

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## BANNACK STATE PARK Road Maintenance Project

April 2007



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

# Bannack State Park Road Maintenance Project Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

## PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to perform major maintenance and improvements on 0.9 miles of the existing gravel road on the south side of Bannack State Park. The main goals of the project are to improve sight distance, improve drainage, enhance adjacent parking, add a bus pull-out, and to improve the driving surface. In addition, Beaverhead County would also review the two existing bridges over Grasshopper Creek for needed repairs and plan for re-decking these bridges. As part of this project, FWP is also proposing to resolve a drainage concern caused by the failure of an old drainage ditch and old water flume.
  
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established “for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational, and economic life of the people and their health”. Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives FWP “jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments”.
  
3. **Name of project:** Bannack State Park Road Maintenance Project
  
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks is the project sponsor.
  
5. **Construction Timeline:**  
 Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring 2007  
 Estimated Completion Date: Summer 2007  
 Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50
  
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township:** Bannack State Park is located in the southwestern area of Montana. Take I-15 south of Dillon to exit #59 (Highway 278 exit.) Drive west on Highway 278 for 18 miles. Turn south onto the Bannack Road and travel four miles. Park entrance road will be on the left hand side. Lat 45.157, Lng -112.985. Section 7, Township 08S, Range 11W.
  
7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	___0
Residential	___0		
Industrial	___0	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	___0

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>25</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

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

**(a) Permits:** permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	SPA 124

**(b) Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$9,062

**(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Cultural Artifact Determination
Beaverhead County	Labor

**9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**

Bannack State Park in southwest Montana (see Fig. 1) is home to Montana's best-preserved ghost town and the first Territorial Capitol of Montana. The town of Bannack was founded in 1862 after John White discovered gold in Grasshopper Creek. It was Montana's first major gold strike, and the ensuing gold rush swelled Bannack's population to over 3,000 by 1863. Most of Bannack's settlers moved on within a few years, following the lure of more gold in Virginia City and other locations, but a small population continued to live in the town until the 1930's. By 1950 the town was effectively deserted and the State of Montana declared Bannack a State Park in 1954. Over sixty buildings survive from Bannack's heyday, most of which are open to the public. More than 28,000 people visit Bannack State Park every year, many of whom come during the annual Bannack Days Festival. This event features historic displays and activities and is held the third weekend in July each year. Some visitors use the Park as an access point to Grasshopper Creek; a tributary of the Beaverhead River. Bannack is the only access site along Grasshopper Creek maintained by FWP.

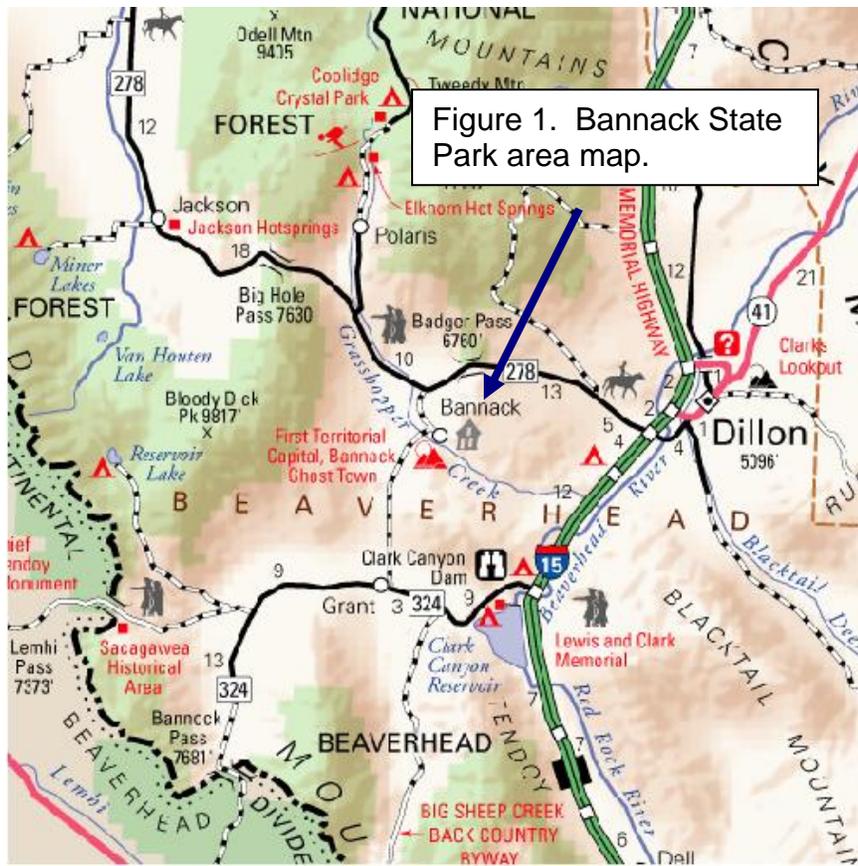


Figure 1. Bannack State Park area map.

