FINAL
Environmental Assessment

Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site Enhancement

November 21, 2006

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site Enhancement
Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) proposes to enhance Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site. Enhancement would include construction of an ADA accessible fishing platform, relocation of an existing precast vault latrine (125 feet), removal of an existing sidewalk system (approximately 70 yards long) and maintenance/upgrade on the existing boat ramp.

1. Type of Proposed Action:

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

2. Agency authority for the proposed action: The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605 MCA, which directs MFWP 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. Sections 12-8-213, 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 15-1-122, 61-3-321, and 87-1-303, MCA, authorize the collection fees and charges for the use of state park system units and fishing access sites, and contain rule-making authority for their use, occupancy, and protection. The opportunity for public involvement regarding the proposed project is provided under MCA 23-1-110. Section 23-2-101 MCA, allows MFWP to plan and develop outdoor recreational resources in the state, and receive and expend funds, including federal funds.

2. Name of Project

Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site Enhancement

3. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor

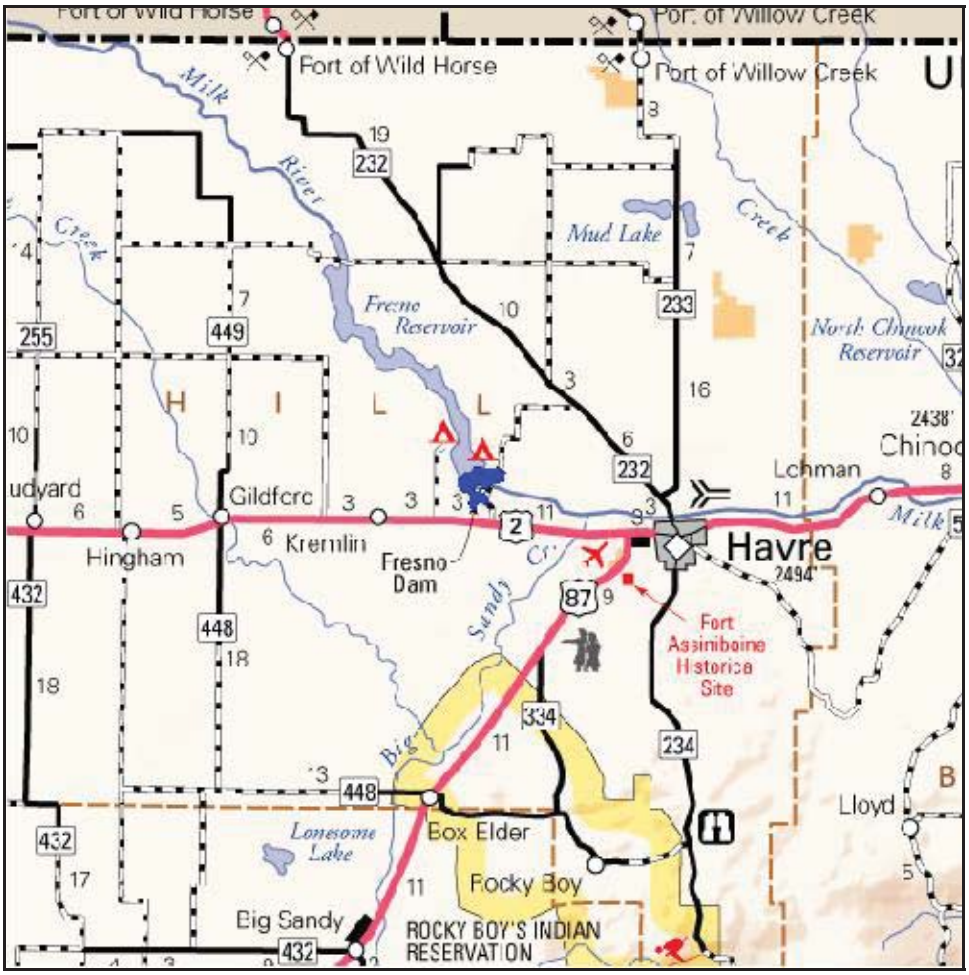
Allan Kuser	Woody Baxter
Fishing Access Site Coordinator	Regional Parks Manager
Montana FWP, HQ	Montana FWP, Region 6
PO Box 200701	54078 US Hwy 2 W.
Helena, MT 59620	Glasgow, MT 59230
406-444-7885	406-228-3707

4. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring of 2007
Estimated Completion Date: Fall of 2007
Current Status of Project Design (percentage complete): 25%

5. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range, and township)

Fresno Tailwater FAS is located 11 miles west of Havre on Hwy 2, 1-mile north on Fresno Road. The site is located in section 20, Township 33 North, Range 14 East, Hill County, Montana. The site is 35.00 acres.



