



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
June 15, 2006

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Governor's Office, Attn: Hal Harper, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
 Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Region 2
 Information Officer, Terry Althaus, Mike Thompson
**Region 2 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Citizens Advisory Council
*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
MT Environmental Information Center, Attn: Jim Jensen, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184
Dwight Opp, Stimson Lumber Co., PO Box 1499, Newport, Washington 99156
Granite County Commissioners, PO Box 925, Phillipsburg, MT 59858
**Rep. Cynthia Hiner, 1027 Kentucky St., Deer Lodge, MT 59722
**Rep. Dan Villa, 1619 W. Park, Anaconda, MT 59711
**Sen. Jesse Laslovich, 112 Mountain View St., Anaconda, MT 59711
George Grant Chapter, Trout Unlimited, POB 563, Butte, MT 59703-0563
Anaconda Sportsmen's Club, 2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711
Skyline Sportsmen's Association, POB 173, Butte, MT 59703-0173
Montana Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624-1175
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624-0689
Wayne Hirst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923-0728
Bob Rainey, 212 S. 6, Livingston, MT 59047
Vasil Czorny, 2400 Marshall Canyon Rd, Missoula, MT 59802
Eugene Tripp, Jr. 809 Beverly Ave., Missoula, MT 59801
James & Lori Hoover, Chalet Bearmouth, 1610 Frontage Rd W, Clinton, MT 59825
MT Department of Transportation, Attn: Shane Mintz, 2701 Prospect Ave., Helena, MT 59620
 *Mailed electronically; **Postcard notification

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) proposal to accept a donation of approximately 9.5 acres of land in the Bearmouth Canyon between Drummond and Clinton in Granite County for a permanent Fishing Access Site on the Upper Clark Fork River.

This Draft EA is available for review in Helena at MFWP's Headquarters, the State Library and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from the Region 2 MFWP Headquarters at the address provided above, or viewed on MFWP's Internet website at <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments on this Draft EA must be received no later than July 14, 2006. Comments should be mailed to Lee Bastian, MFWP, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3101 or emailed to lbastian@mt.gov. If you have questions, please contact Lee Bastian at 542-5500.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, by July 18th I plan to issue the Decision Notice for this EA. Based on the outcome of the Decision Notice, this project proposal would be presented to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for final action at its regularly scheduled meeting in August.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure: Draft EA for the Bearmouth Fishing Access Site Donation

Draft Environmental Assessment



CLARK FORK RIVER BEARMOUTH FISHING ACCESS SITE DONATION BY STIMSON LUMBER COMPANY

June 2006



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Bearmouth FAS Donation by Stimson Lumber Company Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Stimson Lumber Company has offered to donate approximately 9.49 acres along the Clark Fork River in Granite Co. to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) for public access, and MFWP proposes to accept the offer. The property consists of an abandoned highway and hillside that Stimson Lumber Company currently owns.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605, which directs MFWP to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature established an earmarked funding account to ensure that this fishing access site function would be established. Statute MCA 87-1-209(c) authorizes MFWP, with the consent of the MFWP Commission, to acquire land by gift for the purpose of public fishing.
3. **Name of project:** Bearmouth Fishing Access Site Donation by Stimson Lumber Co.
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **If applicable:**
Estimated Acquisition Date: Summer 2006
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): N/A
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):** Portions of the SW ¼ of Section 13 and the SE ¼ of Section 14, Township 11 N, Range 15 W., in Granite Co.
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 | <u>0</u> |
| Residential | <u>0</u> | | |
| Industrial | <u>9.49</u> | (e) Productive: | |
| (b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation | <u>0</u> | Irrigated cropland | <u>0</u> |
| | | Dry cropland | <u>0</u> |
| (c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas | <u>0</u> | Forestry | <u>0</u> |
| | | Rangeland | <u>0</u> |
| | | Other | <u>0</u> |

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

(a) Permits: N/A

(b) Funding:

| <u>Source</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Stimson Lumber Company | Donation of Title to Bearmouth parcel |

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Type of Responsibility</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Granite County | oversight of survey and property transfer |
| Granite County | Weed inspection and management agreement |
| Montana Dept. of Transportation | Transfer of lease |

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

The Clark Fork is one of the longest rivers in Montana, stretching more than 280 miles from its origin in the Silver Bow Mountains to the Idaho border. The Clark Fork River originates at the confluence of Silver Bow and Warm Springs creeks near Anaconda, MT. The section of river that would include the new Bearmouth FAS is called the Upper Clark Fork (relative to Region 2 MFWP), and is bordered on the north by the Garnet Range and on the south by the John Long Mountains and Sapphire Mountains. The Upper Clark Fork used to be heavily polluted from mining activities in Butte and Anaconda in the early and mid 1900s, and the fishery was decimated. After its headwaters were declared part of a large Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site in the 1980s, a significant amount of time and money has been spent cleaning up the river and preventing further contamination from heavy metals. As a result, the fishery in the Upper Clark Fork supports fishable populations of brown trout.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) proposes accepting donation of approximately 9.5 acres of land in the Bearmouth Canyon between Drummond and Clinton for a permanent Fishing Access Site (FAS) on the Upper Clark Fork River (Fig. 1). Although never formally developed, public use was previously allowed by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) on the old highway right-of way, but MDT discharged its easement in 1992, and the road has been closed to the public since then.

The acreage consists primarily of the old highway right-of way that is currently owned by Stimson Lumber Company, which wishes to donate it to MFWP. The parcel (Fig. 2) includes the old highway (which dead-ends at the interstate, Fig. 3); a narrow strip of steep rocky cliffside along the road to the north; and a wide, flat area on the east end of the parcel that is currently being leased to MDT (Fig. 4). MFWP would probably continue to lease that area to MDT if MFWP acquires the property.