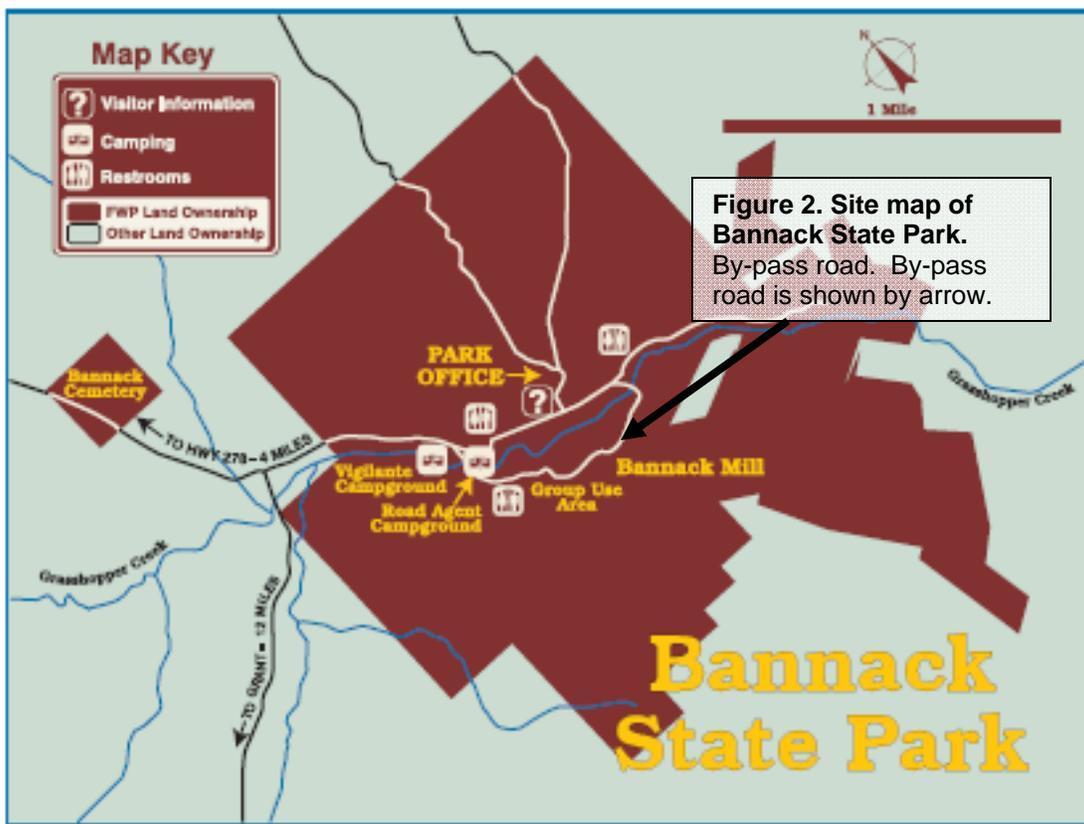


Figure 2. Site map of Bannack State Park. By-pass road. By-pass road is shown by arrow.

At the time that Bannack became a State Park, the main county road went right through the historic town, and county residents as well as visitors used the road regularly. In the 1980's, FWP successfully petitioned Beaverhead County to abandon the section of road that ran through the ghost town, and the County constructed a by-pass road that still runs through the park but skirts the section that contains the old town site. The condition of the by-pass road has been a concern to park managers for several years.