Blue Fish delineates location of Fresno Tailwater FAS.

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

(a) Developed:
Residential ..... 0 acres
Industrial ..... 0 acres

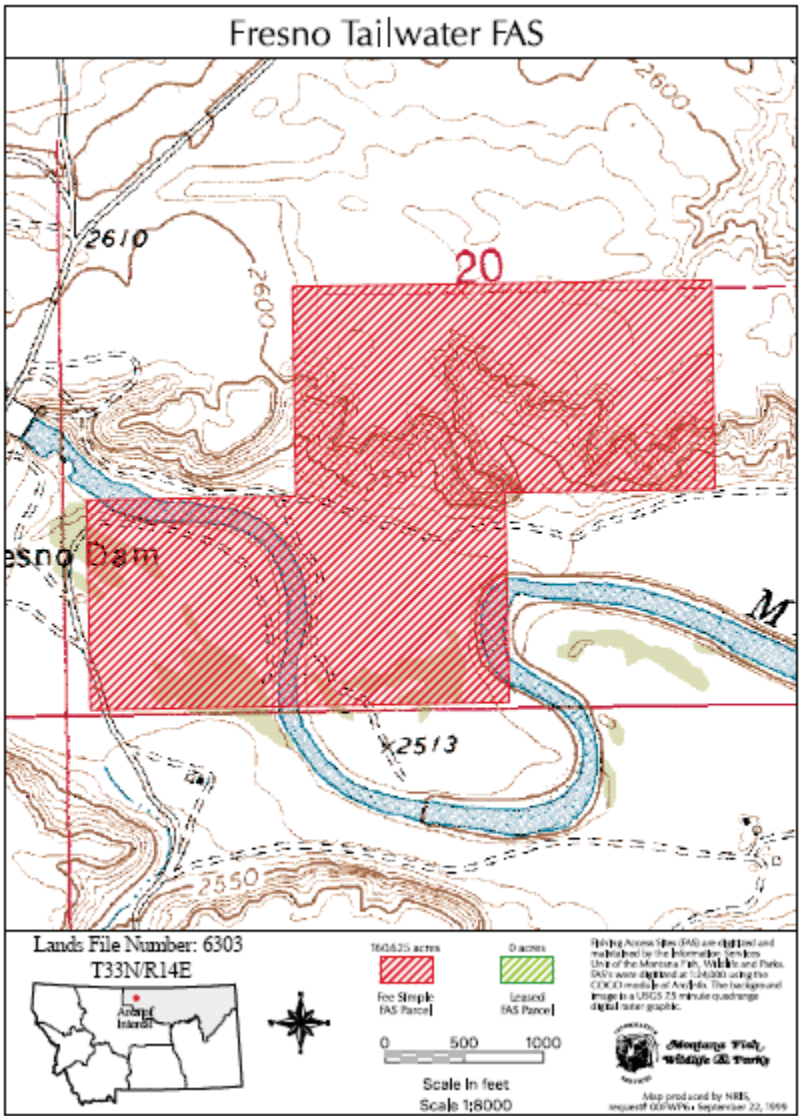
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation.....1 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas..... 0 acres

(d) Floodplain..... 0 acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland ..... 0 acres
dry cropland ..... 0 acres
forestry ..... 0 acres
rangeland ..... 0 acres
other ..... 0 acres

7. Map/site plan:



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

(a) Permits: permits will be secured prior to project start.

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#
MFWP Stream Bank Protection	124	
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	318	
Hill County	Floodplain Permit	
Army Corps of Engineers	404	

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
MFWP Fishing License Dollars	$40,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	1) Ownership of a portion of property within the proposed project area. 2) A Cooperative Agreement with FWP for this recreation site (October 19, 1993).

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

Fresno Tailwater FAS is one of two FAS maintained by MFWP on the milk river (445.5 river mile). Bjornberg FAS is the next closest FAS located at river mile 154 on the Milk River. This FAS is on a stretch of the Milk River (river mile 412.1 to 445.7) that has a high Fisheries Resource Value based on habitat and sport-fishing opportunities. It is a popular location for anglers during spring, summer, and fall. Bank fishing, pier fishing (Figure 1), and boat fishing occur at the site. Game fish opportunities include black crappie, burbot, lake whitefish, northern pike, rainbow trout, sauger, walleye and yellow perch. In 2003, the Statewide Angling Survey estimated Angling Use from river mile 424.5 to 445.7 at 1188 days per year. This stretch of the Milk River ranks 246th state wide and 17th in the region.

Figure 1. Current fishing pier at Fresno Tailwater FAS.

The proposed action is to enhance the Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site by construction of an ADA accessible fishing platform (Figure 2), relocation of a vault latrine to improve ADA access (Figure3), removal of a sidewalk that is unnecessary due to development plan changes (Figure 4), and maintenance of the existing boat ramp (Appendix 2 Site Plan). These enhancements will improve fishing opportunities, boater access, improve ADA access, and enhance the site.

Figure 2. New fishing pier would be located to the left of the end of the other fishing pier.

The current fishing pier is on the bank and can be difficult to fish from when the water is low. There is riprap in front of the pier, which can make casting into the water difficult (Figure 1). As a result, anglers often launch boats to fish at the site. A new fishing pier would be ADA accessible and be located further out from the bank. This would improve angler access to the river.

Relocation of the vault latrine would improve ADA access. The current location of the latrine is about 140 feet uphill from the ADA accessible parking pad and the proposed location of the new fishing pier. The relocation site will be 125 feet downhill from the previous site and closer to the ADA accessible parking pad (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Latrine would be moved near bushes. Picture was taken from the old latrine location. ADA parking pad can be seen in the background.

Removal of the sidewalk will enhance the site. The sidewalk was constructed when the ADA accessible parking pad and ADA accessible vault latrine were in different locations. Restoring this sidewalk to native grasses will improve the aesthetics of the site.

The existing gravel boat ramp needs maintenance performed on it. Currently there is a two to three foot drop off at the end of the boat ramp, instead of a gradual decline into the water. Existing boat ramp needs to be put back to grade. In addition, the boat ramp needs aggregate armoring to prevent future problems.

HB495 Qualification

The proposed action does not fall under HB 495. Please see Appendix 1.

Figure 4. Sidewalk that will be removed.

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 comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

Alternative A: No Action
MFWP would not construct a fishing pier, relocate the vault latrine, remove the sidewalk, or repair the boat ramp. Angler access, motorboat access, ADA access, and aesthetics at the site would not be improved.

Alternative B: Enhance Fresno Tailwater FAS
The proposed action is to enhance the Fresno Tailwater FAS by construction of an ADA accessible fishing platform, relocation of an existing precast vault latrine (125 feet), removal of an existing sidewalk system (approximately 70 yards long), and maintenance on the existing boat ramp. These enhancements will improve fishing opportunities, improve boater access, improve ADA access, and enhance aesthetics at the site.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:
There is no mitigation, stipulations, or other controls associated with this action. Therefore, no evaluation is necessary.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

This analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment. The proposed site has been used in the past as a public recreation area this action would continue and improve that use.

There will be minor impacts on the land, air, and water resources from the proposed project. The proposed project will minimally affect soil stability. Moving the vault latrine will cause overcovering of the soil. Removing the sidewalk will improve productivity and fertility at the site. Minor amounts of dust will be temporarily created during construction. The proposed project will cause minor discharge into surface water and may alter surface water quality. The proposed project will cause minor changes in the amount of surface runoff during construction. Best Management Practices will be utilized during design and construction of the project to minimize overcovering of the soil and surface discharge alterations.

There will be minor impacts on vegetation, fish, and wildlife from the proposed project. Approximately 0.1 acres of vegetation will be removed during movement of the latrine. The FAS is managed under the Region 6—Noxious Weed and Exotic Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. Weed management would not be altered due to the proposed action. As this site is already receiving recreational use and construction is occurring in a previously disturbed area, the proposed project will not alter or will minimally alter fish and wildlife (game and non-game) habitat, diversity, or abundance.

