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FHWA
MONTANA DIVISION

November 21, 2013

Chris Riley, Operations Engineer
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: **Categorical Exclusion Group (d) Action Letter**

Reference: Federal-aid Project Number: STPE 1099(84)
Federal-aid Project Name: Aronson Bypass Trail at Swords Park
MDT Uniform Project Number: 7934

This is a request for FHWA concurrence that the proposed project meets the criteria for classification as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 *CFR* 771.117(d). This proposed action also qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of *ARM* 18.2.261 (*MCA* Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201). A project location map is attached.

This proposed project is a federally funded multi-use path.

The location of the proposed project is Tract 3 T1N R26E Section 3.

The intent of the proposed project is to provide the public with a multi-use path connecting two existing paths.

The proposed project has been evaluated for, and does not have any adverse effect on the following environmental areas of concern:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Runoff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime and Unique Farmlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 404 – <i>Clean Water Act</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floodplains (EO 11988/FEMA) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Economic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream Preservation/Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical/Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Species |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes in Land Use | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands (EO 11990) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USDOT – 4(f)/NL&WCF – 6(f) Acts | |

PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project will have a minor effect on the following environmental area(s):

Historic/Cultural Resources – The Alkali Creek Archaeological site 24YL1607 was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2011. A Section 106 Determination of Effect has resulted in a finding of “No Adverse Effect,” which has been reviewed and concurred with by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on 11/8/2013. A copy of their concurrence letter is attached.

Threatened/Endangered Species – The Montana Natural Heritage Program and The Fish and Wildlife Service were contacted on [9/11/2013](#) and [10/8/2013](#) for identifying Federally listed Threatened/ Endangered Species. The following Threatened/Endangered Species were identified by the USF&WS as being in the vicinity of the proposed project and a Biological Resources Report was prepared by [Martin Miller](#). The conclusion of the Species of Concern Data Report is that there are no biological concerns on this project and the project is “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” Threatened/Endangered Species.

Also, the information received 10/30/2013 from Tim Bodurtha of the Fish and Wildlife Service stated that since this project activities will occur within in the City of Billings in areas that were previously disturbed or impacted from development, the project will no adversely affect threatened, endangered, or candidate species or critical habitat. In addition, there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects to other fish, wildlife, and habitat resources inter the purview of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sensitive Wildlife – The [Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Pinyon Jay, Veery, Spotted Bat, Spiny Softshell, Greater Short-horned Lizard, Western Hog-nosed Snake, and the Milksnake](#) are sensitive species in the project vicinity.

Floodplains – A floodplain delineated under Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) criteria along the [Alkali Creek](#) is encroached by the proposed project. [MDT](#) administers this floodplain for FEMA, and a Floodplain Development Permit will be required for this encroachment.

The floodplain encroachments from the proposed project occur [along Alkali Creek underneath Aronson Avenue Bridge](#). The proposed project will not promote or encourage development within this delineated floodplain, or increase flood liability hazards from its construction. The proposed project is therefore considered to be in compliance with Executive Order 11988.

Air Quality – The proposed project is located in a (CO/PM10) “nonattainment” area of Montana for air quality under 40 *CFR* 81.327, as amended. However, this type of proposed project is listed in EPA’s Final Rule of September 15, 1997 on Air Quality conformity as being exempt from the requirement of a conformity determination. Therefore, the proposed project complies with Section 176(c) of the *Clean Air Act* as amended (42 *USC* 7521(a)).

Section 4(f) – It has been determined that Section 4(f) does not apply to restoration, rehabilitation or maintenance of historic facilities when there is a “No Adverse Effect” determination, and when SHPO and the advisory council have been consulted and have not objected to this finding.

Section 6(f) – There is no Conversion of Use involvement as protected property acquired or developed with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) are not within the project limits.

Cumulative Impacts –There are not current projects in the vicinity of the proposed project.

PERMITS

Permits Required – The following permits will be acquired prior to any relevant disturbance: (also see the FEMA Floodplain Development Permit, following):

- This proposed project will be in compliance with the provisions for both Water Quality under *MCA 75-5-401(2)* for Section 3(a) authorizations, and 124 SPA Stream Protection Notification under *MCA 87-5-501* through 509, inclusive.
- A 124 SPA Stream Protection Notification (was approved/will be required) by the MDFW&P on date construction is started.
- A Notice of Intent for Storm Water Discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit (PL 92-500) will be required with the EPA for the control of water pollution for both specific and non-point sources.
- The proposed project will require the following permit(s) under the *Clean Water Act*:
 - A Section 402/Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Permitting and Compliance Division.
 - A Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE). The COE will be notified that the proposed project qualifies for a "Nationwide" 404 permit under the provisions of 33 *CFR* 330.
- All work will be in accordance with the *Water Quality Act of 1987* (PL 100-4), as amended.
- Approximately [zero acres](#) of new ROW/construction permits will be needed for the proposed project. There will be [no](#) utility involvement.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

EROSION CONTROL PLAN

An Erosion Control Plan will be prepared for this proposed project. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be included in the design of this Plan using guidelines as established in MDT's Highway Construction Standard Erosion Control Workplan. The objective is to minimize erosion of disturbed areas during and following construction of this proposed project.

An Erosion Control Plan will be submitted to the Montana DEQ Permitting and Compliance Division in compliance with their Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Regulations (*ARM 16.20.1314*) for the proposed project. BMPs will be included in the design of this Plan using guidelines as established in MDT's Highway Construction Standard Erosion Control Workplan. The objective is to minimize erosion of disturbed areas during and following construction of this proposed project.

In accordance with *MCA 7-22-2152* and *60-2-208*, [The contractor](#) will re-establish a permanent desirable vegetation community along all areas disturbed by the proposed construction. A set of revegetation guidelines [are](#) developed by [The City of Billings](#) that must be followed by the contractor. These specifications include instructions on seeding methods, seeding dates, types and amounts of mulch and fertilizer, along with seed mix components. Seed mixes include a variety of species to ensure that areas disturbed by construction are immediately stabilized by vegetative cover. The Seeding Special Provisions developed for this proposed project [will be](#) forwarded to the responsible County Weed Board for approval.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Americans with Disabilities Act – [Truncated dome panels](#) will be installed in compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (PL 101-336).

CONCLUSION

The project will not induce significant land use changes or promote unplanned growth. There will be no significant affects on access to adjacent properties or present traffic patterns. The project will not create disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations (EO 12898) and complies with Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (42 USC 2000d). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(a), this action will neither individually nor cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, we are requesting FHWA's concurrence that the proposed project is properly classified as Categorical Exclusion.

"ALTERNATIVE ACCESSIBLE FORMATS OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST"



Signature of Environmental Certifying Official or Chief Elected Official

Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner

Type Name and Title

Concur: 
Environmental Engineering Section Supervisor

12/16/13
Date

Concur: 
Federal Highway Administration

19 DEC 2013
Date

Attachment: Project Location Map

cc: [Stefan Streeter](#), MDT, District Administrator – [Billings District](#)
[Ryan Dahke](#), MDT, Consultant Design Engineer
[Tom Martin](#), MDT, Bureau Chief – Environmental Services Bureau
[Lisa Hurley](#), MDT, Fiscal Planning Administrator
[Mike Wherley](#), MDT, CTEP Section Supervisor
Maureen Theisen, Legislature, EQC
Jeff Patten, FHWA – Butte Operations Engineer
Heidi Bruner, MDT, Section Supervisor – Environmental Engineering Section
Tom Erving, MDT, Fiscal Planning
[Danielle Scharf](#), Sanderson Stewart

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Project Name and Project Number: Aronson Bypass Trail at Swords Park - Federal Aid No. STPE 1099(84)

UPN: 7934

Area of Statutory-Regulatory Compliance (Provide precise citations for applicable statutes and regulations at the end of this Checklist.)		N/A	Review Required*	Permits Required*	Conditions and/or Mitigation Actions Required*	Note and Attach Documentation
1.	Historic Properties (SHPO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Floodplain Management (County)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Wetlands Protection (COE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	Noise (DEQ)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.	Air Quality (DEQ)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Manmade Hazards						
	Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Possible Hazardous Waste Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Airport Clear Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Water Quality (DEQ or EPA for reservation projects)						
	Surface Water/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Groundwater & Aquifers ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.	Farmlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.	Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.	Threatened or Endangered Species, Fish & Wildlife (USF&WS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Area of Statutory-Regulatory Compliance (Provide precise citations for applicable statutes and regulations at the end of this Checklist.)		N/A	Review Required*	Permits Required*	Conditions and/or Mitigation Actions Required*	Note and Attach Documentation
11.	Biological Resources - Habitat containing sensitive species; either nesting, foraging, or inhabiting (MDFW&P/MSL)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12.	Is there substantial, local, regional or other controversy on environmental grounds?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13.	Section 4(f) – Would project change use of park, recreation area, wildlife refuge, or waterfowl refuge (23 CFR 771.135)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14.	Section 6(f) – Would project change use of protected properties acquired or developed with Land and Water Conservation Funds administered by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15.	List other agencies contacted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Attach evidence that required actions have been taken.						
¹ Including the Missoula Sole Source Aquifer; contact the CTEP Section for further information regarding Missoula area projects.						