### Existing conditions

The by-pass road is gravel surfaced and has a variety of gravel types that range from exposed bedrock to well-graded one inch minus. The roadway width varies, but is generally 20 feet wide; adequate for two lanes, but there are no shoulders (see Figure 3). Past grading operations have left behind minor cuts into the side slopes and have cast gravel into berms along the road edges (see Figure 3). There are no noticeably graded ditch sections along either edge of the road. The terrain slopes generally toward Grasshopper Creek, but historic mining operations interrupted the natural drainage in the vicinity (see Figure 4). As a result, there are limited areas for drainage runoff to occur and water pools on the road. The existing horizontal alignment has several curve sections with minimal sight distance (see Figure 5). This creates potential hazards during peak traffic conditions.



Figure 3. Photo showing absence of road shoulder and berms created by past grading.



Figure 4. Old mine tailings that interrupts natural drainage from road.

Event parking is provided in a graded area along the existing road and overflows during peak times. The existing parking area is a graded area with compact native material and parking is organized by chalked markings in parallel rows (see Figure 6). There is a short section of road that heaves in the winter and exhibits signs of poor drainage and soil conditions. Near the east end of the road, there are steep side slopes that are slowly eroding and show signs of isolated instability (see Figure 7).



Figure 5. Photo showing example of limited sight distance.



Figure 6. Photo showing event parking area with bermed edges.

The road also narrows to a one-lane section where it is bound by Grasshopper Creek and a steep hillside (see figure 8). On the hillside, an historic water conveyance system consisting of a ditch and flume has deteriorated to the point of failure. In the same area, the hillside exhibits severe erosion and instability (see Figures 8 and 9). It is uncertain if the collapse of the hillside caused the failure of the ditch and flume, or if the failure of the ditch and flume caused the hillside erosion. The ditch has been partially rebuilt and was recently cleaned in an effort to stabilize the hillside.



Figure 7. Photo showing steep slopes and soil instability along by-pass road.



Figure 8. Photo showing Grasshopper Creek and eroding hillside.

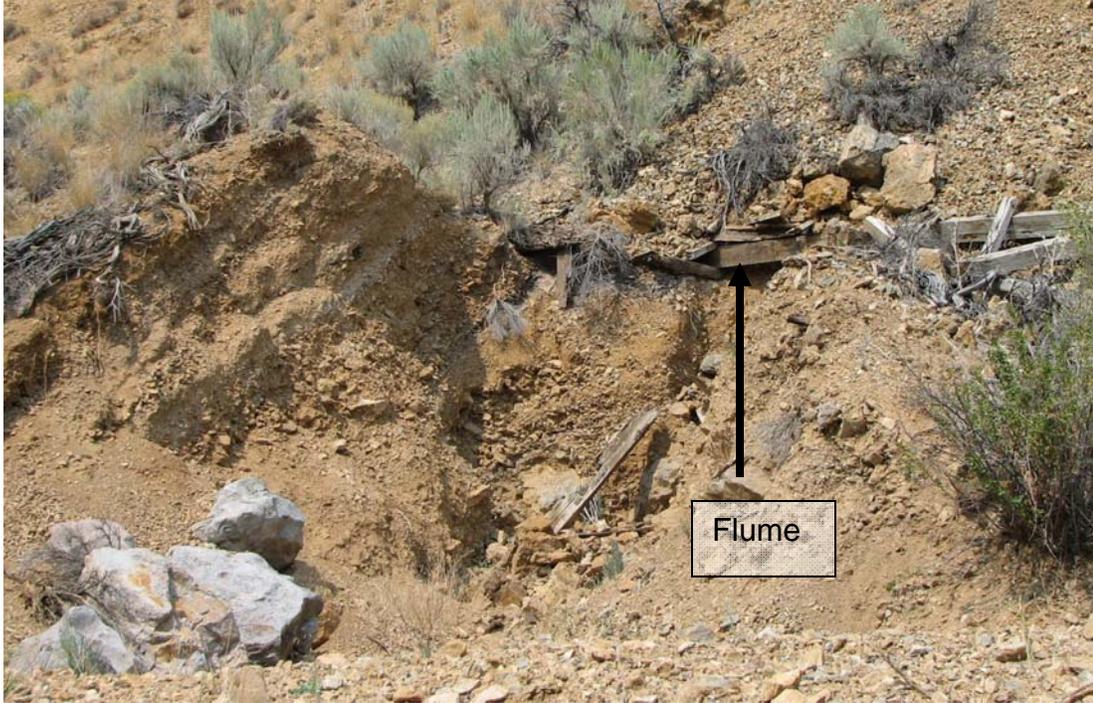


Figure 9. Photo showing eroding hillside shown in Figure 7 and the historic flume.