There will be minor impacts to the human environment. There will be a minor increase in noise during construction; however, this will be short term (and will not have a significant impact on visitors to the site). MFWP will follow the guidelines of the good neighbor policy for public recreation lands (MCA 23-1-126.) to have “no impact upon adjoining private and public lands by preventing impact on those adjoining lands from noxious weeds, trespass, litter, noise and light pollution, streambank erosion and loss of privacy.” There will be no alteration of public services, taxes, or utilities with the proposed project. The quality and quantity of the recreation/tourism at this site would be improved through better public services, access and user capacity. There is a low likelihood that cultural properties would be impacted by the proposed project.

This site has been examined for Cultural Resources several times with negatives results. For that portion of the land owned by the State of Montana, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been completed (Appendix 4). Consultation for the portion of the FAS, which is on Federal land, has been initiated with a recommendation of No Historic Properties Affected.

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 in the following ways to comment on the EA of the Fresno Tailwater FAS Enhancement

1. Legal notices will be published in the *Havre Daily News*.
2. Legal notice and the draft EA will be posted on the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks web page: *http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices*

This level of public involvement is appropriate for a project of this size.

2. Duration of comment period, if any.

The public comment period will be 30 days. Comments may be emailed to gwbaxter@mt.gov, or written comments may be sent to the following address:

Woody Baxter
Regional Parks Manager
Montana FWP, Region 6
54078 U.S. HWY 2 W.
Glasgow, MT 59230

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?
NO
If an EIS is not required, explain <u>why</u> 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. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Allan Kuser
MFWP FAS Coordinator
1420 East Sixth Ave
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-7885

Woody Baxter
MFWP Reg. 6 Parks Manager
54078 U.S. HWY 2 W.
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3707

Sally Schrank
Independent Contractor
112 Riverview C
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 268-0527

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division Region 6
- Wildlife Division Region 6
- Fisheries Division Region 6
- Design and Construction Bureau

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Resource Management Division – Regional Office – Billings, MT
- Field Office – Chester, MT

Montana Department of Commerce—Tourism
PO Box 200533
1424 9th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Montana Natural Heritage Program—Natural Resources Information System
PO Box 201800
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800

State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

PART VI. MEPA CHECKLIST

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

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			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				
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 geologic substructure, and will minimally impact soil stability.

1b. Moving the vault latrine will cause overcovering of the soil. Best management practices will be utilized during design and construction of the project to minimize the over-covering. Removing the sidewalk will improve productivity and fertility at the site.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			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 will be temporarily created during construction.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			3b.
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water 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)		NA				
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)		NA				
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 project will cause minor discharge into surface water and may alter surface water quality. Best Management Practices will be utilized during design and construction of the project to minimize this impact.

3b. The proposed project will cause minor changes in the amount of surface runoff during construction. Best Management Practices will be utilized during design and construction of the project to minimize this impact.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			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?		NA				
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 0.1 acres of vegetation will be removed during movement of the latrine.

4c. The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) found no records of unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species within one mile of the proposed site (written communication dated April 3, 2006).

4e. The FAS is managed under the Region 6—Noxious Weed and Exotic Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. Weed management would not be altered due to the proposed action. Canadian Thistle and Russian knapweed are present at the site. Weeds comprise approximately 1% cover (0.5 acres) of the total acreage (35 acres) at the FAS. Currently, 1.0 acre is treated chemically under a verbal agreement with the Hill County Weed Control Department at an estimated cost of $50 annually.
Construction equipment for this proposed project will be required to be cleaned prior to arrival to the project site to help ensure noxious weed seeds and plant parts or other invasive species are not brought on-site. In addition, any noxious weeds and soil containing noxious weeds or weed seeds should be disposed of in a sanitary landfill.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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			5a.
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X			See 5a.
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			X			See 5a.
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X			5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		NA				
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)		NA				
j. Other:		X				

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

5a. As this site is already receiving recreational use and construction is occurring in a previously disturbed area, the proposed project will not alter or will minimally alter fish and wildlife (game and non-game) habitat, diversity, or abundance.

5f. The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) identified sauger as the only unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species within one mile of the proposed site (written communication dated April 3, 2006). Sauger are listed as sensitive by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and S2, G5 by MNHP. This ranking by MNHP indicates that sauger are at risk of extirpation in Montana and common globally. As this site is already receiving recreational use and construction is occurring in a previously disturbed area, the proposed project will have minimal affects on sauger habitat, diversity, and abundance.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. 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			6a.
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				

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

6a. There will be a minor increase in noise during construction; however, this will be short term (and will not have a significant impact on visitors to the site or neighbors).

