



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Memorandum

To: Dave Hand
Operations Manager
MDT Maintenance Division

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

Date: April 16, 2012

Subject: Categorical Exclusion-MEPA Documentation
Project Name: **Buffalo Guard #3**
Location: **US-87, MP 12.8**

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Project Description and Location: The proposed Buffalo Guard #3 project site is located at approximate RP 12.8 on US 87 on the north side of Hebgen Lake in Gallatin County. The project is located approximately 10 miles west of the US-87/US-191 junction in Township-11-South, Range-4-East, Section 31.

The proposed project is to install a buffalo guard across highway US-87. 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 west. 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 approx. MP 12.8 on P-87 along Hebgen Lake.

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 pollution.	No

Paul Ferry, P.E.	Highways Engineer
Rob Stapley	Right-of-Way Bureau Chief
Nicole Pallister	Fiscal Programming Section
Tom Erving	Fiscal Programming Section
Suzy Price	Contract Plans Bureau Chief
Jeff Patten	FHWA Operations Engineer
Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)	
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File	Environmental Services Bureau

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