### **Proposed Improvements**

In light of the existing problems, FWP and Beaverhead County propose to reshape the roadway section to a consistent 20 feet wide (minimum) roadway section between the two bridges. This will allow for two lanes of traffic. To improve sight distance around curves, problem areas would be widened and given shoulders, and/or vegetation would be removed. The roadway section will be sloped to drain toward the creek side at a cross slope that will vary from 1% to 4% as needed. Additional fill material will be used to raise the grade where needed to facilitate proper drainage. Most of the fill will be native material on site, either from the existing parking area or pulled in from the graded berms. The surfacing material will be from the existing source stockpiled near Holland Ranch on Hwy 287.

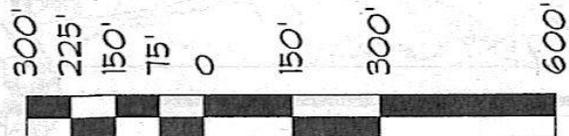
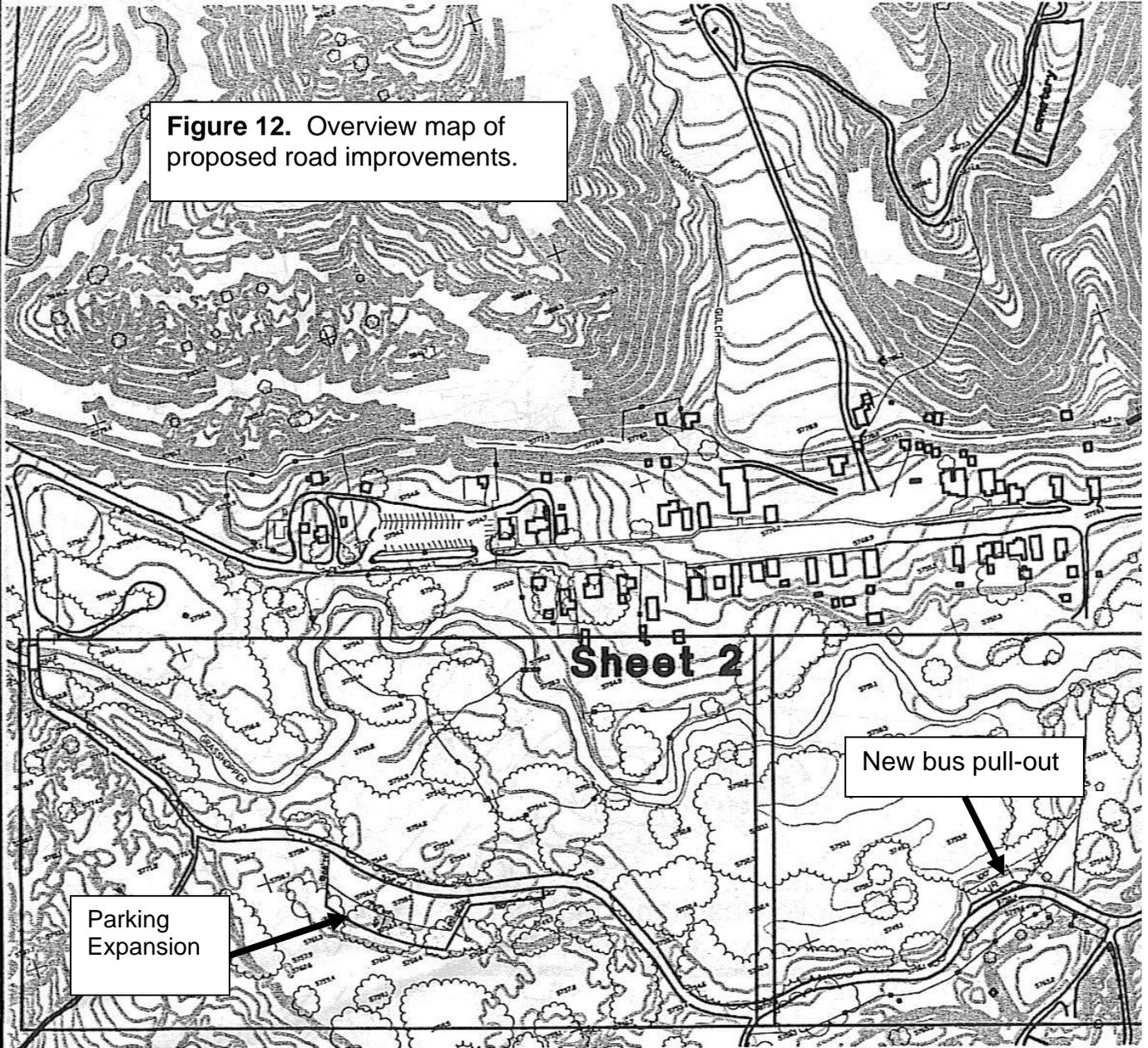


Figure 10. Photo showing location of proposed bus pull-out.