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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				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				

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

7a. There will be no alteration of land use with the proposed project.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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)		NA				
e. Other:		X				

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

8a. The MFWP Region 6 Noxious Weed and Exotic Management Plan calls for an integrated method of managing weeds, including the use of herbicides. The use of herbicides would comply 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.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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 Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9a. MFWP will follow the guidelines of the good neighbor policy for public recreation lands (MCA 23-1-126.) to have "no impact upon adjoining private and public lands by preventing impact on those adjoining lands from noxious weeds, trespass, litter, noise and light pollution, streambank erosion and loss of privacy."

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				10a.
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
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:_____						

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

10a. There will be no alteration of public services, taxes, or utilities with the proposed project.

10e. No revenue will be directly collected by the operation of this proposed site. Day use at state fishing access sites is free.

10f. It costs approximately $ 1,093 per year to maintain Fresno Tailwater FAS. The proposed project will not increase maintenance costs.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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			11c.
d. ***~~For P-R/D-1~~, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		NA				
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 quality and quantity of the recreation/tourism at this site would be improved through better public services, access and user capacity. This should provide benefits for the users and the area's tourism economy. Please see Appendix 3 for Tourism Report.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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				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)		NA				.
e. Other:						

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

12a. The State Historic and Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted on June 28, 2006. The SHPO found that there was a low likelihood of cultural properties being impacted at the site and that a cultural resource inventory was unwarranted at this time. (Please see Appendix 4, SHPO Consultation). Consultation for the portion of the FAS, which is on Federal land, has been initiated with a recommendation of No Historic Properties Affected.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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				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)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		NA				

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

13a. This analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment, singularly and cumulatively. The proposed site has been used in the past as a public recreation area this action would continue and improve that use.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

APPENDIX 1
HB495
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date April 2, 2006 **Person Reviewing** Sally Schrank

Project Location: Fresno Tailwater FAS is located 11 miles west of Havre on Hwy 2, 1-mile north on Fresno Road. The site is located in section 20, Township 33 North, Range 14 East, Hill County, Montana. The site is 35.00 acres.

Description of Proposed Work: The proposed action is to enhance the Fresno Tailwater FAS by constructing an ADA accessible fishing platform, relocating a vault latrine to improve ADA access, and removing a sidewalk that is unnecessary due to development plan changes.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check _ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

[ ] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments:

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

[ ] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments:

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

[ ] 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:

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[ ] 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.

APPENDIX 2

SITE PLAN

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

TITLE: Fresno Tail Water FAS

SHEET: 1 of 1

FILE NAME: C:paul\dwg\R6\ Fresno tailwater

DRAWN BY: P. Valle DATE: June 2006

APPENDIX 3
TOURISM REPORT
MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
PO Box 200533
1424 9th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Fresno Tailwater FAS is located 11 miles west of Havre on Hwy 2, 1-mile north on Fresno Road. The site is located in section 20, Township 33 North, Range 14 East, Hill County, Montana. The site is 160.625 acres. The proposed action is to enhance the Fresno Tailwater Fishing Access Site by constructing an ADA accessible fishing platform, relocating a vault latrine to improve ADA access, and removing a sidewalk that is unnecessary due to development plan changes. These enhancements will improve fishing opportunities, improve ADA access, and enhance the site.

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

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

Signature Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, MT Commerce Dept Date June 26-2006

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APPENDIX 4
SHPO CONSULTATION

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
225 North Roberts ❖ P.O. Box 201201 ❖ Helena, MT 59620-1201
❖ (406) 444-2694 ❖ FAX (406) 444-2696 ❖ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ❖

June 28, 2006

RECEIVED
JUN 29 2006
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Paul Valle
FWP
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

RE: FRESNO TRAIL WATER FAS. SHPO Project #: 2006062306

Dear Mr. Valle:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 20, T33N R14E. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas.

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.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/FISH/2006

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ❖ 1410 8th Ave ❖ P.O. Box 201202 ❖ Helena, MT 59620-1202
❖ (406) 444-7715 ❖ FAX (406) 444-6575