Certification

I certify that the findings on the proceeding Environmental Checklist accurately reflect the status of compliance with applicable laws and regulations for the proposed transportation project.



Signature

Lora Mattox - City of Billings Transportation Planner

Type Name and Title of Environmental Certifying Official

November 21, 2013

Date

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MONTANA DIVISION

Aronson Bypass Trail at Swords Park STPE 1099(84)

UPN 7934

Environmental Checklist

1. Historic Properties (SHPO)

Based on a cultural resource file search of the subject area, the Alkali Creek Archaeological site 24YL1607 exists entirely within the proposed project area. It is determined eligible for the listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A cultural resources review was completed for this project, and review and concurrence was provided by SHPO on November 8, 2013.

2. Floodplain Management (County)

Mapping data was collected from the Yellowstone County Floodplain information webpage. The site is located in the area labeled as "1% and 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain" on the Yellowstone County Interactive mapping.

3. Wetlands Protection (COE)

Mapping from Montana Natural Heritage Program indicates no wetlands in the direct project vicinity but there is riparian forest in close proximity.

4. Noise (DEQ)

The only anticipated noise increase will be associated with the construction activity. Work hours will be limited in the contract documents to minimize effects to adjacent property owners.

5. Air Quality (DEQ)

The only anticipated air quality effects will be associated with dust from construction activity. Dust control provisions will be described in the contract documents to minimize effects to adjacent property owners.

6. Manmade Hazards

Montana Natural Resource Information System and EPA Envirofacts

a. Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks.

A map and list of underground storage tanks in vicinity have been attached. 3 underground storage tanks were found to be in the area, none of which will affect the area of interest.

b. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks.

A map of underground storage tanks in vicinity has been attached. None of the tanks found in the vicinity have documented leaks.

c. Possible Hazardous Waste Sites.

There were no hazardous waste sites found the project vicinity.

d. Airport Clear Zones.

Billings Logan International Airport is located to the west of the project location. The project is located outside of all runway protection and runway transitional zones.

7. Water Quality (DEQ)

a. Surface Water/Water Quality

A Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit will be required for construction if the area of construction disturbance exceeds 1 acre. BMPs and erosion control devices will be required per Montana Public Works Specifications.

b. Groundwater & Aquifers

Project is for surface improvements only and should have no impact on groundwater.

8. Farmlands

Project is located entirely within City of Billings property and therefore will not impact farmland.

9. Environmental Justice

n/a

10. Threatened or Endangered Species, Fish & Wildlife

Montana National Heritage Program was contacted concerning any potential impacts; any response from the department will be provided. Trail construction in the developed community is not expected to have any impact on Threatened or Endangered Species.

11. Biological Resources

The Montana Natural Heritage Program was researched to identify habitat for sensitive species. The Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Pinyon Jay, Veery, Spotted Bat, Spiny Softshell, Greater Short-horned Lizard, Western Hog-nosed Snake, and Milksnake were the only sensitive species identified within the Township, Range, and Section with 1-mile buffer. The project area is located within a developed area, therefore no impacts are expected.

12. Is there substantial, local, regional or other controversy on environmental grounds?

Not to our knowledge.

13. Section 4(f) – Would project change use of park, recreation area, wildlife refuge, or waterfowl refuge?

No. The project is located on City of Billings Parks and Recreation land.

14. Section 6(f) – Would project change use of protected properties acquired or developed with Land and Water Conservation Funds administered by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks?

The project is located entirely within existing City of Billings Parks and Recreation land.

15. Agencies Contacted / Researched

- Montana State Historic Preservation Office
- Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- United States Geological Survey
- EPA
- Montana Natural Resource Information System
- Yellowstone County, Montana

aronson road billings mt

Billings, Mt

Explore this area · Traffic · Bicycling



Antelope Trail

Antelope Trail

Help & Feedback

Shawrock Ln
Katherine St
Emerald Dr

Aronson Ave

Emerald Dr

North

Trail goes under bridge

Project Location

Rainbow Dance School

E Alkali Creek Fld

E Airport Fld

Airport

Boothman and Sates

E Airport Fld

Aronson Ave

Metra Park

Boothall Cemetery

Applebee's



Google



Map data ©2013 Google Terms Privacy Report a problem 50 m



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



BILLINGS EAST QUADRANGLE
MONTANA-YELLOWSTONE CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Local Control System of 1986 (NAD83) Projection and
Datum and 2011 Update to address National Error 127
18 0000 for the National Coordinate System of 1983



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route	State Route
US Route	Local Road
County	RFD
Private Road	US Route
	State Route

BILLINGS EAST, MT
2011

CONTROL INTERVAL: 20 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1983
This map was produced in conformance with section 6.5.30
of the U.S.G.S. Topographic Standard.
A resolution file associated with this product is distributed on CD 14.

ADJACENT 7.5 QUADRANGLES

Billings East	Billings East	Billings East
Billings East	Billings East	Billings East
Billings East	Billings East	Billings East



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ENVIRONMENTAL

*Historic Preservation
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Research Center*

Thursday, September 26, 2013

JON AXLINE
MDT

RE: STPE 1099(84) Aronson Bypass Trail – Billings
UPN 7934

Dear Jon:

Thank you for requesting our concurrence with the recommendations made in the Ethnoscience report for the above referenced CTEP project. I believe their work demonstrates no further archaeological work is warranted for the trail as staked and shovel tested to 30cm. The report also indicates the site extends further laterally than previously known and seems to collaborate Aaberg's extensive work in documenting intact, if shallow, culture bearing stratigraphy. Good for all of us to keep in mind in the future at this site.

At any rate we agree no further archaeological consideration is warranted for trail excavation work kept to 6" (30cmbs) and concur that would constitute a No Adverse Effect. However, the Introduction section makes a single reference to figure 2 stating that at one location trail excavation might extend to 2 feet in depth (60cmbs). No recommendation or further description is made regarding that location or the possibly deeper construction excavation. The testing strategy appears to be premised on the fact that the tests extend to the depth of the construction disturbance. Except in this locality.

Please provide explanation of this apparent discrepancy between the testing and this possible deeper disturbance. We note shovel probe 11 bottomed out at 20cm due to bedrock but shovel probe 12 had artifacts (in place?), and shovel 10 seems to have intact stratigraphy. Please provide a more complete description of the possible 2 foot construction cut and possible cultural considerations.

Sincerely,

Stan Wilmoth

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
(406) 444-2694
(406) 444-2696 FAX
montanahistoricalsociety.org



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Michael T. Tooley, Director
Steve Bullock, Governor

2013102203

October 21, 2013

Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
P O Box 201202
Helena, MT 59620-1202

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BY: SHPO

• JTB
• LTCF
• Advice:
Practical approach
to...
Response

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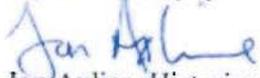
ENVIRONMENTAL

Subject: STPE 1099(84)
Aronson Bypass Trail - Billings
UPN 7934

Dear Stan:

In your letter of September 26, 2013 regarding the above CTEP project, you had questions about the amount of excavation that would be done for the proposed bicycle/pedestrian path and the potential to disturb 24YL1607. The project was redesigned to disturb less than a foot below the existing surface. Attached is Ethnoscience's response to your letter. I hope this allays the misgivings you had about the project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 444-6258.


