

# DRAFT MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

## PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Anaconda Smelter Stack Interpretive Viewing Stand Construction
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** Sections 23-1-101 and 23-1-102, MCA provide general authority to FW&P to manage the state parks system.
3. **Name of Project** Anaconda Smelter Stack Interpretive Viewing Stand Project
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**  
  
Anaconda Tourism Action Committee  
c/o Anaconda Local Development Corporation  
118 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anaconda, Montana 59711  
(406) 563-5538
5. **If Applicable:**  
  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date March 20, 2000  
Estimated Completion Date September 30, 2001  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 70%
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**  
  
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, 2.22 acre tract in SE4, SEC 2, T4N, R11
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed: residential ..... <u>0</u> acres industrial ..... <u>0</u> acres	(d) Floodplain ..... <u>0</u> acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation ..... <u>2.22</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland ..... <u>0</u> acres dry cropland ..... <u>0</u> acres forestry ..... <u>0</u> acres rangeland ..... <u>0</u> acres other ..... <u>0</u> acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas ..... <u>0</u> acres	
8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted**

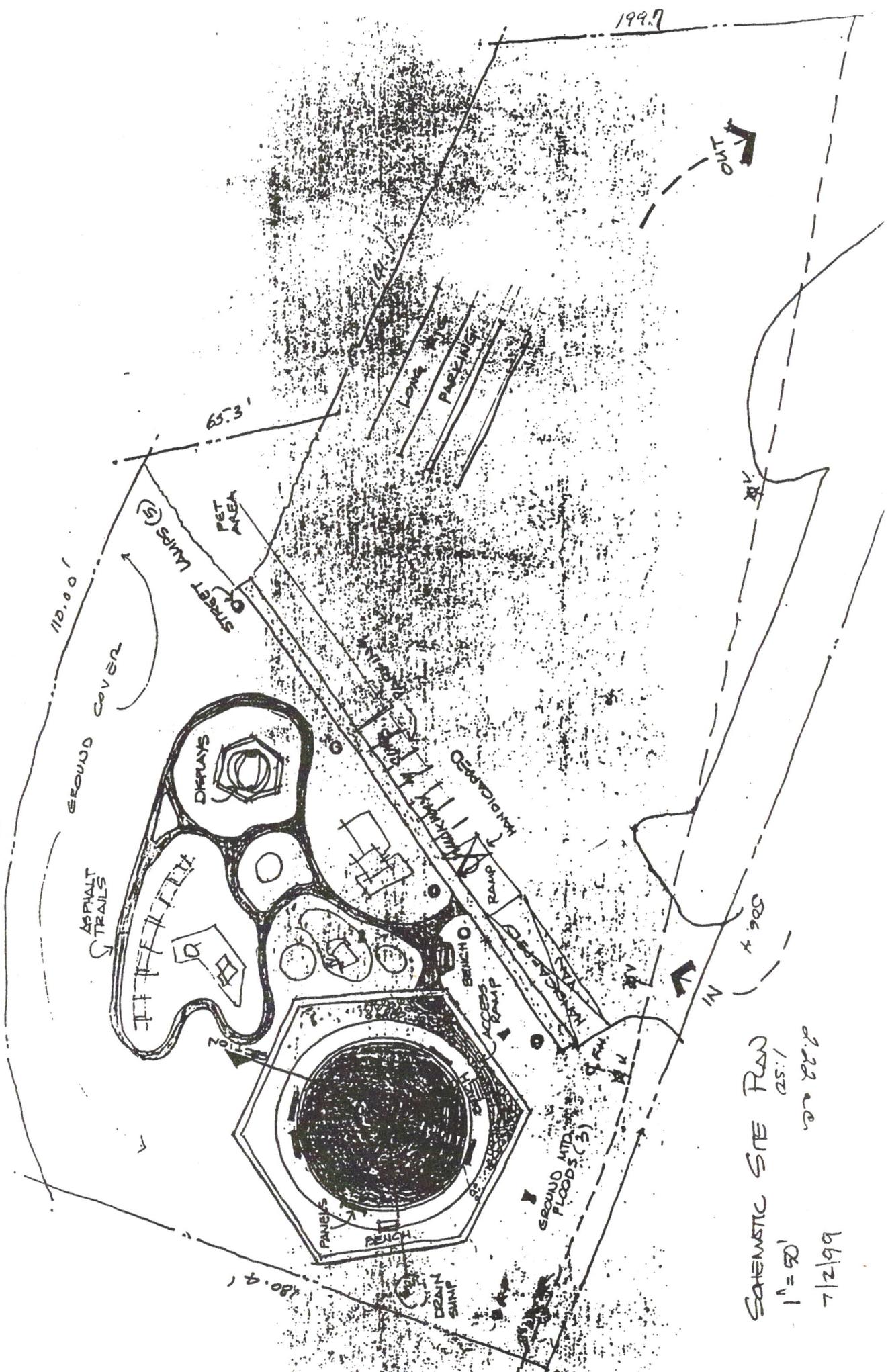


147.60'

110.00'

65.3'

199.9'



OUT

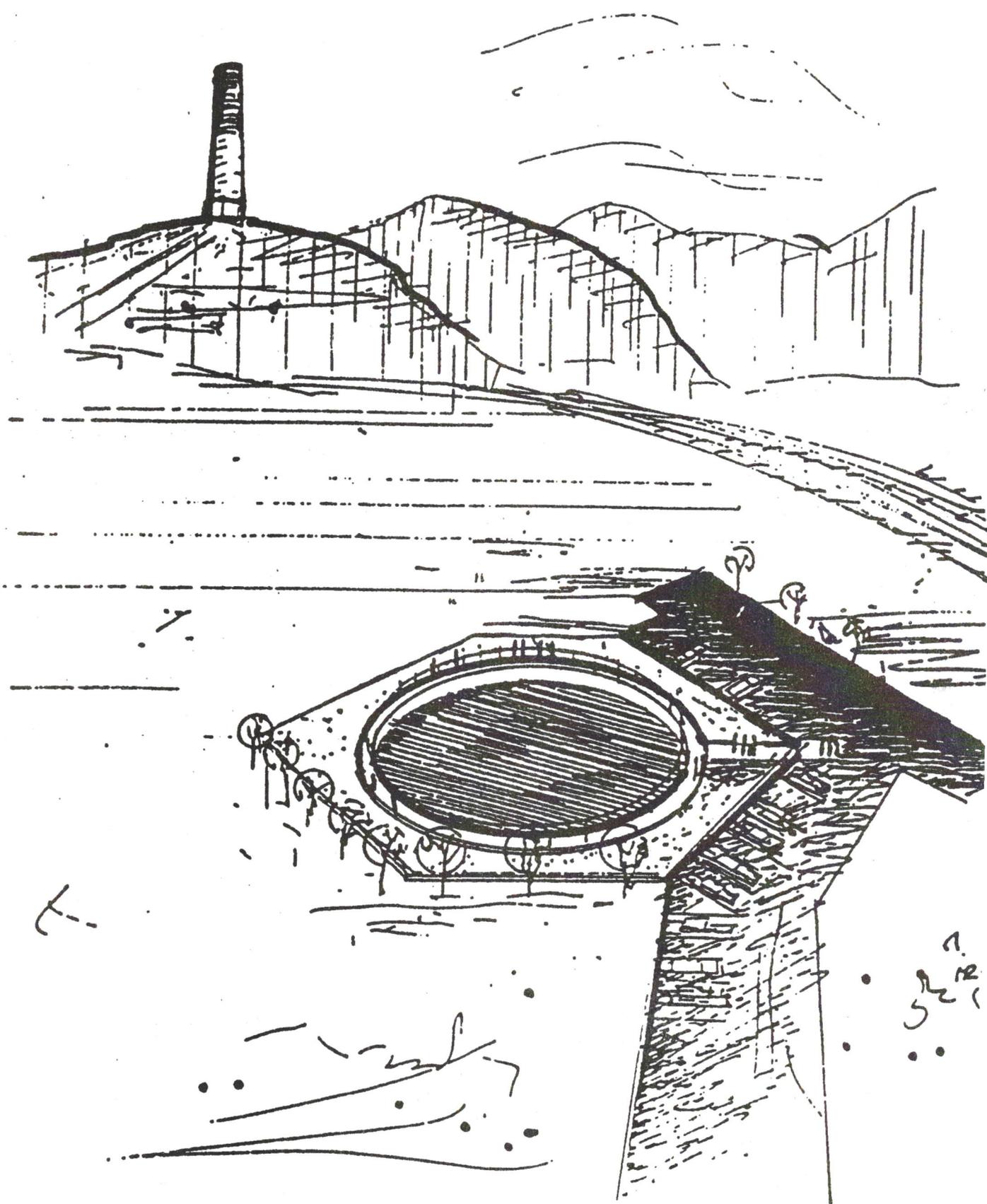
SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

AS:1

1" = 50'

2.22 ac

7/2/99



WASHOE STACK + SLAG  
VIEWING STAND

PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST  
HB 495

Date 11/17/99 Person Reviewing Dale Carlson

Project Location: Anaconda Smelter Stack State Park

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: Construction of Interpretive Viewing Stand on 2.2 acres below the Anaconda Stack.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check  all that apply and comment as necessary). Capital Construction projects - Prepared by D & C; Force Account Projects - Prepared by Region.

A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

Comments: N/A

B. New building construction (buildings < 100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?

Comments: N/A

[no] C. Any excavation of 20 yd<sup>2</sup> or greater?

Comments: The only excavation connected with the project will be that necessary for installing underground electric lines to the 5 historic-style street lights; this excavation will not exceed 20 yd<sup>2</sup>.

[no] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?

Comments: An existing parking lot on the site will be refurbished; no expansion of the existing parking area will take place.

E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or disabled fishing station?

Comments: N/A

F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?

Comments: N/A



# State Historic Preservation Office

## Montana Historical Society

1410 8th Avenue • PO Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • (406) 444-7715 • FAX (406) 444-6575

December 3, 1999

Michael Horn  
FWP  
600 North Park Ave  
Helena MT 59620-0701

**RECEIVED**

DEC 06 1999  
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

RE: Anaconda Smelter Interpretive Center

Dear Michael:

Thanks for the quick response to our request for more information on the project location. The project appears to be located between the Goose Town Historic District and the A, B & P Railroad (Anaconda East Yard) District. It is difficult to be sure but it appears as though the Anaconda East Yard Washer House may (if it still stands) be located in the project area. I talked to Chere Justio (our NR Coordinator) about the project. She agrees that No Properties will likely be Affected, if the Washer House is not in fact in the project area. She pointed out the Center would be a good opportunity for interpretation of the Goose Town and the A, B&P RR districts, as well as the Stack and Foundry.

We would like to suggest first that it be determined if in fact the Washer House is in the APE. I have inclosed some maps from the NR files. This structure is shown as EA4 on Map no 3. The two districts are outlined on the other two maps. Perhaps Kay Eccleston (Anaconda Tourism Action Committee), Cheryl Mckinley (CLG) or Mark Reavis could provide that information. I will send this information to Kay since she has also consulted with us regarding sites in the area as part of her project planning.

Thank you,



Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D.  
HPO

CC: Kay Eccleston  
Mitzi Rossillon

if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

**9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The Anaconda Tourism Action Committee intends to construct the Anaconda Smelter Stack Interpretive Viewing Stand project on a 2.2-acre parcel, located immediately adjacent to the main access road at the Anaconda Smelter State Park. This parcel is under the ownership of FW&P and is the former site of the Washoe Smelter Visitor's Center and parking area. Following the closure of the Washoe Smelter in 1980, the Visitor's Center building was removed from the site.

The interpretive viewing stand will provide visitors a meaningful experience of the physical size of the Washoe Smelter Stack, as well tell the story of Anaconda's role in the industrial, economic, and social development of southwestern Montana region and its contributions to the state and national economy. The Washoe Smelter Stack was designated as a state park in 1989 and remains one of the largest free-standing masonry structures in the world.

Extensive environmental cleanup activities have taken place at the Anaconda Smelter Site under the Superfund Program, and it is anticipated that additional cleanup activities will be continuing on Smelter Hill for up to five years. The proposed Smelter Stack Interpretive Viewing Stand project will provide visitors a safe location from which to view the Stack. Visitors will be able to share in the colorful history of the community presented in high-quality interpretive material and view the stack through coin-operated binoculars. Following the completion of the remedial activities on Smelter Hill, it is anticipated that visitors will be allowed controlled access to Smelter Hill, via guided bus tours. The interpretive center will serve as a staging area for these guided tours during the summer months and as the primary historic interpretive location during the winter months when access to Smelter Hill is restricted.

The design of the Smelter Stack Interpretive Viewing Stand site is based on a concept first presented in the Regional Historic Preservation Plan, a document developed through the combined efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), the State of Montana, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, and Butte-Silver Bow County.

Construction of the project will include general site cleanup and enhancement of an existing parking area (to include handicapped parking), construction of a "to-scale" viewing stand with features that match the dimensions and proportions of the Smelter Stack, installation of walkways, low-maintenance landscaping, and historic interpretive panels (see the preliminary site plans attached).

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	Building/Electrical	Forthcoming

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Travel Montana, Dept. of Commerce	\$20,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
SHPO	Cultural clearances

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LAND RESOURCES  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1b. Soil disturbance will be limited to the construction period only and will be minimal; with the exception of tiling installation, all construction will be above grade.

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 2A. Emission of air pollutants as well as a slight deterioration of ambient air quality may occur, but will be limited to the construction period only and will not have any residual effects.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>⊛</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>⊛</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>⊛</sup>	None	Minor <sup>⊛</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4e. The site is currently is currently not maintained; very little vegetation is present, and the existing site already presents some potential for the establishment of weeds. A general site cleanup is planned as part of the initial construction. The project will improve the area and reduce the potential for the spread of weeds. The site is part of FWP's R-2 Weed Management Plan.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife		X				

populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?						
◆◆For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
i. ◆For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X			
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 6a. There will be a slight increase in existing noise level during the construction period only.
- 6b. Site is located within the city limits about 1/4 mile from a residential area; however, there is enough distance to keep any increased noise level to a minimum during construction periods.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X			
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area		X				

or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?						
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. The proposed project will improve what is currently a barren parcel. Planned improvements will not conflict with the current designated land use, and will have an overall positive impact on the surroundings.

### HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8a. All safety gear and practices will be used during the construction period. This project does not involve hazardous substances. A portion of the interpretive structure will be filled with granulated slag. This material is a glassy, sand-like substance that has been approved by EPA for use in other recreational settings, such as the sand traps on the Old Works Golf course in Anaconda and other golf courses. This material is also processed and used as an industrial abrasive by RDM Mult-Enterprises of Anaconda. An MSDS is attached.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 9e. It is anticipated that upon completion of the project, there will be an increase of visitors to the site. The site is accessed by a city street with designated speed limits and designed for such traffic. The site is not close enough to residential areas that this poses any hazards.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action:	IMPACT <sup>*</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>*</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	None	Minor <sup>*</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X	X			
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X			
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other supply or distribution systems, or		X				

communications?						
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?			X			
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources						
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 10a. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drafted between MTFWP, Anaconda Chamber of Commerce and the Anaconda local development Group, which will better define the maintenance and caretaker responsibilities of the site.
- 10b. It is anticipated that the project may attract additional tourists/visitors to the community, this may slightly impact the local economy in a positive manner.
- 10d. There will be electricity used to run the historic street lights that are planned as part of this project.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>⊙</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>⊙</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>⊙</sup>	None	Minor <sup>⊙</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X			
▶c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 11b. The proposed project has the potential to have a positive effect on the community and the neighborhoods adjacent to the site. Currently the site is undeveloped and not maintained; the completed project will enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood.
- 11c. The quality and quantity of historic interpretive opportunities will increase by providing a setting in which visitors and residents can learn about the smelting history of the community. FW&P is in possession of the latest Tourism Assessment Report for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. This report identifies this project as important to tourism development.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?			X			
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? <b>Attach SHPO letter of clearance.</b> (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12b. The project will positively enhance the experience of the visitors; dimensions of the viewing stand will be in proportion to the Washoe Stack. Visitors will gain a true sense of the size of the Stack.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				

f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

**Alternative A:** Develop an interpretive viewing stand with "to-scale" features that match the dimensions and proportions of the Smelter Stack. Also included as part of the project would be general site cleanup and enhancement of an existing parking area (to include handicapped parking), installation of pedestrian walkways, low-maintenance landscaping, and historic interpretive panels. This project will provide educational and recreational opportunities for all park visitors. This alternative would enable visitors to experience and observe the Stack at a safe distance during the 5-year period in which access is limited because of remedial activities taking place on Smelter Hill and would also serve the same function during the winter months. This project will be constructed by the Anaconda Tourism Action Committee.

**Alternative B:** Conduct educational/interpretive programs at another location (Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society). This alternative would not provide the richness of experience because the other locations are located away from Smelter Hill in the center of town.

**Alternative C:** Do nothing. This alternative does not address the most often asked question from visitors: "How can I get up close to the Stack and learn more about it?" This alternative takes no steps toward increasing or enhancing the accessibility of the park to state citizens and visitors.

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

It is anticipated that SHPO will give this project site cultural clearance stating that there is a low likelihood for impacts to cultural resources.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No, an EIS is not required. After completing the checklist provided and finding no actions that could cause a potentially significant impact during the project construction period, an EA will be adequate to evaluate this proposed project. All impacts will be short lived during the construction period.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The project arose as a need expressed through the Tourism Assessment conducted in 1998, the Anaconda Visioning Project, the Butte-Anaconda Regional Historic Preservation Plan, and the efforts of the Anaconda Save the Stack Committee, the Anaconda Historical Society, and the Anaconda Historic Resources Board. The Anaconda Tourism Action Committee was formed in Summer 1999 to follow through on all these past efforts to secure access to the Washoe Smelter and ensure that a well planned and meaningful interpretive viewing area was constructed. The committee is dedicated to seeking the funding and in-kind donations to see the project through, as well as ensure funding is secured for operation and maintenance. This draft document will be made available for public comment and is the appropriate level for public involvement.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Kay Eccleston  
Anaconda Tourism Action Committee, Member  
c/o Anaconda Local Development Corporation  
118 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anaconda, Montana 59711  
(406) 563-5538

Dale Carlson  
Park Operations Supervisor  
MTFWP  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-531

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

Development of an interpretive viewing stand based on the Regional Historic Preservation Plan conceptual design will enhance the Anaconda Washoe Smelter Stack state park and will provide park visitors with a meaningful educational experience of the size and scope of the stack and the role of the Washoe Smelter in the development of the regional and state industrial development. The proposed viewing stand will be constructed of features that will be on the same scale as the dimensions and proportions of the Smelter Stack, providing an up close experience at a distance. The associated parking lot improvements, pedestrian walkways, lighting, coin-operated binoculars, low-maintenance landscaping, and historic interpretive panels will augment positive visitor experience by enhancing the site's aesthetics and making it more inviting. With remedial activities planned to continue over the next five years, even controlled access to Smelter Hill via guided tours will be unavailable. The planned interpretive viewing stand will provide a safe, accessible location from which to experience this state park. Following the completion of remedial activities, the interpretive viewing stand will continue to serve this function during winter months, as well as serving as a central staging and educational area for guided tours in the summer months.

This project will assist FW&P in the following ways:

- Provide increased opportunities for public enjoyment of state cultural resources
- Promote the importance of public education and participation by affording citizens the opportunity to gain a better understanding and appreciation of diverse historic/cultural resources

The proposed site, former Anaconda Smelter Visitor Center, is currently vacant and not maintained. Completion of the proposed project will enhance the property and make a positive contribution to the community of Anaconda.

A group of local citizens and business persons is committed to seeking funding and in-kind donations of materials and services to ensure this project is completed.