

## MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Boat Ramp
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action**  
FWP has the authority to provide acquisition, development and access for public recreation. 23-2-101 and 87-1-209 MCA.
3. **Name of Project** Martinsdale Reservoir Boat Ramp
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**  
  
N/A
5. **If Applicable:**  
  
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 5/2001  
Estimated Completion Date 6/2001  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete)
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**  
  
Wheatland County - Meagher County  
T8N R 11E S13    R 12 E S18
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) <b>Developed:</b> residential..... 0__ acres industrial            0__ acres	(d) <b>Floodplain</b> ..... 0__ acres
(b) <b>Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation</b> ..... 5__ acres	(e) <b>Productive:</b> irrigated cropland..... 0__ acres dry cropland ..... 0__ acres forestry ..... 0__ acres rangeland..... 0__ acres other..... 0__ acres
(c) <b>Wetlands/Riparian Areas</b> ..... 0__ 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 if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

Attached in appendices.

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

The proposed action benefits the motorboat user and shore fishermen by providing a defined boat ramp. Historically there have been user conflicts because shore fishermen are reluctant to move so boaters can launch their boats. The proposed action should also benefit the resource by reducing environmental damage due to random shoreline launching.

The project consists of excavating approximately 70 yards of material 16 feet wide x 140 feet long. A concrete ramp will be poured in place. To designate the line up and boat ramp approach stones approximately 2 cubic feet in size will be partially embedded. The stones will blend with the landscape and provide a more aesthetic experience. The stones will also be used as barriers between designated boat launch and vehicle parking area. See attached site map for approximate location of the project.

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>
ARMY CORPS	404	
DEQ	3A	
MFWP	124 - Stream Protection Act	
Water Quality Bureau	308 or 318 - Water Quality Standards	
Wheatland Co. Weed Board	weed permit	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Boat-In-Lieu	\$26,784

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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11. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

MFWP - Parks Division  
 Design and Construction Bureau  
 Wildlife Division  
 Fisheries Division  
 Enforcement Division

Montana Natural Heritage Program (Natural Resources Information System)  
 Department of Commerce - Travel Montana

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		yes	1b.
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
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		Yes	1d.
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):

1a. Soil and geologic substructure will remain stable during and after the proposed action. The ramp surface will be grooved to direct runoff from the ramp to drainage rock along the side to trap sediment. This grooved surface treatment greatly reduces sediment to the reservoir from the ramp.

New construction of the boat ramp will disrupt, displace and compact soil in the immediate vicinity of construction. Some cut and fill excavation will be required for the boat ramp. MFWP strives to mitigate impacts to the area by requiring contractors to limit disruption to the immediate construction zone. A reclamation grass seed mix will be planted to all disturbed areas to reduce erosion and moisture loss. The entire construction area has been disturbed from uncontrolled vehicular use. Some areas will be graded and fabric laid prior to planting seed, to revegetate eroded areas.

1c. No unique geologic or physical features will be altered by the proposed project.

1d. Temporary amounts of deposition and erosion may occur during boat ramp excavation, however, upon completion, the boat ramp is not expected to have an impact on siltation, deposition or erosion patterns of the irrigation reservoir. The ramp incline will be very similar to the existing shoreline with the ramp surface only slightly above the bank levels, allowing for access to the reservoir even if water levels drop below the bottom of the ramp. Construction of the boat ramp will be completed during a period of low reservoir levels (probably spring) in the attempt to keep all construction out of the water. Fabric barriers will be used if necessary to reduce impacts of erosion.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X		yes	2a.
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)		X				
f. Other _____						

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

2a. Temporary amounts of dust will be created due to the leveling and grading of the boat ramp. Spring often provides moist soil conditions, thus dust would be limited during construction. MFWP also requires contractors to limit the disturbance of surrounding vegetation to the immediate vicinity of construction, thus reducing dust and erosion. During construction the exhaust from equipment might give off odors.