Jon Axline, Historian
Environmental Services

Attachments

Copies: Bill Semmens, Resources Section

CONCUR
MONTANA SHPO
DATE 10/28/13 SIGNED 
yes Tom - Thanks for
checking it out

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

AABERG STEPHEN A., ET AL.

/ / 2011 AIRPORT ROAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DATA RECOVERY AT 24YL1607 (ALKALI CREEK SITE) IN THE CITY OF BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 33302 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

MARTINSON RENE D. ET.AL.

10 /26/2011 EXXON MOBIL SILVERTIP PIPELINE INCENDENT RESPONSE - CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION C FORMS

CRABS Document Number: YL 6 33232 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

MURRAY ROBERT A.

7 /31/1974 HISTORIC SITES IN THE COLSTRIP TO HOT SPRINGS TRANSMISSION LINE STUDY AREA

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 2 11099 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

FANDRICH BLAIN

9 /21/2009 BENCH BOULEVARD: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY FROM LAKE ELMO DRIVE TO US HIGHWAY 87, BILLINGS, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 31118 Agency Document Number: MT 1036(1) CONTROL NO. 6041

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

HEIDENREICH C. ADRIAN

9 /1/1979 CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF BILLINGS SEWER PIPELINE ROUTE, PHASE I

CRABS Document Number: YL 6 10721 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

AABERG STEPHEN A.

6 / /2008 AIRPORT ROAD SITE DISCOVERY 2008, BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 30238 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

NEWBERRY GREGORY S., ET AL.

6 /22/1989 MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS F16-1(28)2 6TH AND MAIN

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 10707 Agency Document Number: F16-1(28)2

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

SHARROCK FLOYD W.

5 /21/1974 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ALKALI CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: YL 6 10715 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

FANDRICH BLAIN W.

7 / 1 / 2002 AIRPORT ROAD: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY ALONG MONTANA HIGHWAY 3 FROM MAIN STREET TO SKY RANCH DRIVE IN BILLINGS MT

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 25240 Agency Document Number: CONTROL #4743

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

WALKER-KUNTZ PATRICK J.

4 / 15 / 2003 SIXTH AVENUE TO BENCH BOULEVARD, CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 26108 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

BABCOCK WILLIAM A.

12 / 3 / 1985 BILLINGS HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY HILLTOP ROAD, EXTENSION PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 10685 Agency Document Number: M1027(1)

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

FANDRICH BLAIN

5 / 9 / 2003 A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE SWORDS PARK IN BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 6 26329 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

AABERG STEPHEN A., ET AL.

5 / / 2005 ALKALI CREEK ROAD -CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY AND EVALUTAION TESTINGS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 27861 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 27

LAHREN LARRY A.

9 / 12 / 1980 (CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION ALONG EXPOSITION DRIVE IN BILLINGS, MONTANA)

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 10677 Agency Document Number: F-16-1(6)1

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

HARTY JENNIFER L., ET AL.

7 / / 2011 MITIGATION REPORT OF 24YL1606, A POSSIBLE OLD WOMAN'S OCCUPATION IN YELLWOSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 32965 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

AABERG STEPHEN A.

6 / / 2008 AIRPORT ROAD SITE DISCOVERY 2008, BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 30238 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

AABERG STEPHEN A., ET AL.

5 / / 2005 ALKALI CREEK ROAD -CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY AND EVALUTAION TESTINGS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 27861 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

FANDRICH BLAIN

5 / 9 / 2003 A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE SWORDS PARK IN BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 6 26329 Agency Document Number:

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

FANDRICH BLAIN W.

7 / 1 / 2002 AIRPORT ROAD: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY ALONG MONTANA HIGHWAY 3 FROM MAIN STREET TO SKY RANCH DRIVE IN BILLINGS MT

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 25240 Agency Document Number: CONTROL #4743

Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

AABERG STEPHEN A., ET AL.

/ / 2011 AIRPORT ROAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DATA RECOVERY AT 24YL1607 (ALKALI CREEK SITE) IN THE CITY OF BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 33302 Agency Document Number:

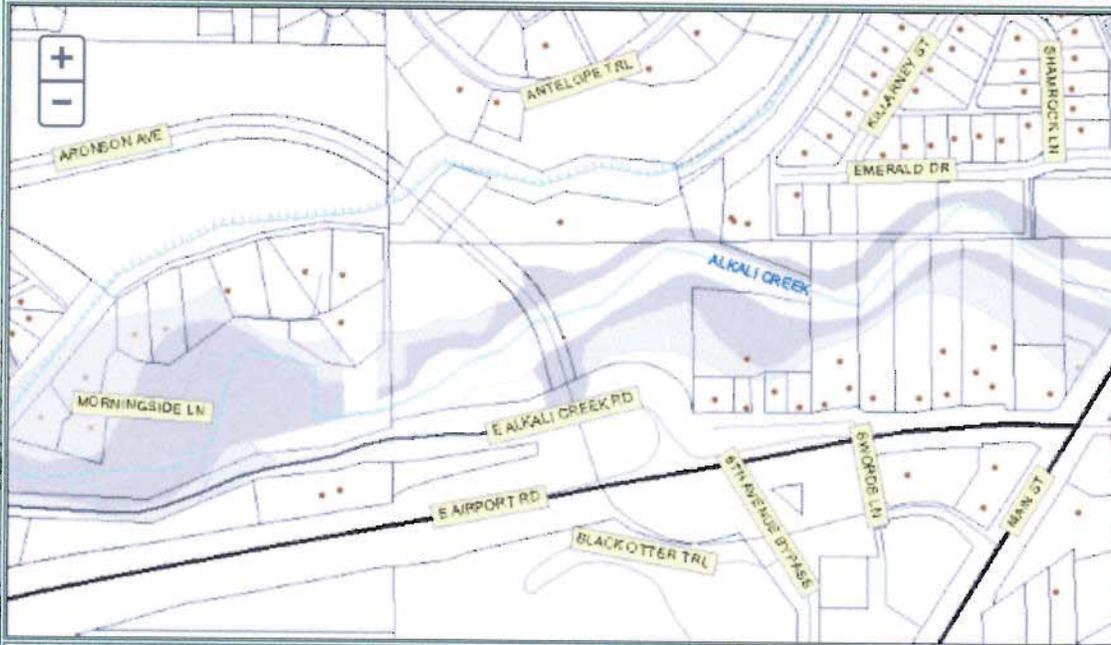
Township: 1 N Range: 26E Section: 28

FREDLUND LYNN B.

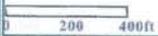
12 / 7 / 1982 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION: RIMROCK ROAD MOLT M 302-1(1)0 U1 (CENTER SECTION), RS 302-1(1) U2 (EAST SECTION)

CRABS Document Number: YL 4 10679 Agency Document Number: M302-1(1)0 U1, RS302-1(1) U2