Figure 11. Photo showing possible area for parking lot expansion

**Figure 12.** Overview map of proposed road improvements.



**Overall Site Plan**  
 SCALE : 1" = 300'

B. Holling DRAWN BY: DATE: January 2007	REVISD BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	 Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
CHECKED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	

# Sheet 4

Figure 13. Overview of proposed road improvements (east side).

# Sheet 6

Location of proposed barb placement. See Figure 14 for more details.

# Sheet 3

North



Bannack State Park  
County Road Improvement Project



SHEET: 1 of 6

The section of road that experiences heaving problems will be excavated and refilled with free draining materials. If necessary, geo-textile or a culvert will be installed to prevent further heaving. The existing parking area will be re-graded to a smoother contour and expanded where possible. A more efficient parking layout will be designed to maximize event parking. Also, a bus pull out will be added near the mill site to provide bus parking. The steep slopes described above will be flattened to a 1:1 or 2:1 slope to prevent further erosion.

Several options have been considered to prevent further erosion of the hillside at the historic drainage conveyance system. One option reviewed included intercepting the runoff from the ditch upstream of the current erosion or armoring the current washout area. The current proposal on the creek side of the road is to place barbs into the creek to prevent erosion (see Figures 14, 15, and 16).

The selected alternative is primarily a stabilization effort with designed improvements. As it currently exists, drainage flows along the ditch until it reaches an area that has been washed out. The storm water then runs down the slope and across the road to Grasshopper creek. Depending on storm events, the unmitigated flow erodes the hillside and creates further erosion. Over the years, attempts have been made to stabilize the situation. Large angular rip-rap of varying sizes have been placed along the hill side where the runoff generally flows and a rock and soil berm has been added along the edge of the road to detain the runoff before it is allowed to spill across the road and enter Grasshopper Creek.