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**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	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		Yes	3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		yes	3b.
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				3d.
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?			X Positive			3e.
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				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				3i.
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				3j.
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				3k.
l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		N/A				
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/A				
n. Other: _____		X				

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

3a. The proposed project will cause temporary and minor amounts of turbidity, usually unavoidable during boat ramp construction, unless water reservoir levels are dropped below the level of construction. Measures will be specified in the contract to mitigate the affects on the surface water quality, such as requiring equipment to work from the bank, rather than in the reservoir, and the placement of fabric barriers to reduce direct erosion into the water during construction. Construction will take place during a time of naturally low reservoir levels, thus minimizing the impacts to the surface water quality. A 3A Authorization will be attained, if necessary, from the Department of Environmental Quality prior to

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construction to comply with Montana's Surface Water Quality Standards. When the proposed projects are completed, the reservoir is expected to return to pre-construction water quality levels.

3b. Surface runoff may increase slightly due to the excavation and over-covering of vegetation for constructing the boat ramp. Standard construction techniques, gravel surfaces and grading will minimize runoff and slightly change drainage patterns. Construction of the new facilities largely utilizes existing roads and areas already void of vegetation from heavy vehicular use. Planting a reclamation grass seed mix in disrupted areas immediately after construction will also limit the affects of surface runoff. The ramp may slightly increase runoff pattern by encouraging more runoff to follow ramp. The ramp surface will be grooved to direct runoff from the ramp to drainage rock along the side to trap sediment. This grooved surface treatment greatly reduces sediment to the reservoir from the ramp.

3d. A minimal increase in runoff may occur in the short term, due to the hardened surfaces constructed (compacted gravel roads, concrete boat ramp). Overall, change in surface water will be negligible.

3e. The proposed boat ramp will provide a stable, defined launching site for boaters, unlike the natural shoreline where boats are currently launched.

3i. The Agreement with DNRC does not provide MFWP with any water rights or reservations, and this project does not include any facilities requiring water use.

3j. The temporary effects of turbidity due to this construction project are not expected to affect the DNRC's use of reservoir water for irrigation purposes. All state and federal water quality guidelines will be followed and permits attained prior to construction of the proposed project.

3k. Changes in surface water quantities due to construction of the proposed facilities will be negligible.

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**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

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

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

4a. The proposed facilities will slightly affect the abundance of plant species, but the majority of construction will take place over pioneered roads and shoreline already void of vegetation.

4c. A data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program-Natural Resources Information System (August, 2000) revealed no plant species of special concern in the Martinsdale Reservoir area.

4d. The areas around the reservoir are used as livestock range.

4e. Few noxious weeds currently prevail at the site, however the proposed construction will limit the random vehicle traffic, and therefore reduce the likelihood of weeds spreading on the site. MFWP is responsible for generally accepted and recognized good weed control practices on all areas allowed for public use. The Martinsdale Reservoir site is included in the MFWP Region 4 Weed Management Plan and is actively treated against weeds in cooperation with the Meagher County and Wheatland County Weed Supervisor. In 1999, 5 acres of weeds were treated including Spotted Knapweed, Canadian Thistle, Mullen and Hounds Tongue with Tordon, 2,4-D and Hi-Light using a hand wand, broadjet/boom and backpack sprayers. This service was contracted and performed by a private firm.

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**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				5a.
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				5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. For P-R/D-I, 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)		X				
i. For P-R/D-I, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):  
Overall, no significant negative impacts are anticipated to fish or wildlife due to the proposed construction.

5a. Martinsdale Reservoir contains populations of rainbow, brown trout, and Yellowstone Cutthroat, white and longnose suckers. Current water levels would allow most if not all of the proposed construction to occur in the dry. If water levels in the reservoir increase substantially, the site development could be accomplished by requiring the contractor to utilize Best Management Practices and install silt fence around areas where excavation would occur. Standard BMP's properly implemented would greatly reduce the risk of any direct impact to fisheries habitat by the proposed project. If reservoir levels can be drawn down below the lower end of the boat ramp for construction, impacts to the fisheries due to turbidity will be very minimal.

Martinsdale Reservoir area is not primary habitat for big game or upland game birds, and few waterfowl. No negative impacts are foreseen on wildlife habitat from the proposed development. The site receives heavy visitation and much of the habitat has declined due to human and vehicular use.

5f. A data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program-Natural Resources Information System (August, 2000) revealed no animal T&E species in the Martinsdale Reservoir area.

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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X		yes	6b.
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. Minor and temporary increases in noise levels can be expected during the construction period due to heavy equipment use necessary to complete the proposed project (front end loaders, graders, dump trucks, etc.).

6b. The minor and temporary noise levels occurring during construction may disturb some visitors, but MFWP will attempt to complete construction during a period of low visitation, therefore limiting the number of people possibly annoyed by the noise.

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- 4 Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- 5 Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

7. LAND USE  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X			7a.
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
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: _____		X				

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

7a. By designating and defining a boat ramp some bank fishermen may be upset. There will still be plenty of shoreline, but an approximately 18 foot width will be used for the ramp.

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- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- α Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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**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		yes	8a.
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 Positive			8c.
d. For P-R/D-I, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

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

8a. Minor amounts of chemicals (such as, Tordon, 2,4-D, Hi-Light) are used to combat weeds in accordance with state and county guidelines and product labels. Treated areas will be signed to notify site users of the use of chemicals in these areas. Currently all treatment is done by a private weed control contractor.

8c. Providing a high quality and stable boat ramp will reduce the risk of accidents when visitors attempt to launch boats along alterable, unstable shorelines.

- ∞ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?			X		Yes	9a.
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			9c.
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 Positive			9e.
f. Other: _____		X				

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

9a. The proposed development will purposefully delineate a boat ramp within the recreation site. This is in an effort to reduce environmental impacts caused by indiscriminate vehicle use and some user conflicts in shoreline uses. Some increase in visitation may occur due to the new boat ramp.

9c. A temporary increase in employment may occur in the area, depending on which private firm is awarded the construction bid. Construction employees may increase the income to Martinsdale, Harlowtown, or White Sulphur Springs during the period of construction by purchasing groceries, restaurant meals, entertainment, lodging, etc.

9e. Providing a stable and predictable boat ramp will reduce the risk of accidents occurring when visitors currently attempt to launch boats along alterable, unstable shorelines.

3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

α Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action 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				10a.
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				10b.
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources			X			10e.
f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			10f.
g. Other: _____						

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

10a. The proposed facilities will require periodic cleaning off the ramp of sediment.

10b. Local and state taxes will not be affected by the proposed project.

10e. Current development funding is partially provided by a fee in lieu of tax collected by counties from motorboat owners. Twenty percent of these fees are distributed to MFWP based on use within the various regions for improvements of regional boating facilities (23-2-518 and 23-2-533 MCA). Maintenance and operations funds originate from sales of resident and nonresident fishing licenses earmarked for the operation and maintenance of fishing accesses and lake frontages and the land considered necessary to provide recreational use of these sites (87-1605 MCA). This boat ramp will be constructed using \$26,784 Boat-In-Lieu funds.

10f. Currently maintenance costs including personnel and operations is approximately \$8,000 annually. New maintenance costs may be increased by \$500, depending the need to be clean the ramp.

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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	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			11c.
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)		X				
e. Other: _____						

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

11c. Some bank fishermen may be slightly impacted but no substantial loss of opportunity.

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**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? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

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

There will be no impact on cultural or historic resources. The boat ramp will be constructed on a point that was previously disturbed when the reservoir was constructed in 1939.

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**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
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-I, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. For P-R/D-I, list any federal or state permits required.						

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**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: No Action***

- (1) No action - leave site as is, no permanent designated boat ramp. This area is receiving a significant amount of unrestricted use, which is causing consequential amounts of environmental damage. As a steward of public recreation resources, it would be irresponsible of MFWP to ignore the impacts occurring at this site. Funding has been approved by the Montana legislature to complete this project. The public using this site are anticipating site improvements resulting from past public meetings held in both Martinsdale and Billings

***Alternative B: Proposed development completed***

- (2) A new boat ramp will have less site impact because it would concentrate launching in one area with a more user friendly ramp.

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

A designated boat ramp area will create less conflict with bank fishermen. No mitigation necessary.

**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:**

There is no environmental impact statement needed because the minor impacts identified in the EA can be mitigated through Best Management Practices. This will be a positive site control measure to control sediment; having no cumulative affects or long range negative impacts.

**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?**

Local neighbors were offered a ramp years ago. They would like to see it done. Bait shop, restaurant and store like the economic impact users have on the town of Martinsdale. Public meetings were held in Martinsdale and in Billings in the spring of 1997.

**6. Duration of comment period if any:**

The public will have thirty (30) days to comment following the publication of the second legal notice. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., September 25, 2000 and can be mailed to the address below:

Martinsdale Res. Boat Ramp  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
4600 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT 59405

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

Dave Todd  
Region Park Manager  
4600 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
406-454-5840

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is directed by a mission statement, which identifies MFWP as the steward of "the fish, wildlife and parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations." Strategic Planning within MFWP has identified four goals; Goal B is to "provide quality opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of fish, wildlife and parks resources."

A boat ramp at Martinsdale Reservoir is responsive to the mission statement that states we will enhance the experience of boaters by providing a good launch site. It should also alleviate historical conflicts between boaters and bank fisherman who park on the point by providing a specific site for launching only.

MFWP is responsible for providing facilities to the degree necessary to meet public needs, providing impacts to the physical and human environment are not significant. This environmental assessment did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical or human environment.

**Appendices:**

- Site Location Maps (2)
- Site Development Plan
- Tourism Report
- Clearance letter - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

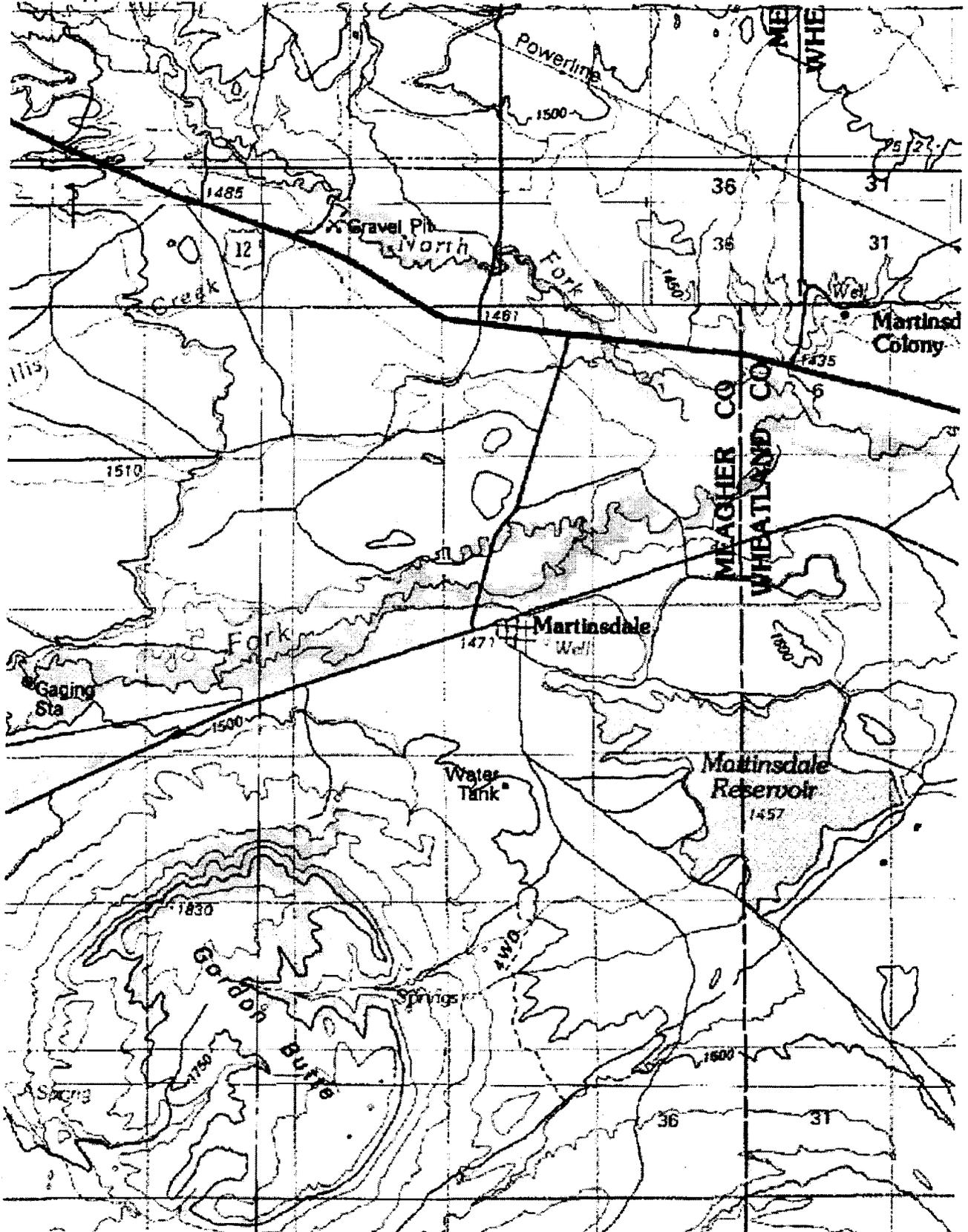


Microsoft TerraServer

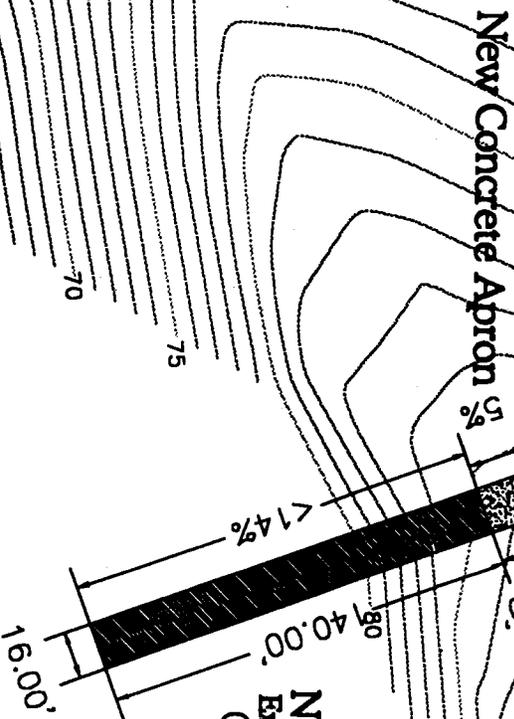
Display Image

USGS Topo Map

4 km SE of Martinsdale, Montana, United States 01 Jul 1993



EXISTING SIGNS

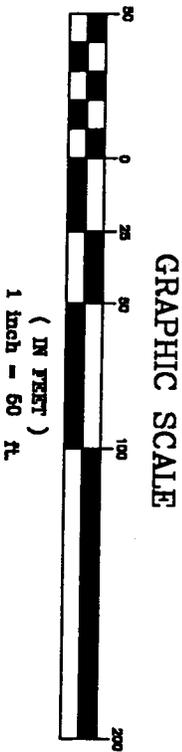
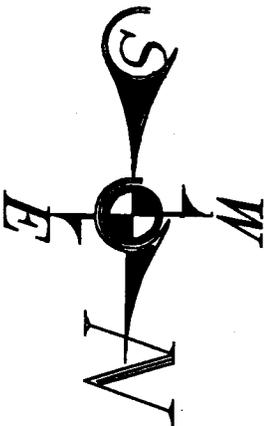


**New Concrete Ramp**  
 Extend ramp as far as funds/water levels allow.  
 (Ramp location to be staked by FWP personnel)

Existing Vault Toilets

HISTORICAL HIGH WATER MARK

Access Road



DATE	BY	REVISION

**Chattanooga State**  
**Martinsdale**  
 Ma...sdale MT

**MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495  
TOURISM REPORT**

Use this form when the Montana Environmental Policy Act review is initiated and when a park or fishing access site (FAS) improvement or development project meets the criteria directed by HB 495 and identified in 12.8.602(1) Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). Submit this form for completion to:

**Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development  
Montana Promotion Division  
Department of Commerce  
1424 9th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-0533**

**Project Name:** Martinsdale Reservoir Fishing Access Site Boat Ramp

**Project Description:** The proposed action benefits the motor boat user by giving them a defined boat ramp. There have been user conflicts because shore fishermen are reluctant to move so boaters can launch their boats. The proposed action should also benefit the resource because of less environmental damage with random shoreline launching. The project consists of excavating approximately 70 yards of material 16 feet wide x 140 feet long.

12.8.604(I) ARM:

- i. tourism is defined as the guidance or management of tourists (residents and nonresidents), who are the individuals who make tours for pleasure or education; and,
- ii. site development projects will be sent to the department of commerce with a request for review as to the impacts on tourism economy.

MEPA:

Human Environment. 11:

- c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

Considering (1) ii under ARM rules and MEPA Human Environment 11, listed above, describe how this project will impact the tourism economy:

The project appears to provide an improved quality and quantity of tourism and recreation resources at the Martinsdale Reservoir Fishing Access Site.

Signature

*Victor A Bjornberg*

Date *8-18-00*

Please return to 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, 59405

RECEIVED AUG 23 2000

FILE 590.2

DAVE TODD  
R4 PARKS



# MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

August 18, 2000

Michael D. Horn *MJH*  
Design and Construction Bureau  
600 North Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 23 2000  
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

RE: Martinsdale Reservoir Improvements; SHPO Project #: 2000081702

Dear Mr. Horn:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the project cited above, at the locations of T8N, R11E, Sections 13 & 14 and T8N, R12E, Section 18. According to our files, there are currently three recorded cultural properties in the search locale. 24ME702 is a historic irrigation system and 24ME703 a historic railroad, and both are located in T8N, R11E, Section 13. 24WL71 is a rock alignment of unknown age and located in T8N, R12E, Section 18. If you need further information on these sites you may contact the University of Montana Archaeological Records Office at (406) 243-5525.

In addition to the sites our records indicate there have been three cultural resource inventories previously conducted in the search area. These are the Martinsdale Latrine & Bridge Replacement Project by Dori Passman in 1996, Archaeological Survey at Martinsdale Reservoir by Leslie B. Davis in 1979, and Moore to Big Timber and Harlowton to Martinsdale Fiber Optic Telephone Transmission Line Cultural Resource Inventory by Barry J. Dau of Ethos Consultants Inc. in 1995. If you wish to obtain further information on these reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

We feel that since the project will occur away from all previously recorded sites and within previously disturbed areas there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted. However if portions of the project occur in undisturbed areas, we recommend a reconnaissance level inventory take place. Also, should any cultural materials be encountered during the course of the project we ask that our office be contacted and consultation begin.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at [tgodin@state.mt.us](mailto:tgodin@state.mt.us). Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,  
*Terrence M. Godin*  
Terrence M. Godin  
Cultural Records Manager  
File: FWP/PARKS/GENERAL/2000