Site #	Twp	Rng	Sec	Qs	Site Type1	Site Type 2	Time Period	Owner	NR Status
24YL1580	1 N	26 E	27	Comb	Historic Road/Trail	Null	No Indication of Time	Private	NR Listed
24YL0269	1 N	26 E	27	Comb	Historic Recreation/Tourism	Other	1910-1919	MDOT Other	CD
24YL1723	1 N	26 E	27	NE	Historic Residence	Historic Architecture	1920-1930	Private	Unresolved
24YL0162	1 N	26 E	27	NE	Historic Architecture	Historic Residence	1900-1909	Private	undetermined
24YL0160	1 N	26 E	27	NE	Historic Architecture	Historic Residence	1940-1949	Private	undetermined
24YL1722	1 N	26 E	27	NE	Historic Residence	Historic Architecture	1930-1939	Private	CD
24YL1630	1 N	26 E	27	NW	Historic Residence	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	NR Listed
24YL1630	1 N	26 E	27	NW	Historic Residence	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	NR Listed
24YL1610	1 N	26 E	27	SE	Historic Industrial Development	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Other	Ineligible
24YL0608	1 N	26 E	27	SE	Petroglyph and Pictograph	Rock Shelter or Cave	No Data	No Data	Unresolved
24YL1610	1 N	26 E	27	SE	Historic Industrial Development	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Other	Ineligible
24YL0231	1 N	26 E	27	SE	Historic Vehicular/Foot Bridge	Null	1900-1909	No Data	undetermined
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL1566	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Recreation/Tourism	Null	1950-1959	Other	CD
24YL1567	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Recreation/Tourism	Null	1950-1959	Other	undetermined
24YL1568	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Trash Dump	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Other	Ineligible
24YL1550	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Other	Null	Historic Period	Other	Ineligible
24YL1549	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1940-1949	Private	CD
24YL1548	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1940-1949	Private	Ineligible
24YL1547	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1940-1949	Private	CD
24YL1546	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1940-1949	Private	CD
24YL1545	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1920-1930	Private	Ineligible
24YL1544	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Ineligible
24YL1543	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Residence	Null	1940-1949	Private	CD
24YL1542	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Commercial Development	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	Ineligible
24YL0422	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Kill Site/Trap	Lithic Material Concentration	No Data	No Data	Unresolved
24YL0407	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Pictograph	Null	No Indication of Time	Other	CD
24YL1607	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	No Indication of Time	Combination	CD
24YL0755	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Historic Cemetery/Grave	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Other	CD
24YL1607	1 N	26 E	27	SW	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	No Indication of Time	Combination	CD
24YL0161	1 N	26 E	27	comb	Historic Irrigation System	Historic Agriculture	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	CD
24YL1592	1 N	26 E	27	comb	Historic Railroad, Stage Route, Travel	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	No Data	CD
24YL1592	1 N	26 E	27	comb	Historic Railroad, Stage Route, Travel	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Combination	CD
24YL1580	1 N	26 E	28	Comb	Historic Road/Trail	Null	No Indication of Time	Private	NR Listed
24YL1607	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	No Indication of Time	Combination	CD
24YL1606	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	Prehistoric Late Period	Private	CD
24YL1607	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	No Indication of Time	Combination	CD
24YL1605	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Historic Trash Dump	Null	Historic Period	Combination	Ineligible
24YL1606	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Lithic Material Concentration	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	Prehistoric Late Period	Private	CD
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL1541	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	Null	No Indication of Time	Private	Unresolved
24YL1605	1 N	26 E	28	SE	Historic Trash Dump	Null	Historic Period	Combination	Ineligible
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	28	SW	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL1551	1 N	26 E	28	SW	Historic Road/Trail	Null	1930-1939	Other	CD
24YL0161	1 N	26 E	28	comb	Historic Irrigation System	Historic Agriculture	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	CD
24YL0664	1 N	26 E	28		Historic Irrigation System	Null	Historic More Than One Decade	Private	CD



Lon:-108.491 Lat:45.804



[Email Address Feedback](#)

Legend

Flood Type

100 Year Floodplain

- Floodway
- Flood Fringe
- Approximate
- 500 Year

LOMR -Firm

- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodplain
- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodway
- 0.2% annual chance (500-Year) Floodplain

LOMR -Firm

- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodplain
- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodway
- 0.2% annual chance (500-Year) Floodplain

LOMR -Floodway

- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodplain
- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodway
- 0.2% annual chance (500-Year) Floodplain

LOMR -Floodway

- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodplain
- 1% annual chance (100-Year) Floodway
- 0.2% annual chance (500-Year) Floodplain

Results

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This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not guaranteed to be accurate or current.

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P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • tel 406.444.5354 • <http://mtnhp.org>

September 11, 2013

Vinny Morasko
Sanderson Stewart
1300 North Transtech Way
Billings, Montana 59102

Dear Vinny,

I am writing in response to your recent request regarding Montana Species of Concern in the vicinity of the Aronson Bypass Trail at Swords Park, in Section 27, T01N, R26E, in Yellowstone County. I checked our databases for information in this general area and have enclosed 22 species occurrence reports for 10 animal species of concern, 1 ecological site report, a map depicting species of concern, ecological site and wetland locations, and explanatory material. Note that the maps are in Adobe GeoPDF format. With the appropriate Adobe Reader, it provides a convenient way to query and understand the information presented on the map. Documentation is included.

Please keep in mind the following when using and interpreting the enclosed information and maps:

- (1) These materials are the result of a search of our database for species of concern that occur in an area defined by the requested township, range and section with an additional one-mile buffer surrounding the requested area. This is done to provide a more inclusive set of records and to capture records that may be immediately adjacent to the requested area. Please let us know if a buffer greater than 1 mile would be of use to your efforts. Reports are provided for the species of concern that are located in your requested area with a one-mile buffer. Species of concern outside of this buffered area may be depicted on the map due to the map extent, but are not selected for the SOC report.
- (2) On the map, polygons represent one or more source features as well as the locational uncertainty associated with the source features. A source feature is a point, line, or polygon that is the basic mapping unit of a Species Occurrence (SO) representation. The recorded location of the occurrence may vary from its true location due to many factors, including the level of expertise of the data collector, differences in survey techniques and equipment used, and the amount and type of information obtained. Therefore, this inaccuracy is characterized as locational uncertainty, and is now incorporated in the representation of an SO. If you have a question concerning a specific SO, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- (3) This report may include sensitive data, and is not intended for general distribution, publication, or for use outside of your organization. In particular, public release of specific location information may jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or biological communities.
- (4) The accompanying map(s) display land management status, which may differ from ownership. Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- (5) Additional biological data for the search area(s) may be available from other sources. We suggest you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on threatened and endangered species (406-449-5225). For additional fisheries information in your area of interest, you may wish to contact Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Park's Montana Fisheries Information System (phone: 406-444-3373, or web site: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/mFish/>).
- (6) Additional information on species habitat, ecology and management is available on our web site in the Plant, Animal, and ecological Systems Field Guides, which we encourage you to consult for valuable information. You can access these guides at <http://mtnhp.org>. General information on any species can be found by accessing the link to NatureServe Explorer.**

The results of a data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program reflect the current status of our data collection efforts. These results are not intended as a final statement on sensitive species within a given area, or as a substitute for on-site surveys, which may be required for environmental assessments. The information is intended for project screening only with respect to species of concern, and not as a determination of environmental impacts, which should be gained in consultation with appropriate agencies and authorities.

In order to help us improve our services to you, we invite you to take a simple survey. The survey is intended to gather some basic information on the value and quality of the information and services you recently received from the Montana Natural Heritage Program. The survey is short and should not take more than a few minutes to complete. All information will be kept confidential and will be used internally to improve the delivery of services and to help document the value of our services. Use this link to go to the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RYN8Y8L>.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at (406) 444-3290 or via my e-mail address, below, should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

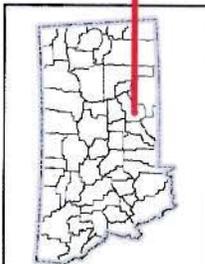


Martin P. Miller
Montana Natural Heritage Program
martinm@mt.gov

Montana Species of Concern Aronson Bypass Trail at Swords Park

SPECIES OF CONCERN: A polygon feature representing any wildlife regarding the spatial location of the feature.

	Non-Vascular Plants
	Vascular Plants
	Invertebrates
	Amphibians
	Fish
	Reptiles
	Birds
	Mammals
	Mammals
	Sites
	Wetland Types
	Lake
	River
	Freshwater Pond
	Freshwater Emergent Wetland
	Freshwater Scrub-Shrub Wetland
	Freshwater Forested Wetland
	Riparian Emergent
	Riparian Scrub-Shrub
	Riparian Forested



Not all legend items may occur on the map.
Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
This map displays management status, which may vary from ownership.