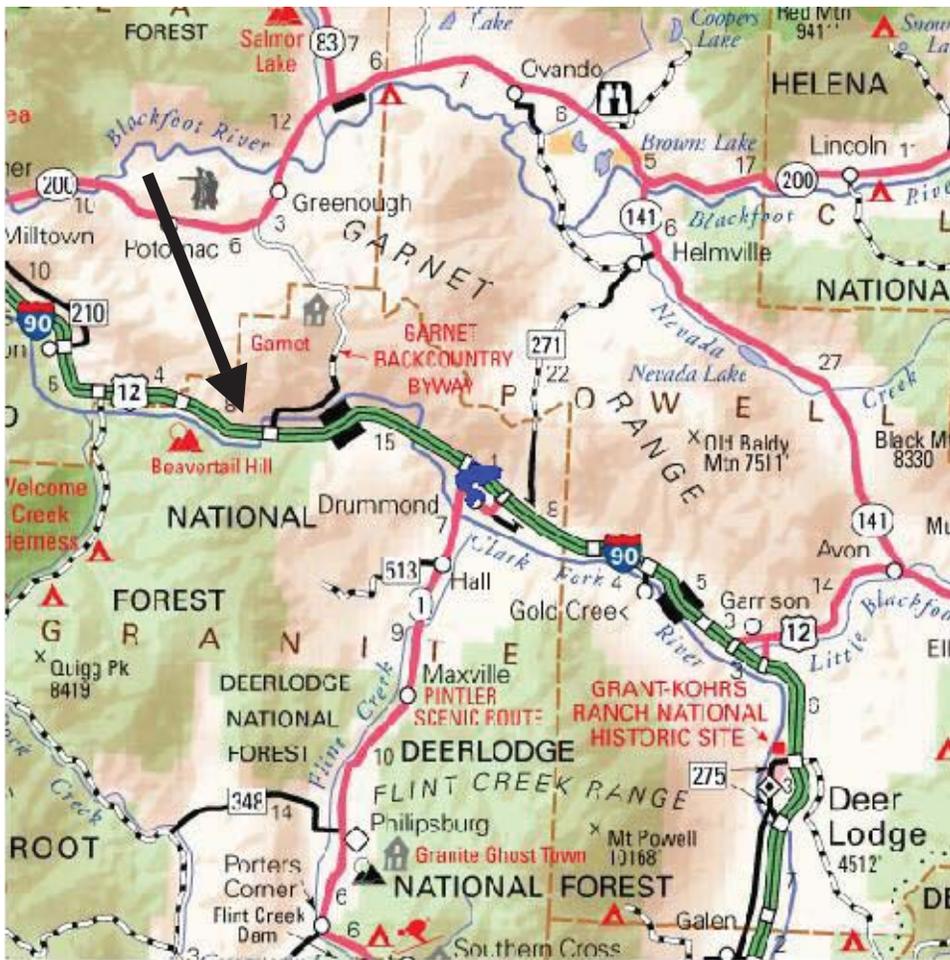


Figure 1. Area map showing approximate location of proposed FAS.

Access to the proposed FAS is easy and convenient, as users would take the Bearmouth exit #138 off of Interstate Highway 90, turn north and then turn west onto the old highway. The old highway borders private land for about 300 yards on the south and then runs alongside the river for about one-half mile, providing places to park and fish from the bank (Fig. 5 and 6). Trespassing onto the private land would be difficult because of the very steep bank, and would also be strongly discouraged by posted signs.

MFWP is interested in acquiring this land for inclusion in the statewide FAS system because there are very few designated public FASs on the Upper Clark Fork River and little opportunity for public access. There are no other MFWP FASs in the 28-mile section between Drummond (river mile 273) and Beavertail Hill State Park (river mile 245, east of Clinton). As efforts continue to clean up the Clark Fork and restore the fishery, angler days are steadily increasing on this stretch of the river. There were 23,666 angler days in the section of the Clark Fork River between the Bitterroot River and the Little Blackfoot River in 2003, making it the 6th most visited in the region and 28th in the state, up from 7th and 51st, respectively, in 1997. Park managers anticipate that this section will continue to gain in popularity as restoration efforts proceed and the fishery continues to improve.



Figure 3. Dead-end of old highway. Interstate 90 can be seen in background.



Figure 4. Area currently leased to MDT.



Figure 5. Clark Fork River looking upstream (east) on proposed FAS site.



Figure 6. Another view looking upstream (east) from the streambank.

This Draft EA addresses only the acquisition of the Stimson Lumber Company property, as well as the minimum required maintenance (weed control and installing FAS signage) necessary to administer this proposed FAS. This Draft EA does not include or address any possible improvements that might be made in the future. Benefits of the proposed action include the provision of greater public access to an increasingly popular river at little cost to MFWP. An additional benefit to accepting the donation of this parcel for a public FAS is that it already has a road through it, so MFWP would not have to shoulder the expense of putting one in at a later date, and a semi-developed piece of land would be used for public recreation instead of sitting vacant. Currently that road is closed to motorized public access. The acquisition of the Stimson parcel for inclusion in the statewide FAS system would greatly add to public recreational opportunities in the Region 2 MFWP and would have no significant adverse effects to the physical or human environment.

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 were taken, the parcel in question would remain under its present ownership. MFWP would lose a rare opportunity to establish an FAS in the area at very little cost, and public access to the Clark Fork River would continue to be very limited in the upper sections.

Preferred Alternative B: Proposed Action

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. Environmental Review Checklist (beginning on page 10).

In the preferred alternative, Stimson Lumber Company would donate approximately 9.49 acres to MFWP for an FAS on the Upper Clark Fork River. By accepting this land, MFWP would be able to increase public access on an increasingly popular stretch of river at little cost and do so utilizing an already semi-developed parcel of land.

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

There are no mitigation, stipulations, or other controls associated with the actions. Therefore, no evaluation is necessary.

3. Private Property Regulatory Restrictions:

Actions described in this environmental analysis do not regulate the use of private, tangible personal property, and therefore do not require an evaluation of regulatory restrictions on private property.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The ecosystem of the Upper Clark Fork River was significantly damaged by mine tailings in the early and middle 1900s, but after extensive restoration efforts and regulation it is making a comeback and recreational fishing is now improving in these upper sections. Public fishing pressure was focused on other areas for several decades, so there was little demand for greater access to the river. Now that the river is becoming healthier and fish stocks are recovering, anglers are rediscovering the Upper Clark Fork and seeking greater access. In the last decade fishing pressure has nearly doubled from 12,660 angler days to 23,666 angler days on the stretch of Clark Fork River between the Bitterroot and Little Blackfoot Rivers. Brown trout now exist in sufficient numbers to support greater fishing pressure than this species is currently receiving.

The establishment of an FAS at this site would be in line with MFWP's Six-Year Operation Plan for the Fisheries Program, which has as a stated goal to "identify waters in need of additional access and develop strategies to meet these needs" ..

The proposed acquisition would increase public recreational opportunities with no significant environmental impacts.

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: a) a legal notice in the *Helena Independent Record*, *The Missoulian*, and the *Philipsburg Mail* newspapers; b) public notice on the MFWP web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>, c) a statewide news release. Individual notices will be sent to those that have requested one, as well as Region 2 MFWP's standard distribution list.

- 2. Duration of comment period, if any.**

A 30-day comment period is proposed, and it will run from **June 15 through 5 P.M. July 14, 2006**. We believe 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, this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed action. In determining the significance of the impacts of the proposed project, MFWP 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. MFWP assessed: the growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact; the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected; any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit MFWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. As this EA revealed no significant impacts from the proposed actions, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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

Lee Bastian
Region 2 Park Supervisor
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406)542-5517

Allan Kuser
Fishing Access Site Coordinator
1420 East 6th Ave
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-7885

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith
Independent Contractor
1027 9th 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 Section

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 | | | | |
| 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: | | X | | | | |

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

- 1a. The proposed action involves only a donation of property to MFWP and does not include development or physical alteration of the property. If the property is transferred, any proposed future development will be the subject of another EA available for public comment.

| 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. The proposed action involves only a donation of property to MFWP and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.

| 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 | | | | 3a. |
| 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. ****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 involves only a donation of property to MFWP and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.

| 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 positive | | | 4a. |
| b. Alteration of a plant community? | | | X positive | | | 4b. |
| 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 positive | | | 4e. |
| 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. If MFWP gains ownership of this parcel, managers would initiate a weed control program which would include spraying, biological control, and hand pulling as needed. MCA 7-22-2154 requires Granite Co.'s approval of a weed management agreement and inspection. The diversity of the remaining plant community would likely increase as a result.
- 4b. Please see comment 4a.
- 4e. An accurate report detailing the types and amounts of weeds on the site is not available at this time, but from its location and state of development it can be assumed that there are some noxious weeds present, particularly spotted knapweed. If MFWP acquires the property; the parcel would be incorporated into the MFWP Region 2 Weed Management Plan, and the noxious weeds would be controlled. Therefore, the proposed action would not lead to the establishment of any new populations of noxious weeds and would decrease the likelihood of weeds being spread from the site.

| ** 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 | | yes | 5b. |
| 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 | | yes | 5g. |
| 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):

5b. The proposed action would increase public access to the Upper Clark Fork River, which would likely result in more fishing pressure and more game fish mortality. Department fisheries biologists feel that fish populations in this section of the Clark Fork River can support the expected increase in pressure. Game wardens regularly patrol FAS' to ensure that anglers are complying with state regulations.

