



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 22, 2012

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. 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, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed Office Building Project at Black Sandy State Park. The project would include purchasing and installing a prefabricated concrete building on a poured concrete slab. The building would be wired with electricity and serve as a visitor contact station. The building will also serve as a contact center for administering the internet based campground reservation system.

The draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the state library, and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from FWP's Helena Area Resource Office located at 930 Custer Ave West or viewed on FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov>.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. Public comment will be accepted until 5p.m. March 21, 2012. Send comments to the following address:

Craig Marr
PO Box 200701-HARO
Helena, MT 59620 or email: cmarr@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Gerald Walker

Gerald Walker
Region 3 Park Manager

Attachment

Draft
Environmental Assessment

**Black Sandy State Park
Office Building Project**



February 2012



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to initiate an improvement project within Black Sandy State Park, which would include installing a prefabricated concrete structure on a concrete pad to serve as an office and visitor contact station for the park. The structure would be wired with electricity which is currently trenched to the proposed location.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** Montana state statute 23-1-102 authorizes the department to make a study to determine the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state. The department may by purchase, lease, agreement, or acceptance of donations acquire for the state any areas, sites, or objects that in its opinion should be held, improved, and maintained as state parks, state recreational areas, state monuments, or state historical sites.

Furthermore, state statute 23-1-110 and Administrative Rule 12.2.433 guides public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.

4. **Construction Timeline:**
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring 2012
Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2012
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 20%

5. **Location:**
Black Sandy State Park is located in Lewis and Clark County, T12N R03W S32.



Area map showing the location of Black Sandy State Park on Hauser Reservoir.

6. Project size:

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>1</u>	Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
		Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Forestry	<u>0</u>
		Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

7. Permits, Funding, and Other Overlapping Jurisdictions.

(a) **Permits:** State Electrical Permit secured by contractor

(b) **Funding:** State Park earned revenue \$40,000

(c) **Overlapping Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

Montana State Historic Preservation Office – cultural and historic resources

MT Dept. of Environmental Quality – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

8. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

Black Sandy State Park is a 15-acre park on Hauser Reservoir in central Montana. The Park includes a day-use area with a boat-launch, latrines, picnic areas, and a campground area with 35 camping sites, a campground host, restroom facilities, and a hiking trail (see map below). The Park is extremely popular, with approximately 45,000 visitors annually, mainly in the summer months. The Park is open all year.



Office Building Project

The proposed action is to construct a 16x24 foot concrete slab on an unpaved parking area near the entrance of the park and place a prefabricated concrete building of the same size on the pad. The new building would replace a 8x12 foot wooden barn-like building that was used as a park office during the summer of 2011. The

new building would serve as a visitor contact station and park office (see attachment C for a building floor plan). The building will be connected to the existing electricity infrastructure which would allow for the building to support an air conditioning/ventilation unit. The prefabricated building would require minimal maintenance and its exterior color would be a neutral color appropriate to the parks' natural surroundings.

During 2011, the State Park Division of FWP initiated an Internet-based reservation system at Black Sandy. Although the reservation was convenient for visitors to make campsite reservations via the Internet, staff at the park were unable to monitor or manage those reservations because the small office became too hot for staff or storage of electronic equipment, and a wireless connection to the Internet was limited. Management of the Parks' campsite reservations is currently handled remotely at the FWP's Helena Area Resource Office, which is fourteen miles from Black Sandy State Park. Some difficulties did arise during the peak summer season when timely changes to reservations were required.

With the addition of a formal visitor contact station, the efficiency at which park staff utilize, monitor, and manage the campsite reservation made through the Internet-based reservation system would be greatly improved. Furthermore, customer satisfaction would likely increase, which could increase the number of visitors to the park and increase revenue generated at the park. The contact station would also provide the campground host a formal location to greet and check-in campers. A more formal FWP presence at the park is expected to decrease unwanted visitor behaviors (i.e. vandalism) as well.

The contact station would not be staffed during the winter and in the future, the services provided at the contact station may be expanded to include the sales of ice and firewood.

PART II. ALTERNATIVES

1. Alternative A: No Action

If no action is taken, Monitoring of the campsite reservation system would continue to be done remotely and challenges would continue to occur when change to reservations were necessary. Customer satisfaction may be negatively impacted when changes to reservations are delayed.