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Map Document: K:\REQUESTS\Requests\14\MT\14-mtrhp\000114mtrhp0001.mxd (8/11/2013)



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Ardea herodias [View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Great Blue Heron **General Habitat:** Riparian forest

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 6,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the areas commonly used for foraging near the breeding colony and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S3
[Global:](#) G5

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 3

[MT PIF Code:](#)

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)

[U.S. Forest Service:](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#)

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10017681		
First Observation Date:	1975-02-16	SO Number:	602
Last Observation Date:	1979-12-14	Acreage:	32,633

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10017682		
First Observation Date:	1988-04-28	SO Number:	188
Last Observation Date:	1988-07-28	Acreage:	32,633

Haliaeetus leucocephalus [View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Bald Eagle **General Habitat:** Riparian forest

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the breeding territory and area commonly used for reneating and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S4
[Global:](#) G5

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 1

[MT PIF Code:](#) 2

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#) DM; BGEPA; MBTA; BCC

[U.S. Forest Service:](#) SENSITIVE

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#) SENSITIVE



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10035328		
First Observation Date:	2001-03-01	SO Number:	768
Last Observation Date:	2001-09-01	Acreage:	3,089

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10035323		
First Observation Date:	2003-03-01	SO Number:	769
Last Observation Date:	2003-09-01	Acreage:	3,089

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10035327		
First Observation Date:	2005-03-01	SO Number:	770
Last Observation Date:	2006-09-01	Acreage:	3,089

Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus [View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Pinyon Jay **General Habitat:** Open conifer forest
Description: Birds
Mapping Delineation:
 Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 4,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the home ranges reported for flocks and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status [Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3
Global: G5

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
U.S. Forest Service:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

MT PIF Code:

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012961		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	20
Last Observation Date:	2002-06-27	Acreage:	15,640

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012965		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	92
Last Observation Date:	2002-06-27	Acreage:	15,640



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
 Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012962		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	55
Last Observation Date:	2003-06-27	Acreage:	15,640
Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012963		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	85
Last Observation Date:	2003-06-27	Acreage:	15,640
Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012960		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	94
Last Observation Date:	2003-06-27	Acreage:	15,640
Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012959		
First Observation Date:	2002-06-27	SO Number:	100
Last Observation Date:	2004-07-02	Acreage:	15,640
Species Occurrence Map Label:	10012964		
First Observation Date:	2003-07-28	SO Number:	15
Last Observation Date:	2003-07-28	Acreage:	27,805

Catharus fuscescens

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Veery

General Habitat: Riparian forest

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing home ranges and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3B
Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

MT PIF Code: 2

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)

[U.S. Forest Service:](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#)



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10017236
First Observation Date: 1991-02-16 **SO Number:** 52
Last Observation Date: 1991-12-14 **Acreage:** 278

Sander canadensis

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Sauger

General Habitat: Large prairie rivers

Description: Fish

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S2
Global: G5

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
U.S. Forest Service:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10039206
First Observation Date: **SO Number:**
Last Observation Date: **Acreage:** 10,660

Euderma maculatum

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Spotted Bat

General Habitat: Cliffs with rock crevices

Description: Mammals

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence of adults or juveniles during the active season. Point observation location is buffered by a distance of 10,000 meters in order to encompass the reported maximum foraging distance for the species in British Columbia.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3
Global: G4

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
 Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10002146
 First Observation Date: 1949-06-27 SO Number: 5,770
 Last Observation Date: 1949-06-27 Acreage: 77,237

Apalone spinifera

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Spiny Softshell

General Habitat: Prairie rivers and larger streams

Description: Reptiles

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3
 Global: G5

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
 U.S. Forest Service:
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10033202
 First Observation Date: 1806-07-29 SO Number: 11
 Last Observation Date: 2008-06-14 Acreage: 71,598

Phrynosoma hernandesi

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Greater Short-horned Lizard

General Habitat: Sandy / gravelly soils

Description: Reptiles

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a resident animal of any age. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to encompass habitats supporting other individuals and documented distances moved between summer and winter habitats. Otherwise the point observation is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3
 Global: G5

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
 U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

MT PIF Code:



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Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
 Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10000722		
First Observation Date:	1806-12-31	SO Number:	2,027
Last Observation Date:	2003-12-31	Acreage:	49,432

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10000723		
First Observation Date:	1904-07-01	SO Number:	2,029
Last Observation Date:	1904-07-16	Acreage:	49,432

Heterodon nasicus [View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Western Hog-nosed Snake **General Habitat:** Friable soils
Description: Reptiles
Mapping Delineation:
 Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a resident animal of any age. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 500 meters in order to encompass the maximum summer home range size reported for the congeneric Eastern Hog-nosed Snake and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status [Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S2
Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10000839		
First Observation Date:	1909-08-27	SO Number:	2,067
Last Observation Date:	1909-08-27	Acreage:	77,237

Lampropeltis trianquulum [View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Milksnake **General Habitat:** Rock outcrops
Description: Reptiles
Mapping Delineation:
 Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a resident animal of any age. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to encompass the maximum summer home range size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.



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Species of Concern Data Report

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Report Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S2
Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10000540

First Observation Date: 1909-08-01

Last Observation Date: 1909-08-31

SO Number: 582,975

Acreage: 77,237

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10000542

First Observation Date: 1947-07-17

Last Observation Date: 1947-07-17

SO Number: 20,866

Acreage: 19,309

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10000541

First Observation Date: 1971-05-01

Last Observation Date: 1971-05-15

SO Number: 3,199

Acreage: 4,827



Ecological Information

TWO MOON PARK

The geographic scope of your data search intersected an area for which the Natural Heritage Program databases have ecological information. Such information can be useful in assessing biological values and interpreting Species of Concern data. A summary is provided below of conditions at the time of site record creation.

TWO MOON PARK

General Description

Two Moon Park is located in the floodplain of the the Yellowstone River in the unglaciated High Plains. This area is located within the city of Billings and occurs between low bluffs that overlook the river and the river's active channel. The landscape consists of a mosaic of communities that occur on different fluvial landforms. On recently created mid-channel bars, the vegetation is very weedy and is dominated by leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). Recently deposited side bars and sloughs are dominated by sandbar willow and the exotic reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), with wetter microsites occupied by monospecific stands of reed canarygrass.

Higher portions of the floodplain are a mosaic of plains cottonwood / western snowberry (*Populus deltoides* / *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) woodland and herbaceous openings. The cottonwood stands are open woodlands with a locally abundant mid-canopy of the exotic Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). The herbaceous layer is dominated by the exotic grasses Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). The herbaceous openings are also largely dominated by the same exotic grasses; however, patches of western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) still dominate some low-lying swales, although some of these are being invaded by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). Seepy, groundwater-receiving sites at the base of the bluffs are dominated by broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and reed canarygrass. A small stand of peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) occurs along one of the sloughs.

Biological Significance

No special status plants or animals were observed. Two state significant plant communities, plains cottonwood / western snowberry (*Populus deltoides* / *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), and peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), were documented in fair to poor condition.

Key Ecological Factors

Flooding, and the associated erosion, deposition, and channel migration, is the dominant process influencing vegetation. Vegetation is also influenced by microtopography and by seepage from the toeslope of the bluffs.

Exotic Species

Exotic grasses dominate the ground layer in this area, especially Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) dominates many mesic portions of the area, such as sloughs. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) currently occurs as several small monospecific stands, but it is likely to spread. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) is scattered in small patches except on mid-channel bars where it is the dominant species. Hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) are common throughout the area. Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) is well established in the cottonwood stands. It is likely that as the cottonwoods die (and many of the cottonwoods are mature or senescent), these stands will convert to a Russian olive-dominated community. This conversion will have unknown habitat and biodiversity implications.

Other Values

This area offers habitat for many Neotropical migrant birds and other wildlife. This area is also locally important because of habitat fragmentation in the greater Billings metropolitan area.

Management Information

This area occurs as an isolated fragment of riparian vegetation within the urban/industrial context of Billings. Although it is unlikely that native species will reclaim the herbaceous layer, the more aggressive exotic species such as leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) could be controlled.

Information Gaps

Information on the history of gravel extraction and grazing in this area is lacking.

More detailed data on vegetation communities in this area may be available; if you are interested, contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-5354 or mtnhp@mt.gov



Explanation of Species of Concern Reports

Since 1985, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) has been compiling and maintaining an inventory of elements of biological diversity in Montana. This inventory includes plant species, animal species, plant communities, and other biological features that are rare, endemic, disjunct, threatened, or endangered throughout their range in Montana, vulnerable to extirpation from Montana, or in need of further research.

Species Occurrences: (formerly called 'Element Occurrences') A "Species Occurrence" (SO) is an area depicting only what is known from direct observation with a defined level of certainty regarding the spatial location of the feature. If an observation can be associated with a map feature that can be tracked (e.g., a wetland) then this polygon feature is used to represent the SO. Areas that can be inferred as probable occupied habitat based on direct observation of a species location and what is known about the foraging area or home range size of the species may be incorporated into the Species Occurrence. A "Species Occurrence" generally falls into one of the following three categories:

Plants: A documented location of a specimen collection or observed plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and are within approximately one air mile of one another).

