



**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks** **RECEIVED**  
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1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

July 10, 2006

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Jerry DiMarco, PO Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, PO Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Bill Dana, 3065 E. River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047

Andy Dana, 1700 W. Koch, Bozeman, MT 59715

Doris Loomis, 3152 East River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047

Hilda Harper, East River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed construction of parking improvements at Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS). The proposed improvements include increased parking capacity and a vehicle turn around area.

The draft EA is available for review from FWP at the address provided above or viewed on FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on August 16, 2006. Comments should be sent to the following:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Attn: Tom Greason  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Or emailed to: [tgreason@mt.gov](mailto:tgreason@mt.gov)

Sincerely,

Patrick Flowers  
Region Three Supervisor  
Attachment

# Environmental Assessment

## Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site Improvements

July 5, 2006

- \* 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 can not 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.

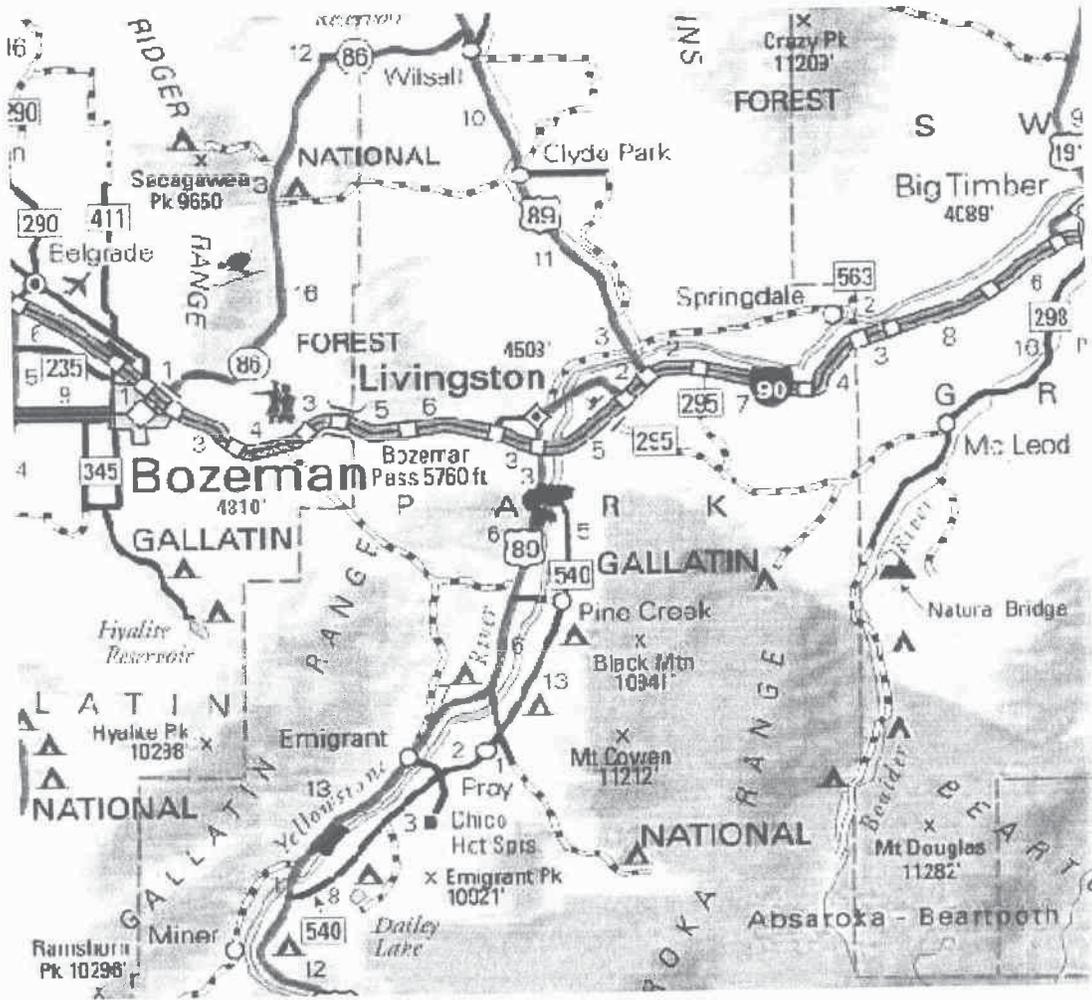
**Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST**

**PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes a construction project to improve and increase parking at Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS). A vehicle turn-around area would also be created and barrier rocks would be placed to delineate parking areas.
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605, which directs FWP to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing access sites (FAS). The legislature established a funding account to ensure that this function would be accomplished. The opportunity for public involvement regarding the proposed project is provided under MCA 23-1-110. Section 23-2-101 MCA, allows FWP to plan and develop outdoor recreational resources in the state and receive and expend funds, including federal funds.
3. **Name of Project** Carter's Bridge FAS Parking Lot Improvements
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 Construction/Commencement Date	Spring 2007
Estimated Completion Date	Summer 2007
Current Status of Project Design (% complete)	
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)** Carter's Bridge FAS can be reached by traveling 3 miles south of Livingston on US Highway 89 then ¼ mile east on Secondary 540 (East River Road). The site is located in Park County, Montana, Township 03 South, Range 09 East, Section 12, and lies on the Yellowstone River.

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General site location map. Carter's Bridge FAS is indicated by the blue fish symbol.

**7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

Acres	Acres
(a) Developed:	(d) Floodplain ..... <u>2</u>
residential .....	
industrial .....	
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation .....	(e) Productive:
	irrigated cropland .....
	dry cropland .....
	forestry .....
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas .....	rangeland .....
	other .....

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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.

See Appendix A.

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

(a) **Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Park County	Flood Plain Permit	

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$20,000

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

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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**10. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**

The proposed project would enhance Carter's Bridge FAS by increasing parking capacity and creating a safe turn-around area for vehicles. Two new parking areas will be created; one to accommodate seven single vehicles, and a second parking area to accommodate six truck/trailer vehicles. Existing parking areas would also be expanded and improved to better accommodate trucks and trailers. Additionally, new barrier rocks will be added to keep vehicles confined to designated parking areas.

Carter's Bridge FAS is located approximately three miles south of Livingston on the Yellowstone River and is the first boat launch upriver from town. This location makes the site highly popular with outdoor enthusiasts (anglers, boaters, swimmers, rock climbers, etc.) Currently, there is parking available for 12-15 vehicles. Historically, parking spilled over onto the county road causing traffic hazards. In 2003, area residents complained of the safety hazards that were a result of overflow vehicles parking on the shoulder of the road. A meeting was held between FWP staff, local law enforcement and area landowners resulting in a decision to begin ticketing and towing vehicles that parked on the shoulder of the highway. A sign was posted in the site informing users of this decision.

The addition of two new parking areas would improve visitor's use of the site. In addition, creating a vehicle turn around area would enhance the flow of traffic from the boat ramp to the parking areas and provide a safe way to exit onto the highway.

**11. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Parks Division  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division  
Design & Construction Bureau  
Montana State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)  
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism Development  
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resource Information System

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**PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

1. 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 proposed project will not alter geological substructure and will minimally impact soil stability. Surface runoff will be minimal due to the small scope of the project. These effects can be mitigated by the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) during construction, which would limit the danger of creating unstable soils.

**1b.** The new parking areas as well as the turn-around area will be partially constructed in the location of mature cottonwood trees, and thus result in over-covering of soil.

**1c.** The proposed plan will not destroy, cover or modify any unique geological or physical feature.

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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 I)			X		Yes	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)		X				
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 amounts of dust and vehicle emissions will be created during construction.

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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		Yes	3b.
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)		X				
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)		X				
n. Other:		X				

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

**3b.** To help minimize changes in drainage patterns caused by construction, the proposed project will be located on an area of low slope. In addition, the work will be done to Best Management Practices (BMP) standards, which will divert all runoff from parking areas and roads away from the river.

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4. <u>VEGETATION</u> 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			See 4a.
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			4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

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

**4a.** Approximately .5 acres of cottonwood forest will be removed to construct the parking areas and the vehicle turn around area. The number of trees removed will be minimized.

**4c.** The Montana Natural Heritage Program (Natural Resources Information System) found no species of concern in their databases for this area (March 27, 2006).

**4e.** Development of an area often leads to the establishment or spread of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds will be monitored by FWP after completion of construction and controlled in accordance with methods outlined in the Region 3 Weed Management Plan.

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** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> 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		Yes	5f
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)		X				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)		X				See 5f
j. Other:		X				

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

5f. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's database indicated that one federally threatened species, *Lynx canadensis* (Lynx) and two sensitive species *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon) and *Oncorhynchus clarkia bouvieri* (Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout) have been observed in the greater Carter's Bridge FAS area. The small scope of the project will not result in a notable effect on any of these species. Adverse effects can be mitigated by posting and enforcing regulations.