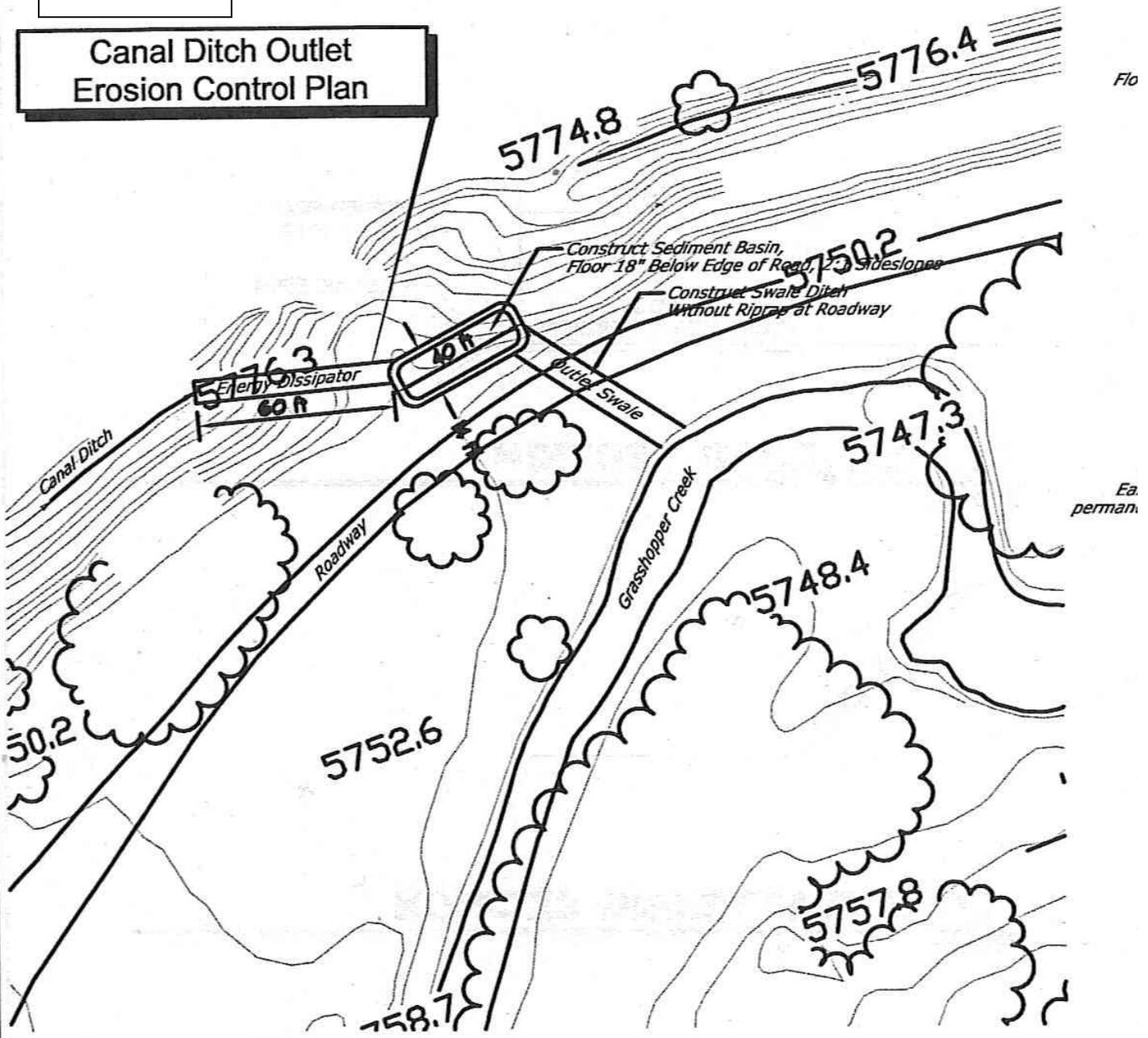
The proposed improvements include removing the existing rip-rap and placing it at the toe of the slope to help stabilize the bottom of the hillside. An outlet swale would be constructed that would have an established flow-line and would be constructed of smaller rip-rap over a layer of geo-textile. A better defined sediment basin would be built of essentially the same method to dissipate the runoff energy and to allow sediment to settle. Runoff would flow out of a defined outlet of the basin, into a built swale, cross the road surface and into another built swale between the road and the creek and then outlet into Grasshopper Creek (see Figure 14).

This method of allowing surface runoff over the roadway was selected instead of installing a culvert, due to the flat grades in the area. The possibility of building up a portion of the road to gain the necessary elevation to cover a culvert was discussed, but FWP engineers eventually determined that would not be practical. Also, since there is stream bank erosion occurring at the nexus of the road and the creek bank, FWP plans to install stream side mitigation to prevent further erosion. Because of this, engineers determined that an outlet further upstream would contribute further to the erosion problem and decided to adopt the solution discussed above.

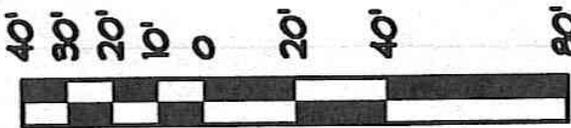
The proposed road improvements and erosion controls are projects that are necessary to enhance public safety, increase resource protection, and adequately serve the public. The proposed project would have no significant environmental effects and would help to preserve this historic resource as well as increase public enjoyment of Bannack State Park.

Figure 14.

**Canal Ditch Outlet  
Erosion Control Plan**



North



**Partial Site Plan**

SCALE : 1" = 40'

B. Holling January 2007  
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 CHECKED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

