

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Big R Game Bird Farm

Application Date: 4/5/00

Name, Address and Phone Number: Ranch & Home Supply
2275 N. 7th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715

Project Location: 2275 N. 7th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715

Description of Project:

Applicant proposes to sell game bird chicks at their retail store.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

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PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful, if they were to occur?

No.

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

No.

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

No action alternative would be to deny the permit. Permits may only be denied if applicant fails to meet minimum standards prescribed by law.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations) for license:

None.

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA: Reviewed by Tim Feldner in Enforcement, Helena.

EA prepared by: Jim Heck

Date Completed: April 14, 2000

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

No potentially significant impacts were noted. An EA is the appropriate level of review. It is my decision to approve the Game Bird Farm as proposed.

Describe public involvement, if any: None

Recommendation for license approval:	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4/18/00</u>
	Wildlife Manager	Date
	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4-18-00</u>
	Warden Captain	Date

Following are the statute references and a summary of what they say regarding **game birds**.

- 87-2-101 Defines game birds as “sharptailed grouse, blue grouse, spruce grouse, prairie chicken, sage hen or sage grouse, Hungarian partridge, ptarmigan, wild turkey, and chukar partridge. Defines migratory game birds as waterfowl, including wild ducks, wild geese, brant, and swans; cranes, including little brown and sandhill; rails, including coots; wilson’s snipe or jacksnipes; and mourning doves.
- 87-3-111 It is unlawful for a person to purchase, sell, offer to sell, possess, ship, or transport any game bird or migratory game bird protected by the laws of the state, whether belonging to the same or a different species from that native to Montana, except as specifically permitted by the laws of the state
- 87-4-902 Provides an exemption for people who own, control or propagate game birds for purposes other than sale or conveyance and who notify the department and receive written authorization and exemption. This is the statute that authorizes the department to issue a permit to possess game birds for noncommercial purposes. The permit to possess is a free permit and **does not allow the release of those birds**.
- 87-4-915 Allows the department to authorize the use of live birds acquired from a game bird farm for training dogs or for field trials. This is authorized through a permit system for field trials and for dog training if game birds are to be killed during the dog training. Again, the permit is free. If game birds are not going to be killed during dog training, a field trial permit is not required, however a permit to possess would be. Historically, the department has allowed the use of quail (not listed as a game bird) for training purposes.
- 87-3-105 Makes it unlawful to introduce or transplant any wildlife unless it is authorized by the department.
- a) When purchasing game birds, one must have either a shooting preserve license, a permit to possess, a field trial permit, or a dog training permit. Persons possessing a game bird farm permit may also purchase game birds.
- b) In order to release birds, one must either have a shooting preserve license or a permit to release. The permit to release is good only for ring-neck pheasants and the birds may only be released from May 1 to August 31.
- c) Possession of other bird species not included under the definition of game birds (emus, peacocks, etc.) is allowed without permit. Importation requirements for birds coming from out of state are regulated by the Department of Livestock.