5g. The proposed project may increase site visitation that can cause stress to wildlife populations; but this site has a history of heavy use and any effect the proposed project will have will be negligible. Limiting site usage through the number of parking spaces, limiting site access through barriers, and posting site regulations will minimize any stress to wildlife populations.

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## 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		Yes.	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 Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**6a.** The proposed project will result in a small increase in noise levels during construction. Also, an increase in existing noise levels would occur with an increase in visitation. However, the proposed project is being done to accommodate the usage that is already occurring; therefore, an increase in noise levels will be minimal.

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				
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				

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8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
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. 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)		X				
e. Other:		X				

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

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
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				

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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				
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				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used 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 Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

10e. The proposed project will be funded through fishing license revenue.

10f. Maintenance costs will be funded through the Region 3 Fishing Access Site Maintenance Account. Maintenance costs are projected to be \$1,500 annually. Additionally, weed maintenance costs are projected to be \$300 annually.

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<b>** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION</b>	<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>		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
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. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

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

11c. The proposed project will improve the public services at the FAS. It will improve the quality and quantity of recreational settings. (See attached Tourism Report, Appendix B)

<b>12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>	<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>		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
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)		X				See 12d.
e. Other:		X				

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

12d. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) found a low likelihood of impact to cultural resources. (See Appendix C for clearance letter from SHPO).

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## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

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 that 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. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

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

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## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, CONTINUED**

2. **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**

Parking at Carter's Bridge FAS is unimproved. Carter's Bridge FAS is a popular site with anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Its close proximity to Livingston contributes to the high usage of the site. Currently, there is parking available for 12-15 vehicles. Frequently the parking area cannot accommodate the number of people visiting the site. Boaters and anglers would have to use a shuttle service to use the site.

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

The proposed project would increase single vehicle parking and truck/trailer parking, expand existing truck/trailer parking as well as provide a turn around area for vehicles. The additional parking capacity will allow more visitors to access the site and the turn around area will provide a safe and quick way to move between the parking areas, the boat launch and the highway.

### **Alternative C:**

Provide fifteen single vehicle parking spaces, a turn around area and expand existing truck/trailer parking. Under this alternative there would be no additional truck/trailer parking spaces. This alternative would be less costly and it would decrease some of the parking pressure; however, boaters would have to use a shuttle service under this alternative.

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

The site improvements are designed following Best Management Practices (BMP). FWP engineering staff would oversee the completion of the project to ensure construction meets state specifications.

## **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

This analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment.

The proposed project at Carter's Bridge FAS has been designed to keep development to a minimum while providing safe access to the fishing access site, which provides recreational opportunities desired by the public. Carter's Bridge is a highly used site due to its close proximity to Livingston. Development of this site may increase visitation; however, the proposed improvements are designed to accommodate usage that is already occurring and prevent degradation of the site. The proposed level of development is appropriate as it will accommodate current visitors and improve access to the site

## PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

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 impacts to the physical and human environment under MEPA, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts from the proposed action: therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis.

2. **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 in the following ways to comment on the EA of Carter's Bridge FAS improvements:

1. Legal notices will be published in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, the *Livingston Enterprise*, and the *Helena Independent Record*.
2. Legal notice and the Draft EA will be posted on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>

3. **Duration of comment period, if any.**

The public comment period will extend for thirty days following the release of the EA. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm on August 16, 2006. Comments may be emailed to [tgreason@mt.gov](mailto:tgreason@mt.gov) or written comments may be sent to the following address: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Carter's Bridge FAS EA, 1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

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

Misty Edwards  
Parks Clerical Assistant  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Tom Greason  
Region 3 FAS Coordinator  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Jerry Walker  
Region 3 Parks Manager  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

## **Appendices Index**

Appendix A – Overall site plan for Carter’s Bridge Fishing Access site improvements.

Appendix B – Montana Department of Commerce Tourism Report.

Appendix C – Montana State Historical Preservation Office clearance letter (SHPO).

Appendix D - Project Qualification Checklist / HB 495

Appendix E – Site Photos.



MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495  
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in tis 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  
Montana Promotion Division  
Department of Commerce  
1424 9th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Carter's Bridge FAS Parking Improvements

Project Description: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes a project to improve the parking at Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site. Existing parking areas would be leveled and widened, two new parking areas would be added to accommodate 7 more single vehicle parking spaces and 6 additional truck/trailer parking spaces. Additionally, a vehicle turn-around area would be constructed. Rock barriers would also be placed to define parking areas and limits.

1. Would this site development project have a impact on the tourism economy?  
 NO  Yes If YES, briefly describe:  
 The project appears to improve public access and services at the Carter's Bridge FAS

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?  
 NO  Yes If YES, briefly describe:  
 The project appears to improve both the quality & quantity of tourism/recreation opportunities at this site

Signature Victor Bjornberg

Date 5-18-06



# MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201  
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) ♦

April 13, 2006

RECEIVED

APR 17 2006

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Bardell Mangum  
FWP  
PO Box 200701  
Helena MT 59620-0701

RE: CARTER'S BRIDGE FAS. SHPO Project #: 2006041308

Dear Mr. Mangum:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 12, T3S R9E. According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. There have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at [dmurdo@mt.gov](mailto:dmurdo@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Damon Murdo  
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/FISH/2006



## Appendix D

### PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST HB 495

Date: June 20, 2006

Person Reviewing: Misty Edwards

Project Location: Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) can be reached by traveling 3 miles south of Livingston on US Highway 89 then ¼ mile east on Secondary 540 (East River Road). The site is located in Park County, Montana, Township 03 South, Range 09 East, Section 12, and lies on the Yellowstone River.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to project to improve parking at Carter's Bridge FAS. Existing parking areas would be leveled and widened; two new parking areas would be added to accommodate 7 single vehicle parking spaces and 6 truck and trailer parking spaces. Additionally, a vehicle turn-around area would be constructed. Rock barriers would be placed to define parking areas and limits.

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). Capital Construction projects - Prepared by D & C; Force Account Projects - Prepared by Region.

A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

Comments: *A new vehicle turn around area will be built over undisturbed land.*

B. New building construction (buildings < 100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?

Comments:

C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?

Comments: *The construction of two new parking areas and a new turn around area may require cut and fill of more than 20 cubic yards.*

D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?

Comments: *Currently, there is parking for 12-15 vehicles at the site. The proposed improvements will create 13 additional parking spaces.*

E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?

Comments:

F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?

Comments:

G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments:

H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments:

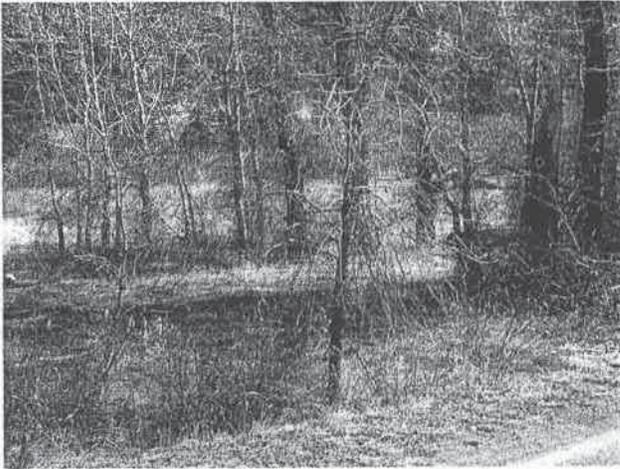
I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?  
Comments:

J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects.  
Comments:

*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.*

cc: Park Managers, Region  
D&C  
Project File

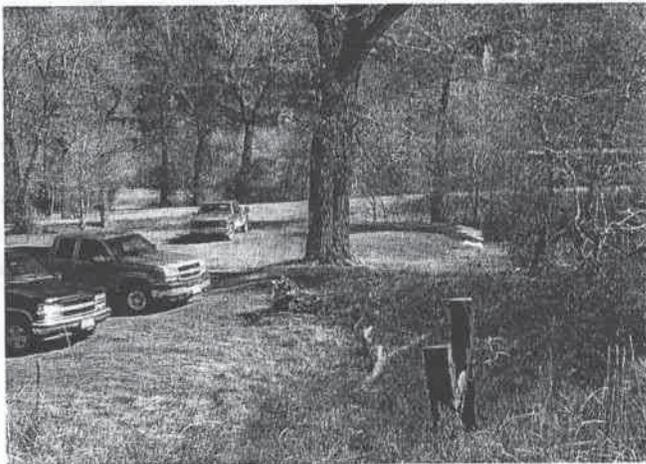
## Appendix E



Close up of cottonwood trees where proposed truck and trailer parking would be located. Photo taken from road looking east.



Approximate location of where proposed turn around area would be. Photo taken from road looking north.



Current parking area. Proposed action would reclaim, level and expand this area of the parking lot. Photo taken from the highway looking east.