

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Range Improvements

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

3. Project Title: Lone Tree Archers (LTA)
P.O. Box 1385
Sidney, MT 59270

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:
Larry Bond, President LTA
2501 3rd Street NW
Sidney, MT
406-488-9278

Resolution Date: June 28, 2005

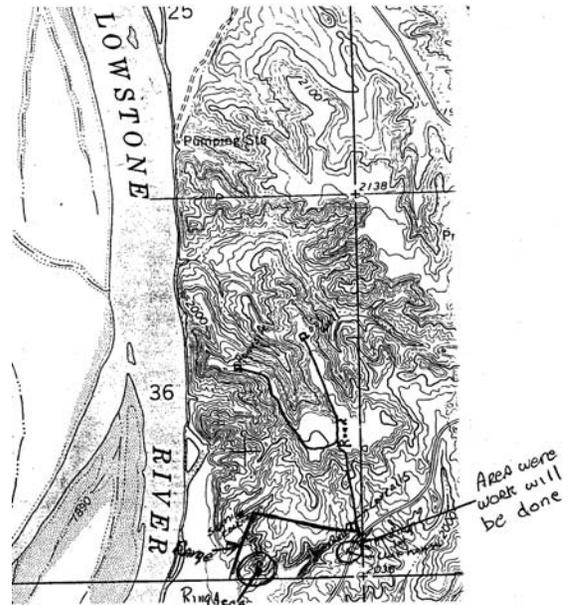
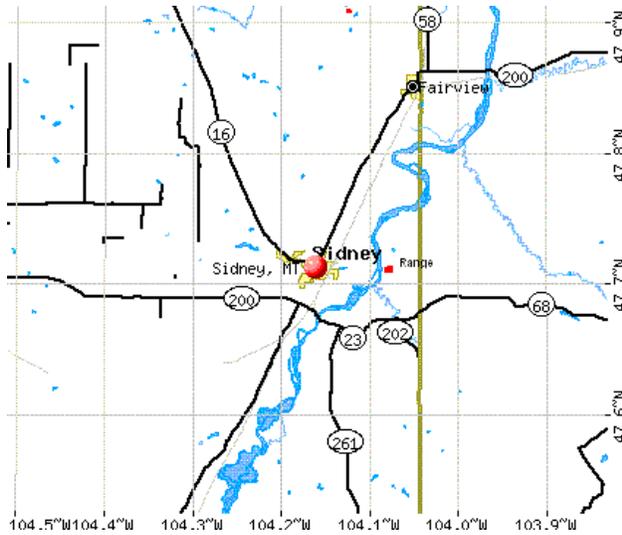
5. Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:
Bowhunter Education, 4-H, National Bowhunters & Field Archers.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Lone Tree Archers of Sidney Montana. Approximately 30 acres in Richland County Montana. A portion of the S1/2SE1/4 of Sec. 36, Township 23 North, Range 59 East P.M.M (Lat 47.7109 Long -104.0886).

7. Project Size: Approximately one acre on the ~30 acre tract of the exiting range complex. Property leased from the Montana Department of Natural Resources, Miles City Office, expiration date February 28, 2015.

8. Maps:



Range location is approximately 3 miles east of Sidney on the east side of the Yellowstone River.

9. Description of Project:

Improvements to complete archery range and support facilities:

- (a) Bathroom - Dig trench for holding tank, install Pre-cast toilet and modify to make toilet handicapped accessible.
- (b) Parking and Driveway - Slope road & install culverts, and spread ~ 70 yards of gravel.
- (c) Shooting Targets - Purchase of 7 Rinehart Animal Target, plus 14 Field & indoor targets.
- (d) Finishing Building Interior - Finish inside of new club house/education facility, i.e. insulation, interior sheathing, attic vents, storage shelves and painting.

All projects to be completed by June 30, 2006.

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>
	None	

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$7,500

(Does not include a 50/50 match from the LTA).

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		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		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable 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.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands.

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
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		X
5. Human health				X		X
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		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.)

4. The site is located at the edge of an agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site has been an archery range for a number of years and no agricultural activities are disrupted nor intended in the future for the range area.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the National Bowhunters & Field Archers standards for safety of the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round access, handicapped accessibility, improved education facilities and targets.

- * 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 cannot 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.

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? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

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: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (construction of the ranges), such as increased recreational opportunities, and increased handicap access. The no action alternative would be not to make improvements on the archery range and continue on with present activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, entire range would not be handicap accessible, would not have adequate bathroom facilities and new club building would remain unfinished on the interior, such as for the proposed alternative, which is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Larry Bond, President LTA

Narrative Evaluation and Comment:

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The historical working relationship of LTA with bow hunter education and the community, all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the improvements of the archery range of the Lone Tree Archers or Sidney, MT.

- * 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 cannot 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.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 28, 2005

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: None

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