Animals: The location of a specimen collection or of a verified sighting; known or assumed to represent a breeding population. Additional collections or sightings are often appended to the original record.

Other: Significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as bird rookeries, peatlands, or state champion trees.

Ecological Information: Areas for which we have ecological information are represented on the map as either shaded polygons (where small and/or well defined) or simply as map labels (where they are large generally-defined landscapes). Descriptive information about these areas is contained in the associated report. Such information can be useful in assessing biological values and interpreting Species of Concern data.

The quantity and quality of data contained in MTNHP reports is dependent on the research and observations of the many individuals and organizations that contribute information to the program. Please keep in mind that the absence of information for an area does not mean the absence of significant biological features, since no surveys may have been conducted there. Reports produced by the Montana Natural Heritage Program summarize information documented in our databases at the time of a request. These reports are not intended as a final statement on the species or areas being considered, nor are they a substitute for on-site surveys, which may be required for environmental assessments.

As a user of MTNHP, your contributions of data are essential to maintaining the accuracy of our databases. New or updated location information for all species of concern is always welcome.

We encourage you to visit our website at <http://mtnhp.org>. On-line tools include a species observation viewer: the Natural Heritage TRACKER and *The Montana Field Guide* which contains photos, illustrations, and supporting information on Montana's animals and plant species of concern. Additional data are available on most species and ecological areas identified in our reports.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us either by phone at (406/444-5354), e-mail (mtnhp@mt.gov) or

Data Descriptions

The section below lists the names and definitions for descriptions of the data fields used in the reports. Certain codes and abbreviations are used in Species Occurrence reports. Although many of these are very straightforward, the following explanations should answer most questions.

Map Label: The label for the species occurrence as it appears on the map.

Element Subnational ID: The unique code used by the state or province to identify a specific element (species).

SO Number: Number that identifies the particular occurrence of the element (species).

Scientific Name: Latin (scientific) name.

Common Name: Commonly recognized name.

Species of Concern/Potential Concern: This value indicates whether the species is a "Species of Concern" (Y) or of "Potential Concern" (W).

Last Observation Date: The date the Species Occurrence was last observed extant at the site (not necessarily the date the site was last visited).

First Observation Date: The date the Species Occurrence was first reported at the site.

EO Rank: indicates the relative value of the Species Occurrence (SO) with respect to other occurrences of the Species, based on an assessment of estimated viability (species).

Values:

- A - Excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
- A? - Possibly excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity
- AB - Excellent or good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- AC - Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- B - Good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- B? - Possibly good estimated viability/ecological integrity
- BC - Good or fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- BD - Good, fair, or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- C - Fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- C? - Possibly fair estimated viability/ecological integrity
- CD - Fair or poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- D - Poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- D? - Possibly poor estimated viability/ecological integrity
- E - Verified extant (viability/ecological integrity not assessed)
- F - Failed to find
- F? - Possibly failed to find
- H - Historical
- H? - Possibly historical
- X - Extirpated
- X? - Possibly extirpated
- U - Unrankable
- NR - Not ranked

SO Data: Data collected on the biology of this Species Occurrence. Specific information may include number of individuals, vigor, habitat, soils, associated species, and other characteristics.

Species Status Codes

Provided below are definitions for species conservation status ranks, categories and other codes designated by MTNHP, Federal and State Agencies and non-governmental organizations.

- [Montana Species of Concern](#)
- [Montana Potential Species of Concern](#)
- [Status Under Review](#)
- [Exotic Species](#)
- [Montana Species Ranking Codes](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [Forest Service](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [MFWP Conservation Need](#)
- [Partners In Flight \(PIF\)](#)
- [MNPS Threat Category](#)

Species of Concern

Species of Concern are native taxa that are at-risk due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, restricted distribution, and/or other factors. Designation as a Montana Species of Concern or Potential Species of Concern is based on the Montana Status Rank, and is not a statutory or regulatory classification. Rather, these designations provide information that helps resource managers make proactive decisions regarding species conservation and data collection priorities. See the latest [Species of Concern Reports](#) for more detailed explanations and assessment criteria.

Potential Species of Concern

Potential Species of Concern are native taxa for which current, often limited, information suggests potential vulnerability. Also included are animal species which additional data are needed before an accurate status assessment can be made.

Status Under Review

Species designated "Status Under Review" are plant species that require additional information and currently do not have a status rank but may warrant future consideration as Species of Concern. This category also includes plant species whose status rank is questionable due to the availability of new information or the availability of conflicting or ambiguous information or data. Species listed in this category will be reviewed periodically or as new information becomes available.

Exotic Species

Exotic species are not native to Montana, but have either been reported in Montana or have established populations in Montana outside of their native range.

Montana Species Ranking Codes

Montana employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (G) and state (S) status (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks - the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, life history traits and threats.

For example, Clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) is ranked G4 S2. Globally the species is uncommon but not vulnerable, while in Montana it is at risk because of limited and potentially declining numbers, extent and/or habitat.

G1 S1

At high risk because of extremely limited and potentially declining numbers, extent and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.

G2 S2

At risk because of very limited and potentially declining numbers, extent and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.

G3 S3

Potentially at risk because of limited and potentially declining numbers, extent and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.

G4 S4

Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.

G5 S5

Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

GX SX

Presumed Extinct or Extirpated - Species is believed to be extinct throughout its range or extirpated in Montana. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and small likelihood that it will ever be rediscovered.

GH SH

Possibly Extinct or Extirpated - Species is known only from historical records, but may nevertheless still be extant; additional surveys are needed.

GNR SNR

Not yet ranked.

GU SU

Unrankable - Species currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.

GNA SNA

A conservation status rank is not applicable for one of the following reasons:

The taxa is of Hybrid Origin; is Exotic or Introduced; is Accidental or is Not Confidently Present in the state. (see other codes below)

Other Codes and Modifiers

HYB

Hybrid-Entity not ranked because it represents an interspecific hybrid and not a species.

T

Intraspecific Taxon (trinomial) - The status of intraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a "T-rank" following the species' global rank.

?

Inexact Numeric Rank - Denotes inexact numeric rank.

Q

Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority-Distinctiveness of this entity as a taxon at the current level is questionable; resolution of this uncertainty may result in change from a species to a subspecies or hybrid, or inclusion of this taxon in another taxon, with the resulting taxon having a lower-priority (numerically higher) conservation status rank.

C

Captive or Cultivated Only - Species at present is extant only in captivity or cultivation, or as a reintroduced population not yet established.

A

Accidental - Species is accidental or casual in Montana, in other words, infrequent and outside usual range. Includes species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or only a few times at a location. A few of these species may have bred on the one or two occasions they were recorded.

SYN

Synonym - Species reported as occurring in Montana, but the Montana Natural Heritage Program does not recognize the taxon; therefore the species is not assigned a rank.

B

Breeding - Rank refers to the breeding population of the species in Montana.

N

Nonbreeding - Rank refers to the non-breeding population of the species in Montana.

M

Migratory - Species occurs in Montana on during migration.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LE

Listed endangered - Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (16 U.S.C. 1532(6)).

PE

Proposed endangered - Any species for which a proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register to list the species as endangered.

LT

Listed threatened - Any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range (16 U.S.C. 1532(20)).

PT

Proposed threatened - Any species for which a proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register to list the species as threatened.

E(S/A) or T(S/A)

Any species listed endangered or threatened because of similarity of appearance.

C

Candidate - Those taxa for which sufficient information on biological status and threats exists to propose to list them as threatened or endangered. We encourage their consideration in environmental planning and partnerships; however, none of the substantive or procedural provisions of the Act apply to candidate species.

PDL

Proposed for delisting - Any species for which a final rule has been published in the Federal Register to delist the species.

DM

Recovered, delisted, and being monitored - Any previously listed species that is now recovered, has been delisted, and is being monitored.

NL

Not listed - No designation.

XE

Essential experimental population - An experimental population whose loss would be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species in the wild.