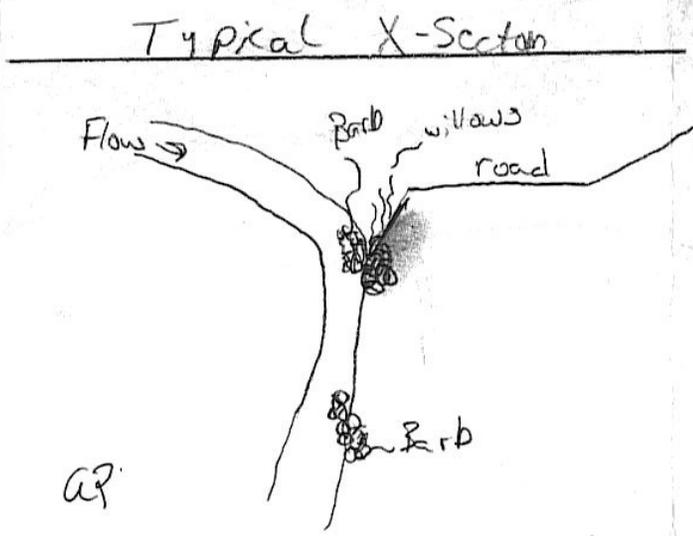
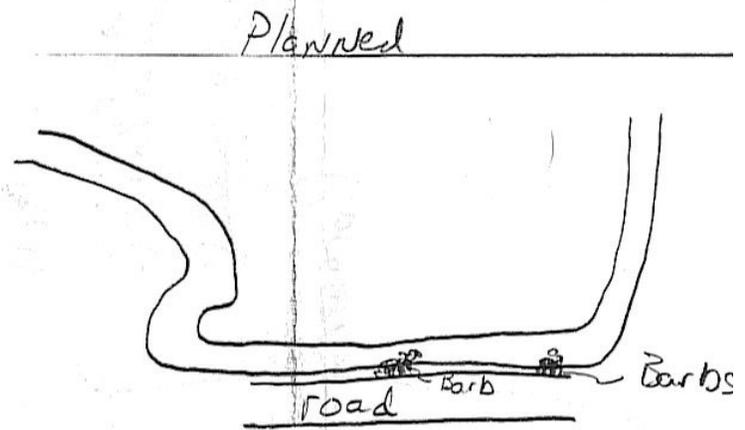
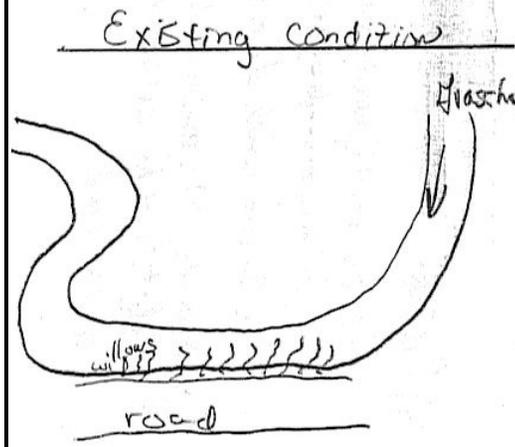
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Montana Fish  
Wildlife & Parks

