



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Tom Atkins, P.E.
 Glendive District Project Development Engineer
 Environmental Services Bureau

Date: July 26, 2012

Subject: Categorical Exclusion-MEPA Documentation
 SFCN 37-2()70
 East of Ashland – East (Fence)
 CN: 4338002

Project Description and Location: The intent of the project is to reestablish fencing enclosure by replacing sections of fence damaged in the 2012 wildfires east of Ashland. The project will only include sections of interim fencing to provide enclosure and prevent livestock from entering the roadway until permanent fencing can be installed on the future East of Ashland – East reconstruction project, which has the same limits as this fencing project.

This project is located along NHS Route N-37, US Hwy. 212 in Powder River County beginning approximately 6.5 miles east of Ashland and extending to approximately 14 miles east of Ashland (T 3 S, R 46 E) for a total project length of approximately 7.2 miles. This road is functionally classified as a Principal Arterial. The project begins at RP 69.6 and ends at RP 76.8. The roadway and fencing was originally constructed in 1955 under as-built project number FH 53, sections A-E, which is the Ashland – Broadus Hwy. – Ashland to Pumpkin Creek project. This as-built project runs from east to west, whereas reference posts run in the opposite direction from west to east. Project stationing will equal as-built stationing.

No right-of-way design involvement is necessary on this project, as replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence along the existing right-of-way lines. A letter agreement will be prepared to obtain landowner permission for the contractor access to install the new fencing. If difficulties ensue with the agreement, the fencing can be placed inside the R/W without any landowner involvement

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),	US Forest Service Land is present within the project boundaries.	No impact.	No

recreation area(s), wildlife or waterfowl refuge(s)	Forest Service land exhibits are available upon request	Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	
Historic site(s)	Historic sites have been evaluated and cleared through SHPO with the environmental review of the highway construction contracts.	No impact. Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	No
Wetland(s)	Wetlands have been evaluated and permitted with the environmental review of the highway construction contracts.	No impact. Wetlands will be avoided. Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	No
Prime Farmland(s)	Prime Farmlands conversion forms have been evaluated with the environmental review of the highway construction contracts.	No impact. Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	No
Human Environment, including R/W acquisition, relocations	No right-of-way acquisition will be required.	No impact. Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	No
Air Quality	No Air Quality evaluation is required.	No Impact.	No
Noise	Construction activities may cause minor, short-term, localized adverse noise impacts due to construction equipment.	No Impact.	No
Water Quality	Water Resources have been identified and permitted with the environmental review of the highway construction contracts.	No Impact. Replacement fence will be put back in the same spot as the damaged fence	No
Controversy on Environmental Grounds	There is no known controversy on environmental grounds.	No impact.	No
Other: <u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Proposed Projects</u> MDT has proposed the following project within the general area:	No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated	No

	<p>Ashland – East NH 37-2(27)63, CN 4338 Proposed construction consisting of Grading, Gravel, Replace Structures, Plant Mix.</p> <p>East of Ashland – East NH 37-2(27)63, CN 4338001 Proposed construction consisting of Grading, Gravel, Replace Structures, Plant Mix.</p> <p>Camps Pass – East NH 37-3(19)77, CN 7353 Proposed construction consisting of Resurfacing.</p>		
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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:



Tom Atkins, P.E.
Environmental Services Bureau
Glendive District Project Development Engineer

Date: 7/26/12



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

Date: 7/26/12

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