

Memorandum

To: Jason Sorenson
Civil Engineering Specialist
MDT Helena Maintenance Division

From: Barry Brosten *BB*
Butte District Project Development Engineer
Environmental Services Bureau

Date: March 10, 2011

Subject: Categorical Exclusion-MEPA Documentation
Project Name: **Buffalo Guard Project**
Location: **US-89, MP 13.23**
PO#: **309958**

Project Description and Location: The proposed Buffalo Guard project site is located at approximate RP 13.23 on US 89 in Park County. The project is located 13.2 miles north of Gardiner in Township-8-South, Range-7-East, Section 3.

The proposed project is to install a Buffalo Guard across highway US-89. The buffalo guard structure dimensions are approximately 19 feet long in the direction of the roadway and 34 feet transverse to the roadway. The guard is intended to prevent buffalo that are outside Yellowstone National Park from moving further north. The work would involve excavation of the roadway and installation of precast concrete substructure units, installation of steel buffalo guard panels, modification of existing guardrail, installation of new guardrail and optional terminal sections, final grading of buffalo guard pit to allow for drainage, and replacement of roadway subgrade and temporary asphalt behind buffalo guard abutments.



The Buffalo Guard will be installed at approximate MP 13.23 on P-89.

Extraordinary Circumstance(s) Review required under ARM 18.2.261(2):

Resource	Description of Resources Present in Project Area	Anticipated Impact/Mitigation	Significant? (Yes or No)
Publicly-owned parkland(s), recreation area(s), wildlife or waterfowl refuge(s)	No publicly-owned parklands, recreation areas, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges have been identified in the project area.	No impact.	No
Historic site(s)	No historic sites have been identified in the project area.	No impact.	No
Wetland(s)	No wetlands have been identified in the project area.	No impact.	No
Prime Farmland(s)	No prime farmlands have been identified in the project area.	No impact.	No
Human Environment, including R/W acquisition, relocations, changes in traffic patterns, changes in grade, etc.	No right-of-way acquisition will be required. Construction permits may be necessary. Minor, short-term temporary inconveniences to the traveling public, including occasional increased travel times, detours, and temporary closures are expected.	A traffic control plan will be developed in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).	No
Air Quality	Minor, short-term, localized adverse air quality impacts are expected due to fugitive dust emissions from earth moving operations and combustion emissions from construction equipment.	MDT Standard Specifications require that the Contractor comply with applicable state and federal air quality rules.	No
Noise	Construction activities may cause minor, short-term, localized adverse noise impacts due to construction equipment.	MDT Standard Specifications require compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and requirements contained in the contract regarding noise	No

		pollution.	
Water Quality	No water resources have been identified in the project area.	MDT design and construction specifications require temporary water pollution control measures to minimize potential effects of construction activities.	No
Controversy on Environmental Grounds	There is no known controversy on environmental grounds.	No impact.	No
Other: <u>Cumulative</u>	<p><u>Proposed Projects</u> MDT has proposed the following project within the general area:</p> <p>Cedar Cr-16km N of Gardiner, NH 11-1(41)10, CN 4577, culvert replacement, anticipated 2013.</p> <p><u>Completed Projects</u> North of Gardiner – North, NH 11-1(52)1, CN5963 Pavement preservation. Was let to contract in 12/2008.</p> <p>Emigrant – South, NH 11-1(54)24, CN 6210, Was let to contract in 3/2008.</p> <p>Emigrant – North, NH-STPHS 11-1(36)34, CN 3950, Was let to contract in 11/2000.</p>	No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated since the majority of the impacts are temporary, construction related impacts that will occur at different times.	No

Conclusion

No significant extraordinary circumstances were identified with the proposed project. In accordance with ARM 18.2.261(e), this pending action does not individually, collectively or cumulatively require the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. No further review is required.

MEPA Documentation Prepared By:



Barry Brosten
Environmental Services Bureau
Butte District Project Development Engineer

Date: 3/10/11



Concur Heidi Bruner, P.E.
Environmental Services Bureau
Engineering Section Supervisor

Date: 3/11/11

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