XN

Nonessential experimental population - An experimental population of a listed species reintroduced into a specific area that receives more flexible management under the Act.

CH

Critical Habitat - The specific areas (i) within the geographic area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to conserve the species and (II) that may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon determination that such areas are essential to conserve the species.

PS

Partial status - status in only a portion of the species' range. Typically indicated in a "full" species record where an infraspecific taxon or population, that has a record in the database has USESA status, but the entire species does not.

PS:value

Partial status - status in only a portion of the species' range. The value of that status appears in parentheses because the entity with status is not recognized as a valid taxon by Central Sciences (usually a population defined by geopolitical boundaries or defined administratively, such as experimental populations).

Forest Service

The status of species on Forest Service lands as defined by the U.S. Forest Service manual (2670.22). These taxa are listed as such by the Regional Forester (Northern Region). The Forest Service lists animal species as:

Endangered

Listed as Endangered (LE) by the USFWS.

Threatened

Listed as Threatened (LT) by the USFWS.

Sensitive

Any species for which the Regional Forester has determined there is a concern for population viability within the state, as evidenced by a significant current or predicted downward trend in populations or habitat.

Species of Concern

USFS Species-of-Concern (FSH 1909.12, 43.22b) are species for which the Responsible Official determines management actions may be necessary to prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Responsible Official, as appropriate, may identify the following plant and animal species, including macro-lichens, as species-of-concern:

1. Species identified as proposed and candidate species under the ESA.
2. Species with ranks of G-1 through G-3 on the NatureServe ranking system.
3. Infraspecific (subspecific) taxa with ranks of T-1 through T-3 on the NatureServe ranking system.
4. Species that have been petitioned for federal listing and for which a positive "90-day finding" has been made (a 90-day finding is a preliminary finding that substantive information was provided indicating that the petition listing may be warranted and a full status review will be conducted).
5. Species that have been recently delisted (these include species delisted within the past five years and other delisted species for which regulatory agency monitoring is still considered necessary).

Species of Interest

USFS Species-of-Interest (FSH 1909.12, 43.22c) are species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple-use objectives. The Responsible Official may review the following sources for potential species-of-interest:

1. Species with ranks of S-1, S-2, N1, or N2 on the NatureServe ranking system.
2. State listed threatened and endangered species that do not meet the criteria as species-of-concern.
3. Species identified as species of conservation concern in State Comprehensive Wildlife Strategies.
4. Bird species on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern National Priority list (for the U.S. portion of the northern Rockies that occur on National Forest system lands).
5. Additional species that valid existing information indicates are of regional or local conservation concern (this includes all Forest Service Northern Region sensitive species) due to factors that may include:
 - a. Significant threats to populations or habitat.
 - b. Declining trends in populations or habitat.
 - c. Rarity.
 - d. Restricted ranges (for example, narrow endemics, disjunct populations, or species at the edge of their range).
6. Species that are hunted or fished and other species of public interest. Invasive species may also be considered.

Bureau of Land Management

BLM Sensitive Species are defined by the BLM 6840 Manual as those that normally occur on Bureau administered lands for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management. The State Director may designate additional categories of special status species as appropriate and applicable to his or her state's needs. The sensitive species designation, for species other than federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, may include such native species as those that:

1. could become endangered in or extirpated from a state, or within a significant portion of its distribution in the foreseeable future,
2. are under status review by FWS and/or NMFS,
3. are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution,

4. are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in population or density such that federally listed, proposed, candidate, or State listed status may become necessary,
5. have typically small and widely dispersed populations,
6. are inhabiting ecological refugia, specialized or unique habitats, or
7. are State listed but which may be better conserved through application of BLM sensitive species status. Such species should be managed to the level of protection required by State laws or under the BLM policy for candidate species, whichever would provide better opportunity for its conservation.

MFWP Conservation Need

In recent years states have received federal funding to develop Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategies. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks completed [Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy](#) in 2005. Under this conservation strategy individual animal species were assigned levels of conservation need as follows:

Tier I:

Tier I: Greatest conservation need. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has a clear obligation to use its resources to implement conservation actions that provide direct benefit to these species, communities, and focus areas.

Tier II:

Tier II: Moderate conservation need. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks could use its resources to implement conservation actions that provide direct benefit to these species, communities, and focus areas.

Tier III:

Tier III: Lower conservation need. Although important to Montana's wildlife diversity, these species, communities, and focus areas are either abundant and widespread or are believed to have adequate conservation already in place.

Tier IV:

Tier IV: Species that are non-native, incidental, or on the periphery of their range and are either expanding or very common in adjacent states.

Partners In Flight (PIF)

[Partners In Flight \(PIF\)](#) is a partnership of federal and state agencies, industry, non-governmental organizations, and many others, with the goal of conserving North American birds. In 1991, PIF began developing a formal species assessment process that could provide consistent, scientific evaluations of conservation status across all bird species in North America, and identify areas most important to the conservation of each species. This process applies quantitative rule sets to complex biological data on the population size, distribution, population trend, threats, and regional abundance of individual bird species to generate simple numerical scores that rank each species in terms of its biological vulnerability and regional status. The process results in global and regional conservation assessments of each bird species that, among other uses, can be used to objectively assign regional and continental conservation priorities among birds. The species assessment scores and process has recently been updated! Check out the [new scores](#) and make sure to download and read the updated [Handbook on Species Assessment](#), which contains important information on the how scores are derived and used in the assessment process. Note that currently only breeding-season regional scores are available for BCRs. We hope to have non-breeding scores available soon. For those needing access to the previous versions of the PIF Species Assessment Database, including past regional scores for physiographic areas, [click here](#).

Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) Threat Category

The MNPS Threat Category process was initiated in 2006 at the Montana Plant Conservation Conference with the formation of a committee represented by federal, state and private botanists, ecologists and biologists. The objectives were to: 1) Evaluate threats impacting Montana's Plant Species of Concern and to classify species according to their level of imperilment/risk as a result of these threats. 2) Develop a ranking system based on the impacts of the identified threats to the species' viability in the state. The result of this process is a 4-tier threat ranking system for Plant Species of Concern in Montana. The threat categories are:

Category 1:

The viability of the species in the state is Highly Threatened by one or more activities. Associated threats have caused or are likely to cause a major reduction of the state population or its habitat that will require 50 years or more for recovery, 20% or more of the state population has been or will be affected, and the negative impact is occurring or is likely to occur within the next 5 years.

Category 2:

The viability of the species or a portion of the species habitat in the state is Threatened by one or more activities, though impacts to the species are expected to be less severe than those in Category 1. Associated threats exist but are not as severe, wide-ranging or immediate as for Category 1, though negative impacts are occurring or are likely to occur.

Category 3:

The viability of the species in the state is Not Threatened or the Threats are Insignificant. Associated threats are either not known to exist, are not likely to occur in the near future or are not known to be having adverse impacts that will severely affect the species' viability in the state.

Category 4:

Assessment not possible due to insufficient and/or conflicting information on potential threats to the species.

Please visit the MNPS website at <http://www.mtnativeplants.org> for additional information on MNPS Threat Categories or for MNPS contact information.

A GUIDE TO WETLAND AND DEEPWATER HABITATS CLASSIFICATION USED IN THE NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY (NWI) MAPPING IN MONTANA



Purpose:

The Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center uses the Cowardin classification system (Cowardin et al. 1979) adopted by the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) for wetlands (FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee, 2009). The riparian system follows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) standard (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 2009). NWI is the standard classification system for wetland mapping across the United States. For ease of display and interpretation the NWI attributes have been grouped into major wetland and riparian types.

Wetlands

In Montana, there are three NWI wetland systems: Palustrine, Lacustrine, and Riverine.

PALUSTRINE:

- In Montana, this system includes all wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, and emergent, herbaceous vegetation.
- Wetlands lacking vegetation are included if they are less than 8 hectares (20 acres) in size and are less than 2 meters (6.6 feet) deep in the deepest portion of the wetland.

Freshwater pond:

- Wetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water surface for most of the growing season.

Freshwater Emergent Wetland:

- Wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season.

Freshwater Shrub Wetland:

- Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. Woody vegetation includes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.

Freshwater Forested Wetland:

- Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.