2. Alternative B: Installation of a New Contact Station, Preferred Alternative

With the addition of a formal visitor contact station, the efficiency at which park staff utilize, monitor, and manage the campsite reservation made through the Internet-based reservation system would be greatly improved. Furthermore, customer satisfaction would likely increase, which could increase the number of visitors to the park and increase revenue generated at the park. The contact station would also provide the campground host a formal location to greet and check-in campers. A more formal FWP presence at the park is expected to decrease unwanted visitor behaviors (i.e. vandalism) as well.

3. Alternative C: Improve the Current Barn-like Office Building

This alternative would include improving the existing wood building by placing the structure on a concrete pad and installing a wireless Internet connection so that the campsite reservation system could be managed on-site by park staff.

This option was eliminated from further consideration because the structure becomes too hot in the summer, is too confined to meet with visitors and does not provide the professional appearance that is desirable in the State Park system.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

The following evaluation focuses on the Proposed Action only. There would be no changes to the existing physical or human environment if the No Action alternative were chosen. Potential impacts to the physical and human environment would be negligible if Alternative C were chosen.

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				
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				

1a. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action because the concrete pad would be placed on an existing unpaved parking area.

2. <u>AIR</u> 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			2b
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.)		N/A				2e

2a/b/e. Minor emissions of air pollutants and odors could occur during delivery of the prefabricated concrete structure and during construction of the concrete slab. Any changes to the ambient air quality would be temporary. All federal and state air quality regulations would be followed.

3. <u>WATER</u> 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			X		yes	3a

surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?						
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.)		N/A				3l
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.)		N/A				3m

3a/b/m. It is possible that the proposed project would result in a small discharge of sediment into adjacent surface water during construction. FWP would ensure that Best Management Practices were employed during construction to minimize that risk. Storm water retention basins are already in place on site.

3l. Black Sandy State Park is located within a designated floodplain, however the proposed action will not alter the floodplain.

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.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				4a/b.
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?		N/A				4f.

4a/b. The proposed action would be in the existing parking area and would not have any impact on plant species.

4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MNHP) species of concern database found three species of concern: Long-styled Thistle, Lesser Rushy Milkvetch, and Divide Bladderpod. This project would have no impact because vegetation will not be removed or impacted during this project and the species have not been found on the site of the proposed project.

4e. The proposed action would not result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds. Chemical spraying is part of FWP's weed management plan to limit the infestation of noxious weeds within the Park, which is traditionally completed by a contractor. The licensed professional would conduct weed treatment and storage and mixing of the chemicals would be in accordance with standard operating procedures.

4f. The proposed action does not require the disturbance of any wetland or riparian areas.

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				5b.
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				5f/h/i
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.)		N/A				5f/h/i
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.)		N/A				5f/h/i

5a. The proposed project will be located in the existing parking area and will not impact critical fish or wildlife habitat.

5b. The proposed project is unlikely to cause any negative impacts to animal species within the Park or greater area. Any surface discharge that did occur during the project would be unlikely to affect fish populations within Hauser Reservoir, as warm summer temperatures cause fish to seek deeper water away from the shallow zones along the shore.

5f/h/i. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database found there are six species of concern known to be present within the vicinity of the Park. Those species are Gray Wolf, the Wolverine, Townsend's Big Eared Bat, Spotted Bat, Bald Eagle, and the Peregrine Falcon. None of this species are known to use the park because of human presence, and it is unlikely that this project would have any effect on the listed species.

FWP believes none of the sensitive species will be affected by the proposed project since their presence in the Park is not documented and they will likely avoid the area because of normal human activities.

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			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				

6a. There would be a temporary increase in noise level during implementation of the proposed action, but would end after completion of the project. It is unlikely that any residences would be affected by the noise.

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. Conflict 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				

There would be no alteration or interference with the existing land use at Black Sandy State Park.

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)		N/A				8d.

8a /d. There is a slight risk of small petroleum leaks or spills from heavy equipment during the proposed project. This risk can be minimized by the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) during all phases of the project.

