



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

**1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Havre Trap Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Construct handicap restroom, extend parking slab with handicap parking, handicap sidewalk and a privacy fence.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Havre Trap Club has been on the current site since 1975 and is located South of Havre, MT off county highway 234 (See Map 1 for approximate location to Havre, MT). The club property is leased from the City of Havre at SW1/4NW1/4NW1/4 of Section 21, Township 32 North, Range 16 East, M.P.M., Hill County, Montana.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): The current restrooms are small with small doors and do not allow access by wheel chair. The trap range does not have a handicapped accessible restroom, nor handicapped parking access to accommodate current shooters and anticipated growth of the facility.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): The overall objective is to provide handicapped access and restrooms with additional privacy fence.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Map 1 – Aerial of Havre Trap Club, Havre, MT



Map 2 – Havre Trap Club Improvements

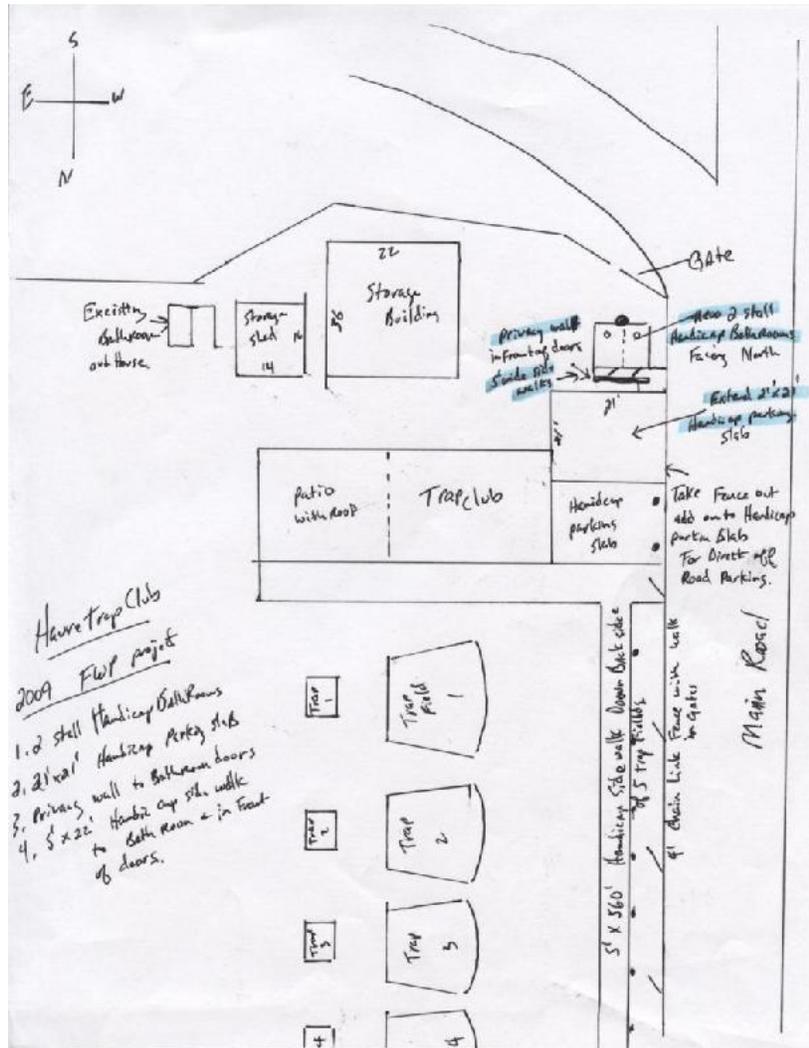


Figure 1 – Proposed Improvements to Havre Trap Club

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 10 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area with proposed range enhancements (See Map 2 & Figure 1).

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Havre Trap Club which has been in place since 1975 on 10 acres just south of Havre, MT on Montana secondary highway 234. Range is built upon former agricultural

land. There is a large valley to the north and east of the range with no residential homes either direction for a 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. South of the range is pasture land with one home 1/4 of a mile away. To the west is also pasture land with another residence about 1/4 of a mile away.

10. Description of Project:

Construct a 2 stall concrete restroom, increase the parking lot with a 21'X21' handicapped parking slab along with a 21'X5' access sidewalk, separated with a 12'X6' privacy fence.

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2010.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$11,940

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

In the past the Havre Trap Club has hosted the Montana-Alberta (ATA) Challenge shoot, Northern Lights Athletics Scholarship Fund, Northern Lights Pheasant Jamboree, MSU-Northern College shooting classes, Boy Scout shooting programs, 4H shooting clinics, public shooting clinics, Hunter's Education Day, Spring and Fall Trap Leagues.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. The proposed project was discussed and approved by the Havre City Council and published in the Havre Daily News.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Jim Bachini, P.O. Box 818, Havre, MT 59501, 406-265-2485

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 27, 2009

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		#8
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

8. This project uses no federal funds nor does it takes place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		#4
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		#9
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is adjacent to surrounding agricultural land and the range is leased from the City of Havre.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

9. There is a large valley to the north and east of the range with no residential homes either direction for a 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. South of the range is pasture land with one home 1/4 of a mile away. To the west is also pasture land with another residence about 1/4 of a mile away.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to construct a handicapped restroom, handicap access parking and privacy fence to the existing rifle range.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active trap range without proposed expansion and improvements.

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: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** increasing shooting sports opportunities on the Havre Trap Club, Hill County and the Havre, MT area are to add handicapped restroom and access to the existing leased club properties.

- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to expand the range with additional facilities and handicap access and to continue on with present shooting activities and facilities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include a trap range without the handicapped facilities. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Jim Bachini, P.O. Box 818, Havre, MT 59501
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties leased from the City of Havre by the Havre Trap Club. The low impact activities proposed, and the increased recreational opportunity, all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 34 year history of the Havre Trap Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 16, 2009

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Havre Daily News and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.