5g. The donation of land itself would not affect wildlife populations. Once the site became open to the public, the presence of recreationists on the property could cause stress to wildlife populations. However, the parcel is already developed and is the site of a MDT sand and gravel pile, and is located directly adjacent to I-90, so any wildlife in the area is probably already accustomed to human presence and noise, and probably wouldn't be affected much by the presence of anglers and the additional traffic they would generate.

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 no increase in noise from the proposed action. Once the site became open to the public there would be a very slight increase in noise. Adjacent landowners would not be affected.

| 7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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. Conflicted 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 | | | 7e. |

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

- 7a. The proposed action would not alter or interfere with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use, nor does it conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance.
- 7e. As the site survey shows in Figure 2 (page 5), some privately owned land sits between the road leading through the parcel and the Clark Fork River on the eastern end of the site. Trespassing should not be a common occurrence because signs would lead recreationists towards the western end of the site and there is an extremely steep bank between the two parcels. Any limited potential trespass would be mitigated by the posting of signs along the property lines.

| 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 | | yes | 8a. |
| b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan? | | X | | | | |
| c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard? | | X | | | | |
| 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. The MFWP Region 2 Weed Management Plan calls for an integrated method of managing weeds, including the use of herbicides. The use of herbicides would be in compliance with application guidelines and conducted by people trained in safe handling techniques. Weeds would also be controlled using mechanical or biological means in certain areas to reduce the risk of chemical spills or water contamination.

| 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 | | | | 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. The proposed action would not alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population in the area.

| 10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES | IMPACT * | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated * | Comment Index |
|---|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Unknown * | None | Minor * | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues? | | | X | | | 10b. |
| 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 | | | | |
| d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source? | | X | | | | |
| 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):

- 10b. Montana MFWP is required to make payments to counties in a sum equal to the amount of taxes payable as if the property were owned by a private citizen (MCA-87-1-603). It is likely that the taxes on this parcel would be higher for MFWP than Stimson because of the change in tax classification.
- 10e. Stimson Lumber Co. would donate the 9.49 acres to MFWP.
- 10f. Maintenance cost estimates for the site are pending, but it is estimated that they would be about \$1200/yr.

| ** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> | IMPACT * | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated * | Comment Index |
|---|--|------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Will the proposed action result in: | Unknown * | None | Minor * | | |
| a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view? | | X | | | | |
| b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood? | | X | | | | |
| c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.) | | | X | | | 11c. |
| d. *** <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.) | | | | | | |
| e. Other: | | X | | | | |

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

11c. The proposed donation would increase public access to the Upper Clark Fork River, thereby improving recreational opportunities in the area and Region.

| 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 | | | | |
| 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 action would not destroy or alter any site, structure or object of historic importance.

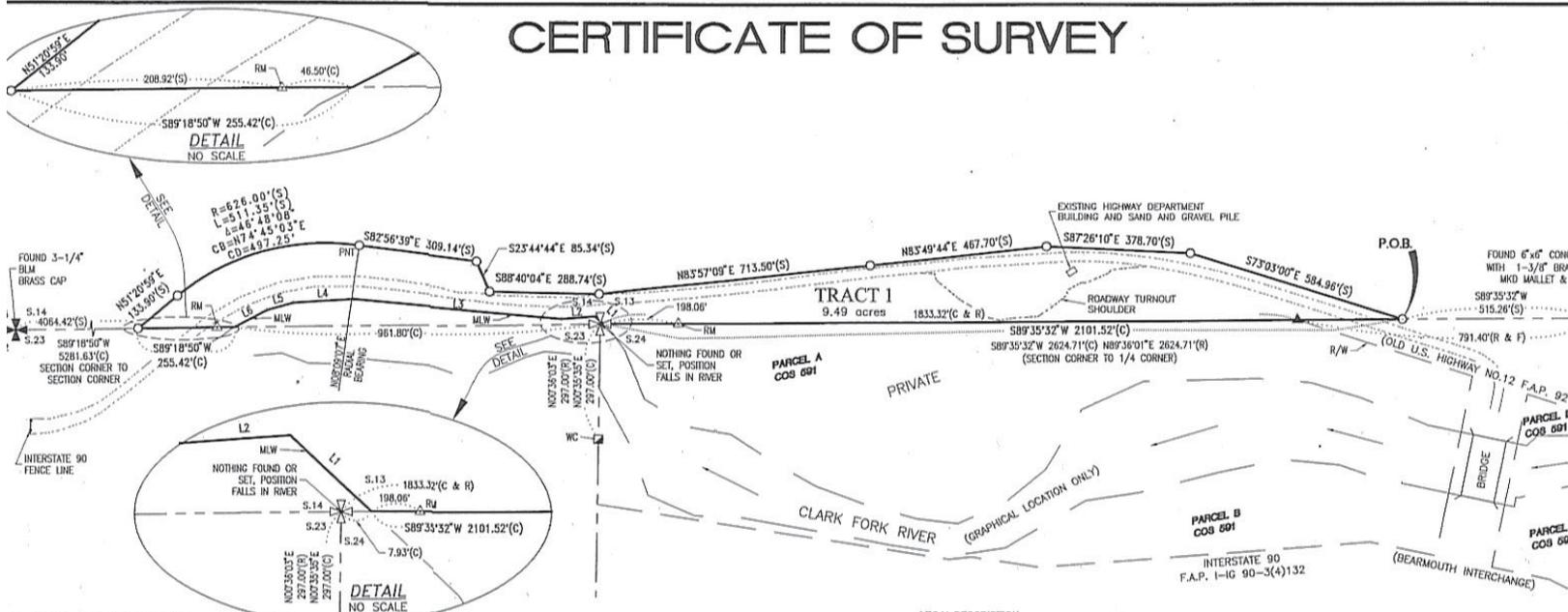
SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

| 13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole: | IMPACT * | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated * | Comment Index |
|---|------------|------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Un-known * | 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):

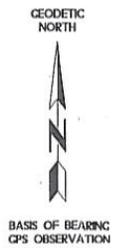
13a. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action.

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY



| LINE | BEARING | LENGTH |
|------|-------------|---------|
| L1 | N47°18'53"W | 29.11' |
| L2 | S82°52'06"W | 89.47' |
| L3 | N84°58'22"W | 546.94' |
| L4 | S86°35'46"W | 159.74' |
| L5 | S74°30'34"W | 71.24' |
| L6 | S62°44'23"W | 96.94' |

- LEGEND**
- CALCULATED SECTION CORNER POSITION
 - FOUND SECTION CORNER MONUMENT, AS NOTED
 - ▲ FOUND 1/4 SECTION CORNER MONUMENT, AS NOTED
 - ▽ SET 5/8" x 24" REBAR WITH FWP 2-1/2" ALUMINUM CAP MARKED RM HOWARD 8376 S
 - SET 5/8" x 24" REBAR WITH FWP 2-1/2" ALUMINUM CAP MARKED HOWARD 8376 S
 - ▲ FOUND 2-1/2" BRASS CAP WITNESS CORNER (W.C.) MARKED 2532 S
 - ▲ FOUND 2" ALUMINUM CAP ON 5/8" REBAR MARKED MILAM 9007
 - 1.B. LEGAL DESCRIPTION POINT OF BEGINNING
 - 1) RECORD, CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY NO.591
 - 2) FOUND
 - 3) SET
 - 4) CALCULATED
 - APPROXIMATE EDGE OF EXISTING ASPHALT ROADWAY
 - /W HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
 - M REFERENCE MONUMENT
 - VT POINT OF NON-TANGENCY
 - MEAN LOW WATER (AS FIELD MEASUREMENT) ± 1.4 (M)
 - .W



SURVEYORS STATEMENT

I HEREBY STATE THAT THIS CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY IS A REPRESENTATION OF A SURVEY PERFORMED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION, DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2005 THROUGH MARCH 2006.

BY: GLENN R. HOWARD, PLS 8376 S DATE _____
DJUA, P.C.

UNLESS SIGNED, SEALED AND DATED, THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PLAT

CERTIFICATE OF EXAMINING LAND SURVEYOR

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE HERETO ANNEXED CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY SUBDIVISION PLAT MEETS THE CONDITIONS PURSUANT TO THE MONTANA SUBDIVISION AND PLATTING ACT, 76-3-11(2)(a).

EXAMINING LAND SURVEYOR _____ DATE _____

CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY SANITARIAN

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN EXAMINED TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS ACT AND ARM 16.214(10)-S14340 SUBDIVISIONS.

GRANITE COUNTY SANITARIAN _____ DATE _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) OF SECTION 13 AND SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF SECTION 14, TOW NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN MONTANA, GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

TRACT 1

COMMENCING AT THE ONE-QUARTER CORNER COMMON TO SECTIONS 13 AND 24, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN MONTANA, THENCE S89°35'32"W, 515.26 FEET UPON THE SECTION LINE COMMON TO SAID SECTIONS 13 AND 24, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUING UPON SAID SECTION LINE, S89°35'32"W, 2101.52 FEET, TO THE NORTHERLY MEAN LOW WATER LINE OF THE CLARK FORK RIVER THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) MEANDER COURSES UPON SAID MEAN LOW WATER LINE; (1) THENCE N47°18'53"W, 29.11 FEET; (2) THENCE S85°57'06"W, 89.47 FEET; (3) THENCE N84°58'22"W, 546.94 FEET; (4) THENCE S88°35'48"W, 159.74 FEET; (5) THENCE S74°30'34"W, 71.24 FEET; (6) THENCE S62°44'23"W, 96.94 FEET TO THE SECTION LINE COMMON TO SECTIONS 14 AND 23; THENCE UPON SAID SECTION LINE, S89°18'50"W, 255.42 FEET; THENCE N51°20'59"E, 133.90 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE UPON SAID CURVE TO THE RIGHT BEING CONCAVE TO THE SOUTH; RADIUS OF 626.00 FEET, A DELTA OF 46°48'00", AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 511.35 FEET TO A POINT OF NON-TANGENCY; THENCE S82°52'06"W, 89.47 FEET; THENCE S23°44'44"E, 85.34 FEET; THENCE S88°40'04"E, 288.74 FEET; THENCE N83°57'00"E, 713.50 FEET; THENCE N83°49'44"E, 467.70 FEET; THENCE N83°57'00"E, 378.70 FEET; THENCE S73°03'00"E, 584.96 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 9.49 ACRES, SUBJECT TO ALL EASES AND/OR RESERVATIONS AND/OR DEDICATIONS EXISTING, SHOWN, OR OF RECORD.

OWNERS CERTIFICATION

WE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIVISION IS CREATED FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND A SUBSEQUENT CHANGE IN THE USE LAND TO A RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR INDUSTRIAL USE IS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 76, M.C.A., THEREFORE THIS IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW AS A SUBDIVISION PURSUANT TO SECTION 76-3-201(1)(b) M.C.A., AND THIS SURVEY IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 76-4-125(2)(a).

BY: _____ VICE PRESIDENT, RESOURCES _____ DATE _____

STATE OF _____ COUNTY OF _____

ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2006, PERSONALLY APPEARED _____ BEFORE ME A NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF _____

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF _____ RESIDING AT _____ MY COMMISSION EXPIRES _____

PURPOSE OF SURVEY

1/4 SEC. T. R. FILED ON THE _____ DAY OF _____

STATE OF MONTANA COUNTY OF GRANITE

Figure 2. Certificate of Survey for the land parcel proposed as Bearmouth FAS.