Chemical spraying is part of FWP's weed management plan to limit the infestation of noxious weeds within the Park, which is traditionally completed by a contractor. The licensed professional would conduct weed treatment and storage and mixing of the chemicals would be in accordance with standard operating procedures.

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				
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				

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor		
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			10c
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d
e. Define projected revenue sources						10e
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f

- 10c,d. The proposed office building at Black Sandy State Park is expected to minimally increase the Park's consumption of electricity.
- 10e. The efficient use and management of the online campsite reservation system by park staff is anticipated to result in an increase in revenue generated by camping visitors.
- 10f. Maintenance costs associated with the proposed project will be minimal and will be covered by the Black Sandy State Park operations budget.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor		
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 positive			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.)		N/A				

- 11c. The proposed action will improve the quality of the aesthetics and recreational experience for many visitors to Black Sandy State Park by increasing customer service and accessibility to the reservation system. Overnight visitation in the campground would likely increase as a result of the improvements. See *Appendix B* for the Tourism Report.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor		
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.)		N/A				12d.

12a/d. A heritage survey was completed for Black Sandy State Park in 2009 and no cultural resources were identified. If any previously unrecorded cultural resource sites are discovered during construction, the Heritage Resource Program Manager will work with project engineers and the park manager to develop a project design that avoids further disturbance to these sites.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	Unknown	None	Minor		
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				13f
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				13g

13f/g. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action. Negative cumulative impacts from this project are not expected but some public debate could occur.

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

Final plans and specifications for the project will be developed by FWP engineering staff. A private contractor selected through the State's competitive bid process will complete construction. Final inspection will be the responsibility of the FWP Design and Construction Bureau.

State pesticide use laws and regulations will be followed. Application records will be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required every two-years and these records will be available to state investigators upon request.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

This EA did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. It is unlikely that any threatened or endangered species would be affected, and no unique or physical features would be disturbed. The proposed action would benefit visitors to Black Sandy State Park by improving the accessibility and function of the state park reservation system and by providing a safe work space for staff. Disruption of wildlife, recreation, and other public uses at Black Sandy State Park would be temporary and occur intermittently during the construction period.

The proposed project would increase customer service, safety, and comfort while in the Park, and the proposed project would considerably increase visitor enjoyment of Black Sandy State Park without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

PART V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified by way of a statewide press release, legal notices in the *Great Falls Tribune*, *The Montana Standard* and the *Helena Independent Record*, and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Individual notices will be sent to the region's standard EA distribution list and to those that have requested one. If requested, FWP will hold a public meeting for the proposal.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having few minor impacts for the enhancements to the campground.

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for (21) twenty one days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until **5:00 p.m., March, 21, 2012** and can be mailed to the address below:

Craig Marr
PO Box 200701-HARO Helena, MT 59620 or email: cmarr@mt.gov

PART VI. EA PREPARATION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? 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 the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed project. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

- 2. Persons responsible for preparing the EA:**

Craig Marr
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Park Manager
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620 (406) 495-3260
cmarr@mt.gov

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Design & Construction Bureau Fisheries Division
Legal Bureau Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

Appendices

- A – HB495 Project Qualification Checklist
- B – MT Department of Commerce Tourism Report
- C - Floor plan of office building

APPENDIX A

HB495 PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date February 7, 2012

Person Reviewing Craig Marr

Project Location: Black Sandy State Park, Lewis and Clark County, T12N R3W section 32

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to place a prefabricated concrete building on a concrete pad within Black Sandy State Park to serve as an office and visitor contact station

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: *No*
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments: *YES, 16x24*
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments: *YES*
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: *No*
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: *No*
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *No*
- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: *No*
- H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments: *No, all new electrical lines would be buried.*
- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: *No*
- J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects

**APPENDIX B
Tourism Report**

The Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 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 the form to:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
301 South Park
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: **Black Sandy Office Building Project**

Project description: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to install a concrete pad and pre fabricated office building at Black Sandy State Park to serve as an office building and contact center for the state park reservation system. The office would also be used to disseminate information to visitors. Visitor satisfaction is expected to improve.

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

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy.

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

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve the quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Signature _____ Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager _____ Date: _____