LACUSTRINE (Lakes):

- This system includes any large body of water that is greater than 8 hectares (20 acres) in size OR is more than 2 meters (6.6 feet) deep.
- This system is usually found in a topographic depression. It may also be formed by damming of a river channel.

RIVERINE (Rivers and streams and shore):

- This system includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats that are within natural and artificial channels.
- These systems contain either continuous (perennial) or intermittently flowing water.

RIPARIAN:

The Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center uses the riparian classification system developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to map riparian areas in Montana. The riparian classification types listed below are followed by the coding convention used for mapping purposes.

- Plant communities (trees, shrubs and/or herbaceous plants) contiguous to rivers, streams, lakes, or drainage ways.
- Riparian areas are influenced by both surface and below surface hydrology.
- The plant species present in riparian areas are distinctly different from plant species found in adjacent areas.
- Plants in riparian areas demonstrate more vigorous or robust growth forms than in adjacent areas.

Riparian Classes:***Scrub-Shrub (SS):***

- This type of riparian area is dominated by woody vegetation that is less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.
- Woody vegetation includes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.

Forested (FO):

- This riparian class has woody vegetation that is greater than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.

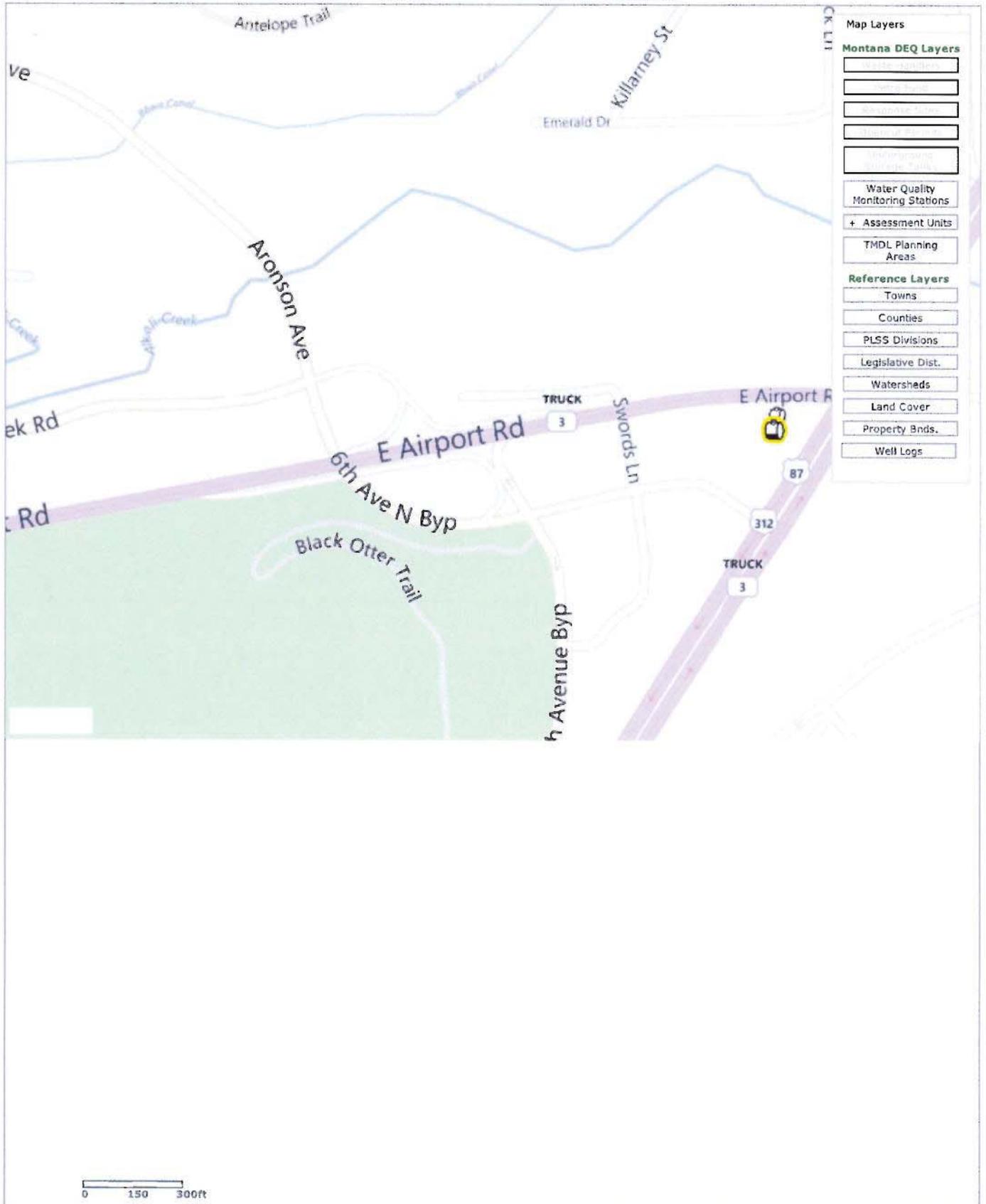
Emergent (EM):

- Riparian areas that have erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation during most of the growing season.

References

- Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, and E. T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. FWS/OBS-79/31.
- FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee. 2009. Wetlands Mapping Standard. U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. 2009. A system for mapping riparian areas in the western United States. Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Branch of Resource and Mapping Support, Arlington, Virginia.

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Underground Storage Tank Facility Summary Report

Data last retrieved from DEQ on 9/26/2011 8:44:35 AM

Facility ID: 56-08904
ZIP TRIP 55

I. Ownership of Tank(s)

System ID:

State Owner ID:

Name: CHS Inc

Address: 16124 E Marietta LaneSpokane Valley, WA 99216

Phone: (509)-535-7701

Fax:

Contact: Marlene McCormick

Comments: CHS Inc dba Cenex Zip Trip #55

Type of Notification: **ERROR**

SystemID: 5608904

State Facility ID: 56-08904

Date Received:

Re-Notification:

Facility Operator:

II. Facility (Location of Tanks)

Name: ZIP TRIP 55

Location: 236 MAIN ST BILLINGS, MT 59105, YELLOWSTONE County

Latitude: 45.8037

Longitude: -108.4784

Latitude/Longitude Determination Method: B

Phone:

Comments: Leak site

Facility Compliance

Operating Permit Renewal Date:

Last Operating Permit Issued:

III. Type of Owner

Business Organization

IV. Indian Lands

Tanks are not located on land with an Indian Reservation or on other trust lands

Tanks are not owned by a native American nation or tribe

V. Type of Facility

Type of Facility: Gasoline Stations

Comments:

VI. Contact Persons in Charge of Tanks

VII. Financial Responsibility

Facility meets financial responsibility requirements.

Financial Responsibility methods:

Comments:

VIII. Certification

Name: Marlene McCormick

Title:

Date:

IX, X, and XI. Underground Storage Tanks

Tank ID	Status	Installed	Substance	Capacity	Date Closed	Closure Status
<u>Tank 1 -- Detailed Report</u>	Currently in Use	10/3/1982		12000		
<u>Tank 2 -- Detailed Report</u>	Currently in Use	10/3/1982		12000		
<u>Tank 3 -- Detailed Report</u>	Currently in Use	10/3/1982		12000		



United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service



Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1
Helena, Montana 59601-6287
Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339

File: M29 Public (1)

October 29, 2013

Vinny Morasko
Sanderson Stewart
1300 North Transtech Way
Billings, Montana 59102

Dear Mr. Morasko:

This is in response to your October 8, 2013 email requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) comment on the proposed Aronson Bypass Trail Project as part of the Community Transportation Enhancement Program for the City of Billings, Montana. Your email and site map of the project area was received by our office October 21, 2013.

We offer the following comments under the authority of and in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; 16 U.S.C 703 et seq.), as amended, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA; 16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), as amended, Executive Order 13186 *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Given that the project activities will occur within the city of Billings, in areas which are previously disturbed or previously impacted from the effects of development, we do not anticipate adverse effects to threatened, endangered, or candidate species or critical habitat to result from activities at the proposed project area. In addition, there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects to other fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Service appreciates your efforts to incorporate fish and wildlife resource concerns, including threatened and endangered species, into your project planning. Please contact Mike McGrath at (406) 449-5225, extension 201, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

for Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor