Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref: JS018-05
March 30, 2005

RECEIVED
MAR 3 1 2005
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

TO:
*Dean Vaughan, National Bison Range, Moiese, MT 59824
USFWS Bison Range, Steve Kallin, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 59824
Ralph Goode, Chairman, Flathead Reservation Fish & Wildlife Board, 4717 Hillside Rd., Charlo, 59824
CSKT Fish & Wildlife Program, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855
Sid Rundell, PO Box 162, Big Arm, 59910
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Lands, & Wildlife
*Mt Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Helena 59620
*Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601
*DNRC, Bob Sandman
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th, Bozeman, 59715
Polson City Library, PO Box 820, Polson, 59860
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Ave. E, Polson, 59860
Sen. John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-9317
Rep. Jean Windham, 894 Finley Point Road, Polson, 59860

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region One, has prepared the enclosed draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Keyser Preservation Trust Wetland Restoration project. The purpose of the project is the restoration of a drained wetland basin that is partially on the Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area and partially on the Keyser Preservation Trust, a property encumbered with a USFWS conservation easement, in Lake County.

The draft is out for a two-week public review. Please direct your questions or comments to Wildlife Area Manager John Grant, FWP Ninepipe WMA, 5791 Ninepipe Road, Charlo, MT 59824, (406) 644-2510 or e-mail to jgrant@mt.gov. Questions and comments must be received by Tuesday, April 12, 2005.

Sincerely,

Jim Satterfield
Regional Supervisor

/ni
Enclosure
c: Big Sky Upland Bird Association, PO Box 9005, Missoula, 59807-9005
Ducks Unlimited, Great Plains Region, 2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-9011
Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, PO Box 39, Charlo, 59824

*E-mailed

Joe Ball, University of Montana Wildlife Coop Unit, 909 S Ave W, Missoula, 59801
Polson Outdoors, Inc., Matt Bishop, PO Box 1432, Polson, 59860-1432
Bill Matthews, Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903
Flathead Audubon, PO Box 9173, Kalispell, 59904
Mountain Audubon, #1 Second Ave E, Suite C-179, Polson, 59860
Five Valleys Audubon, PO Box 8425, Missoula, 59807
Lower Flathead Valley Community Foundation, Inc., William H. Edelman, 1050 Spring Creek Road, Ronan, 59864
Rob Shrider, CAC, 204 Hwy 93 S, Ronan, 59864
Greg Schafter, President, Mission Valley Pheasants Forever, 4220 West Post Creek Rd., Charlo, 59824
Daniel Casey, American Bird Conservancy, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, 59901
Mission Valley Ducks Unlimited

*E-mailed

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
MEPA/NEPA CHECKLIST

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This brief environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project sponsor has a responsibility to ensure that all impacts have been addressed. Some effects may be negative; others may be positive. Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action:

Development	X
Renovation	
Maintenance	
Land Acquisition	
Equipment Acquisition	
Other (Describe)	

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action: USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife

3. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of project sponsor:
   Dean Vaughan
   National Bison Range
   Moiese MT 59824 406-644-2211 Dean_Vaughan@fws.gov

4. Name of project: Keyser Preservation Trust Wetland Restoration

5. If applicable:

   Estimated construction/commencement date: April 15, 2005

Estimated completion date: April 30, 2005

Current status of project design (% complete): 100%

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range, and township): Lake County SW1/4 Sec 3, T19N, R20 W

7. Project size: Estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential..... ___ acres
industrial ..... ___ acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation ..... 1 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas ..... ___ acres

(d) .....Floodplain ___ acres

(e) Productive:
..... irrigated cropland ___ acres
.....dry cropland ___ acres
.....forestry ___ acres
..... rangeland ___ acres
.....other ___ acres

8. Map/site plan: Attach an original 8½" 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.

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action: A low earthen dike will be constructed under supervision of Dean Vaughan to plug the outlet of a drained wetland basin that is partially on Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area and partially on the Keyser Preservation Trust, a property encumbered with a USFWS conservation easement. The existing property boundary fence (where proposed wetland will be constructed) will be removed prior to construction, and new "dead end" braces will be installed to secure the fence outside of the basin following wetland restoration activities.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no-action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative: There is either the proposed action or no action. With the no-action alternative, the wetland would not be restored, and the area would continue to function as dryland wildlife habitat.

11. Listing of each local, state, or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction:

(a) Permits		
Agency Name:	Permit:	Date Filed:

(b) Funding	
Agency Name:	Funding Amount:

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name:	Type of Responsibility:

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:
    US Fish & Wildlife Service

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:
    John Grant, Wildlife Area Manager
    5791 Ninepipe Road
    Charlo, MT 59824
    (406) 644-2510
    jgrant@mt.gov

14. Date submitted: March 28, 2005

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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			1b
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:

1a. Topsoil will be stripped to expose clay subsoil to be used for dike structure. The topsoil will then be reapplied and seeded with grass.

1b. Productivity of soil will change with flooding; those in shallower water may become more productive, while those in deeper sections of the wetland may be less productive.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Air" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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			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. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

2a. Diesel exhaust from heavy equipment used during construction will have a minimal, short-term negative impact on air quality.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Water" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER	IMPACT					
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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			3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater 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				
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				
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. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:		X				3n

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

3b, 3d, & 3n. The purpose of the proposed project is to create a new body of water, which will be fed via flood irrigation originating on the Keyser Preservation Trust (KPT) property. The proposed dike will block where drainage currently flows and force it approximately 120 feet to the south when the proposed basin is filled with water.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Vegetation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION 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			4b
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. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?			X			4f
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

4a & b. What is currently upland grass will be converted to aquatics under this proposal.

4c & d. Tame grasses and weeds are now growing on the site of the proposed wetland.

4e. Disturbed areas will be covered with 4-6 inches of topsoil and seeded to grasses immediately upon completion of construction. Management activities will be employed to encourage desirable vegetation and control noxious weeds.

4f. No wetlands will be damaged, only one created.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Fish/Wildlife" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE 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				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				5c
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 populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				5g
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

5b, 5c, & 5g. Hundreds of similar wetlands in the vicinity of proposed project serve as year-round habitat for numerous game and nongame wildlife species. Hunting of waterfowl and pheasants is very popular in the area. The size and scope of the proposed project will have negligible effects on all populations.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Noise/Electrical Effects" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS 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				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X			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:

6b. During the construction phase of the proposed project, people operating or standing near heavy equipment will be exposed for a short time to noise typical of earth-moving or agricultural activities.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Use" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

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				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				7c
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

7c. The proposed project conforms to a common practice in the area on both public and private land.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Risk/Health Hazards" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS 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			8a
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

8a. Minimal risk exists for small amount of diesel or hydraulic oil leakage from heavy equipment during construction phase of proposed project.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Community Impact" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT 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				
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:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Public Services/Taxes/Utilities" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. 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 so, specify:		X				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. 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. Increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Other.						
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	No revenue sources are projected.					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	Maintenance costs for the site are expected to remain the same whether or not proposed project is completed.					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Aesthetics/Recreation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION 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. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

11c. Being that the proposed project will add one additional small wetland to an area where hundreds of others exist, negligible increase in wetland/wildlife recreation is expected.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Cultural/historical Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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 changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Summary Evaluation of Significance" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.	N/A					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole:

   Because of the small size and scope of the proposed project, no cumulative or secondary effects are anticipated.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

   YES _____

   NO __X___

   If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate:

   Few impacts or potential risks are associated with this project, and most impacts are positive.

3. Describe the public involvement for this project:

   Standard EA distribution list and mailing list for conservation groups, a legal ad in the Lake County Leader, and a news release.

4 What was the duration of the public comment period? Two weeks, from March 30 through April 12, 2005

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected

individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

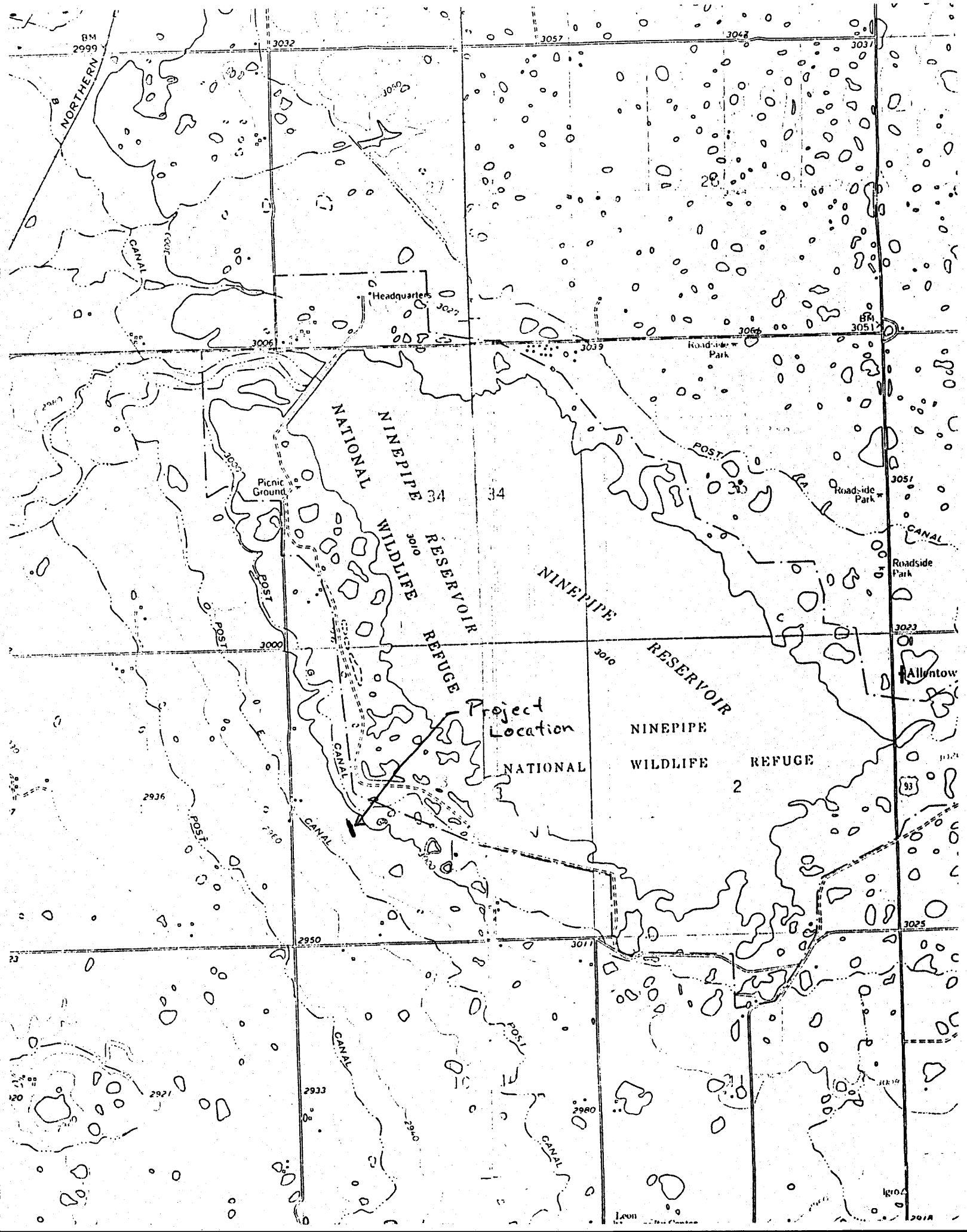
Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

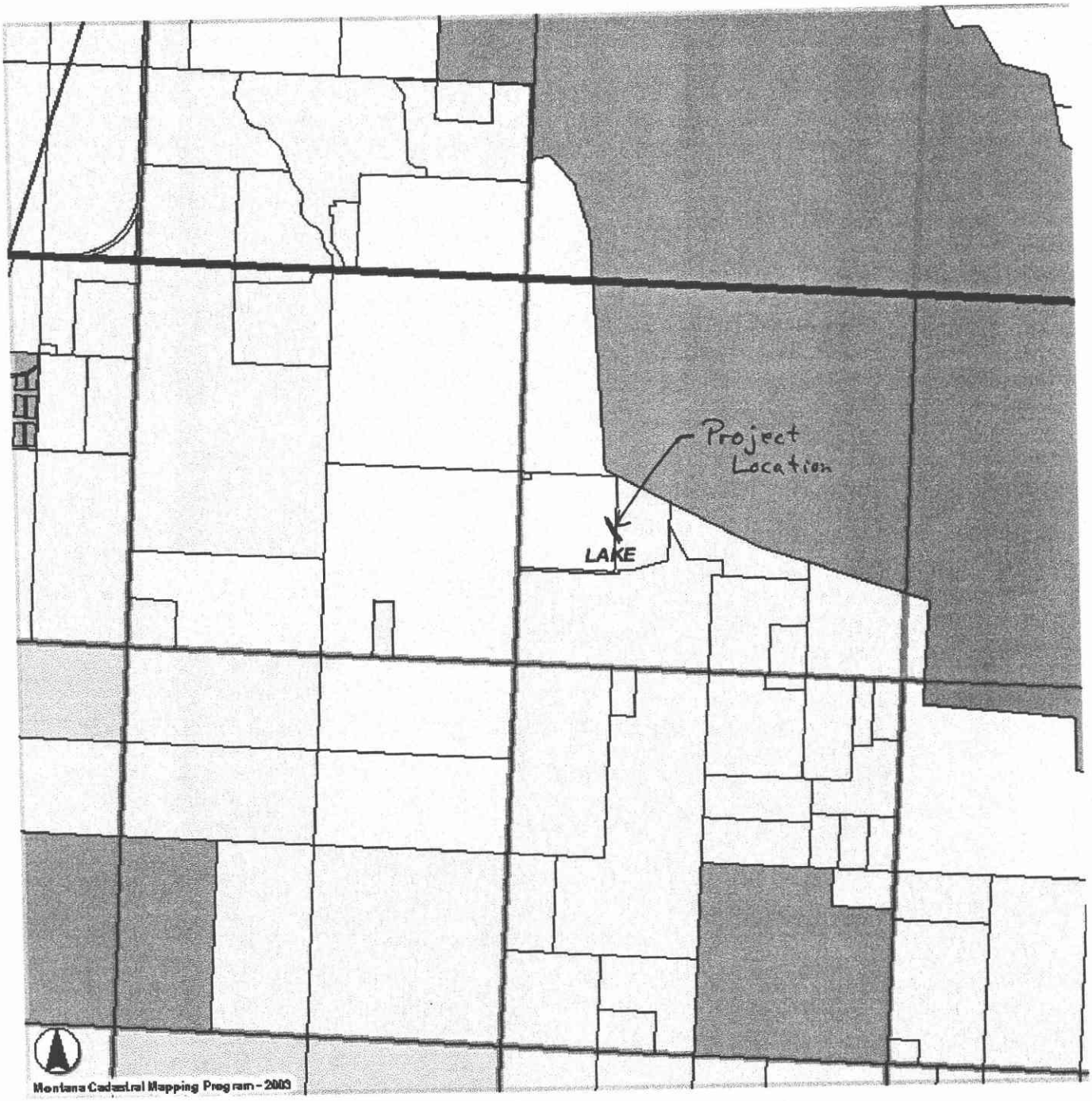
Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.



NORTHERN
CANAL
Headquarters
Picnic Ground
NINEPIPE
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
RESERVOIR
REFUGE
NINEPIPE
RESERVOIR
NINEPIPE
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
Roadside Park
Roadside Park
Roadside Park
POST
CANAL
Allentow
Project Location
93

Map


Project Location
LAKE
Montana Cadastral Mapping Program - 2003

3/28/2005