

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Project Name:	City of Hamilton, 10 th St R/W easement across Department of Military Affairs (DMA) Hamilton Armory, Hamilton, MT
Proposed Implementation Date:	August 17, 2009
Proponent:	DMA
Location:	10 th St and Main St, Hamilton, MT
County:	Ravalli

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Montana Department of Military Affairs proposes to provide an easement to the City of Hamilton for R/W along the 10th St corridor, which is upon the Hamilton Armory. The R/W easement will allow the City of Hamilton to construct and maintain a public street within the easement. The existing street, currently maintained by the Marcus Daly Hospital under an R/W easement upon the same footprint, will be upgraded to city standards.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

A 15-day public comment period will be initiated with a public notice published in the Ravalli Republic.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. Action: DMA provides R/W easement across property.
2. No Action: DMA does not issue an R/W easement.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The subject property is a developed city street within a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The subject property is within an neighborhood served by City water and sewer. There are no surface or groundwater rights or resources associated with the property.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

An easement upon the subject property will not result in any effect to air quality.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

A Natural Heritage Program query did not identify the presence of any rare plants in the Township occupied by the subject property. (The Natural Heritage Program report is available upon request from DNRC's Trust Land Management Office.)

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The subject property is not considered to have any significant habitat value for wildlife, birds, or fish species. The property is located in the developed urban area, and has been paved for use as a city street for many years.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

The parcel has been developed for many years, so existing native species are disturbed or have been replaced by exotic species. A Natural Heritage Program query identified eight animal species of concern that occur in the Township occupied by the subject property. (The Natural Heritage Program report is available upon request from DNRC's Trust Land Management Office.) However, these species have not been observed at the subject property, and the property is not considered to have any value as habitat for such species.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

It is unknown if antiquities (as defined by the State Antiquities Act) are present on the subject property. The site has been severely disturbed from its undeveloped state. A paved city street has been present for several decades, and prior to that the R/W was an unpaved street. Public water and sewer utilities are also present in the corridor. It has been determined by the DNRC cultural resource specialist that a cultural resource inventory is not warranted. However, should the City of Hamilton discover cultural materials at any time during reconstruction of the street, it will contact the state immediately for a site investigation.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

The property is not located in an area of aesthetic or scenic potential. The sale of an easement will not directly result in any level of noise, light, or visual change.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Demands on land, water, air and energy will not be impacted by the sale the easement. Reconstruction and maintenance of the street will be regulated by applicable federal, state and local regulations.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None.

<p style="text-align: center;">IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>
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14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

The sale of an easement will not pose a threat to human health and safety.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The sale of an easement will have no impact on the industrial or commercial activities.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The sale of an easement will have no impact on the quality or distribution of employment.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

None.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

The proposed sale of an easement will not cause any significant increase in traffic or alter traffic patterns, nor will there be a need for additional governmental services. The City of Hamilton does not propose to increase change the route of the existing street, or the number of traffic lanes.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

The property is subject to the City of Hamilton growth policy and zoning regulations. City of Hamilton regulations do not affect the sale of an easement.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The Hamilton Armory and the proposed easement area is not located near a wilderness or recreational area, so the sale of this property will have no effect on recreational and wilderness activities.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

The proposed sale of an easement would not affect population distribution or density, or require additional housing.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

The sale of an easement will have no effect on the social structures or mores.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The sale of an easement will have no effect on any unique qualities present in the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

This is nontrust land. DMA will determine what value they expect to obtain for the easement to the City of Hamilton.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Ethan Stapp	Date: 7/1/2009
	Title: Planner	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative No. 1 – Action: DMA will sell an R/W easement to the City of Hamilton.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Not Applicable

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name:
	Title:
Signature:	Date: