunity to experience Missouri Breaks wildlife, natural and cultural resources, and native prairie grasslands through observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation. Visitors using these trails will be able to observe diverse wildlife including but not limited to: elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bald and golden eagles, osprey, sage and sharp-tailed grouse and various species of passerines (dickey birds).

PROPOSED PROJECT:

Hell Creek State Park- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks with cooperation from USFWS—CMR are proposing to create two non-motorized hiking trails and one combination (motorized part way and then non-motorized traffic only) with a trailhead and two parking lots adjacent to the trailheads.

Specifically, the proposed project will construct and create three hiking trails:

- **Construct self-guided wildlife viewing trails, specifically Cold Turkey and the existing motorized trail # 452 in a cooperative effort with CMR. Additionally, a trailhead including a designated parking lot and interpretive signage with trail markers will also be constructed.**
- **Construct and expand the existing footpath near the Bone pile area to a hiking/biking trail for an easy trail loop for park visitors**. The other proposed trail (*Bone Trail*- T22N, R38E, S6--Garfield County) would begin from the same trailhead as Trail 452 and would head straight south along the park's boundary and towards Boy Scout Point. The trail then crosses the main county road and meets up with the park's two track between Boy Scout Point and loops back to Milroy's Cove. This trail would allow the park visitor an easy non-motorized loop trail that could be accessed directly from the campground area. The trail will have to cross the main county road, which necessitates the need for signage along the county road and for the trail user to alert them of a trail crossing on a motorized by-way.
- **Enlarge and Gravel Parking Areas.** Trailhead parking is a necessity so people can use the trails without having to park in the campground areas and to congregate the trail users to the interpretive kiosks and trailhead.
- Developed trails will enhance the recreational experience for visitors and help to meet visitor expectations.
- There is a section of School Trust Land (T21N R37E, S31—Garfield County) that the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation administers. On state lands there is a *$10.00 Recreation Fee* that is required of the general public to purchase prior to traveling on state land unless they are hunting or fishing. The recreation permit will be made available through the Marina for trail users who are not hunting.

Please refer to the attached map (8 ½ x 11) and legend for further explanation of specific sites and locations.

Request and Importance of Public Comment:

Because the proposed action is on public land, the MEPA (Montana Environmental Policy Act) process must take place. MEPA expands the public right to participate in the decisions of state government. The information required requires thoughtful, informed and deliberate consideration of the consequences and impacts of state actions. One of the goals of MEPA is to "foster wise actions and better decisions by state agencies." This is accomplished by ensuring that relevant environmental information is available to public officials *before* decisions are made and *before* actions are taken. There are two central requirements:

- Agencies must consider the effects of pending decisions on the environment and on people prior to making each decision.
- Agencies must ensure that the public is informed of and participates in the decision making process.

Benefits of public participation are:

- Early identification and proper study of relevant issues.
- Early identification and elimination from further study of irrelevant issues.
- Broad information base upon which decisions are made.
- Clarification of the public's concerns and values.
- Support for decision makers to make better decisions.

- Increased likelihood of successful implementation.

Specifically pertaining to the proposed project, several actions make an environmental assessment mandatory according to The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 12.8.602).

- New roadways or trails built over undisturbed land.
- Any excavation of 20 cubic yards or greater.
- New parking lots built over undisturbed land or the expansion of an existing lot that increases the parking capacity by 25 % or greater.
- All proposed improvement or development projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if they would significantly change park or fishing access site features or use patterns, including the cumulative effects of a series of individual projects.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the MEPA-required no action alternative). At a minimum, the following three alternatives must be presented.

a). Preferred Alternative: To diversify the recreational experience for park and refuge visitors. To increase visitor's expectations with the development of interpretive trails that will enhance the recreational amenities of Hell Creek State Park and the surrounding area (CMR). To develop Trail #452 as a motorized and non-motorized trail that would include hiking, biking, all-terrain vehicle riding, horseback riding, and hunting. Motorized traffic would be allowed excluding snowmobiles and the motorized section of the trail would end at the proposed wilderness area on the refuge.
To develop the Bone Trail as a non-motorized trail that leads to interpretive signs from the trailhead and as an overlook/picnic area overlooking Hell Creek Bay. The trailhead would be constructed near the existing parking area for Route #452, which is within State Park boundaries and the same trailhead would access both trails. Cold Turkey would be the third trail and would also require a trailhead and parking area. The trail would be designated as a non-motorized trail only.

b). No-action Alternative: To leave the existing area in its current state, which would minimize the recreational opportunities for visitors to the region. Currently the park visitor predominantly resorts to water-based recreation and without further recreational development (trails) the visitor will not have an array of recreational options while visiting the park or CMR. During times of inclement weather such as high winds or during times of slow fishing after a passage of a cold front, it would be beneficial to the park visitor to be able to resort to other recreational activities.

c).

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

(a) Permits		
Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Permit: CMR Special Use Permit Permit Number: 06-008	Date Filed: April 19, 2006

(b) Funding	
Agency Name: Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge State of Montana—Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Funding Amount: $5000.00 $16,000.00 (see below for breakdown of expenses)
	Signs & Kiosk--$5000 Trail Maps & Brochures (Materials & Printing)--$1500 MT CCC (Labor)--$3500 Interpretive Info. Contractor--$2500 Maintenance for 4 years--$3500

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name: US Fish & Wildlife—Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge	Type of Responsibility: Landowner/Cooperative Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers	Landowner
State of MT—Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	Landowner

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:
US Fish & Wildlife—Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge, Jordan, MT
State of Montana—Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Miles City, MT
US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Peck, MT

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:
Beth Shumate, Park Manager, Parks Division,
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 234-0900 or (406) 557-2362
bshumate@mt.gov

14. Date Submitted: April 27, 2006

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				
f. Other						

a. During the construction of the trails, some soil and geologic substructure will be changed due to heavy construction equipment for implementation of switchbacks to decrease severity of erosion.

b. The construction of trails will result in minor disruption, displacement, compaction, and over-covering. The parking lot areas will also be disturbed during construction.

c. The project involves previously existing trails/roads that were pioneered decades ago so the impact will be minimal.

d. The project involves previously existing trails/roads that were pioneered decades ago so the impact will be minimal. A footbridge will be constructed over the Cold Turkey coulee that drains off into the reservoir.

e. The project involves previously existing trails/roads that were pioneered decades ago so the impact will be minimal.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Air" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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			
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						

a. During construction of trails, equipment emissions will contain some pollutants.
b. During construction equipment emissions will contain some odors. Following project completion, exhaust odors will end along with use of internal combustion powered equipment.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Water" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			x			
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of 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				

B. The surface runoff will be altered slightly where switchbacks are implemented into the trail to reduce erosion.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Vegetation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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

a. The project area will involve some removal of certain trees and plants to construct the trails.

b. Due to construction of switchbacks along the Bone Trail, plant communities will be disrupted along these locations.

e. Potential for importation of weeds onto disturbed soils should be minimal and will be re-vegetated. Site already monitored for weeds.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Fish/Wildlife" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed**.**

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
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:		x				

g. Potential for minor disturbance due to increased human activity. The project involves previously existing trails/roads that were pioneered decades ago, so the disturbance should be minimal with a low impact to wildlife.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Noise/Electrical Effects" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			x			
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		x				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x				
e. Other:		x				

a. Minor increase in existing noise levels during the construction phase.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Use" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		x				
b. 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			
g. Other:						

b. The paleontology of the Hell Creek Formation is very significant in this area and there is increased motorized traffic along route #452 for archeological digs and research.

f. May result in minor increase in the number of visitors to the Park who may stay for longer periods of time. Also, during construction, material deliveries etc… may increase traffic beyond the norm for a short period of time.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Risk/Health Hazards" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		x				
b. 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:		x				

None of the items addressed in the checklist would be applicable.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Community Impact" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			x			
f. Other:		x				

E. The Cold Turkey Trail and Bone Trail could pose increased traffic hazards since the trail users will have to cross the county road as a part of the trail loop. To mitigate this concern there will be significant signage to alert both the trail user and the motorist on the county road.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Public Services/Taxes/Utilities" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
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				
e. Other.		x				
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	Funding sources to include government issued grants.					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	$1000 a year for maintenance upkeep on both trails.					

None of the items addressed in the checklist would be applicable.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Aesthetics/Recreation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		x				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			x			
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?			x			
e. Other:		x				

c. The three trails will enhance the quality and quantity of the recreational opportunities for refuge and park visitors.
d. Trail # 452 will end at the proposed wilderness boundary on the CMR-NWR, which could increase the number of parked vehicles from time to time.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Cultural/historical Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		x				
b. Physical 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:		x				

a. Though the area is recognized for its paleontological resources, the proposed trails are far enough removed from known paleontological sites so as to have no impacts. Since the trails that are proposed for further development involve previously pioneered roads, the trails and trailhead/parking lot areas have had a mandatory archeological review.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Summary Evaluation of Significance" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
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.						

Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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None of the above criteria would be applicable.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole. These are impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in combination to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

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.

3. **Public Comment.** At minimum, public input to the proposed project must be solicited through a legal ad in a daily newspaper with widest circulation in the immediate project area. This ad must run for a minimum of one day with at least 30 days allowed for public comment. The ad must include a brief description of the proposed project with the name, address, and contact information of the project sponsor. Comments should be provided in writing. The public comment period for this project must have occurred within 24 months (2 years) of the grant submission deadline.

a). Please include a photocopy of the legal advertisement, showing the date on which it ran in the newspaper.

b). Describe the total public involvement for this project beyond the legal ad. Projects may not be planned in isolation. The general public, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties should be involved from the onset. Promotion of public participation may be through newspaper articles and any other means available, such as public meetings, federal quarterly newsletters, TV programs, radio announcements, etc.

4. **Public Input Summary.** Please describe the nature of the public comments received during the official public comment period. Tally numbers of comments in support of the project and the numbers against. Summarize the most important comments received and your response to these comments. For example, if a reviewer made suggestions on how the project could be made better, how did you respond to that suggestion?

a). Provide copies of all comments received.

b). Changes to project design or scope of work based on public input.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs,

enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.