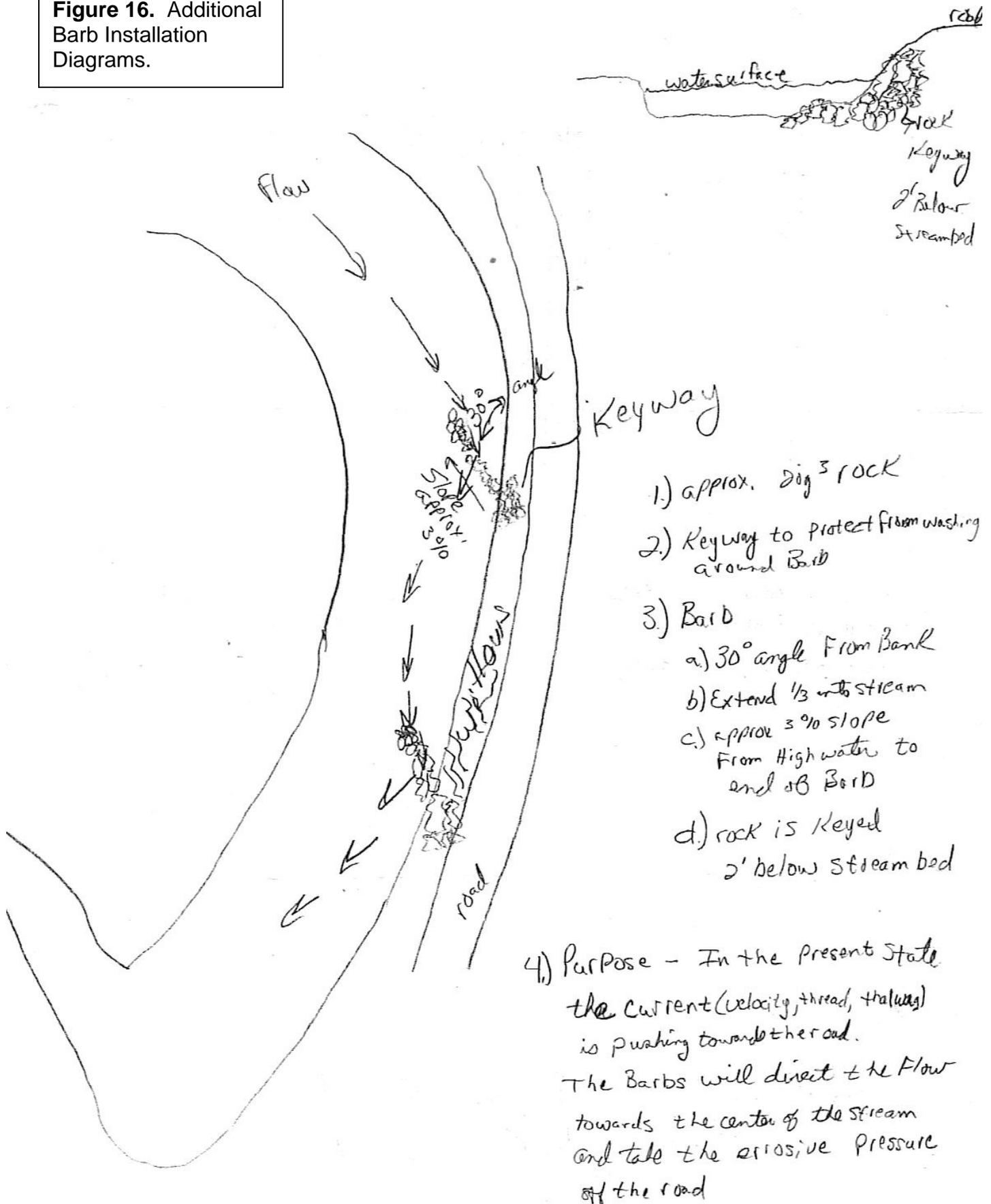
Bannack State Park 10/10/90  
Typical Barb Installation



**Figure 15. Barb Installation Diagrams.**

(over) Large view

**Figure 16.** Additional Barb Installation Diagrams.



Keyway

- 1.) approx. dig 3 rock
- 2.) Keyway to protect from washing around Barb
- 3.) Barb
  - a.) 30° angle From Bank
  - b.) Extend 1/3 into stream
  - c.) approx 3% slope From High water to end of Barb
  - d.) rock is keyed 2' below stream bed

4.) Purpose - In the present state the current (velocity, thread, thalweg) is pushing towards the road. The Barbs will direct the flow towards the center of the stream and take the erosive pressure off the road

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

- 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**

If no action is taken, the Bannack State Park by-pass road would not be upgraded, and road conditions would continue to be a concern. Problems associated with inadequate drainage such as frost heaves and water pooling would cause the road surface to deteriorate further, the lack of a road shoulder and inadequate sight distance would continue to compromise public safety, and parking during peak visitation times would still be inadequate, leading to visitor frustration and resource degradation. In addition, the hillside under the water flume would erode further.

### **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. Environmental Review Checklist beginning on page 9.

In the preferred Alternative, Beaverhead County work crews would perform major maintenance and improvements on the county by-pass road, including reshaping the roadway section to a consistent 20ft wide minimum width, widening certain areas with limited sight distance, adding shoulders, and removing some vegetation. Road drainage would be improved by sloping the road and/or raising the grade with fill material where needed. Parking for visitors would be increased by enlarging the existing event parking area and adding a bus pull-out. Existing erosion would be controlled by the placement of two barbs in Grasshopper Creek, moving the rip-rap from the hillside to the toe of the eroding slope, and by constructing an outlet swale and sediment basin. These projects would improve public safety, increase parking, fix poor road conditions, and implement an erosion control plan for a seriously eroding hillside.

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

There are no formal stipulations of mitigation or other controls associated with the proposed action. This action does not involve any permits or granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

## **PART III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 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 public will be notified by way of a statewide press release in the *Independent Record* and *The Dillon Tribune* and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>. Individual notices will be sent to those that have requested one.

**Duration of comment period, if any.**

A 30-day comment period is proposed. This level of public involvement is appropriate for this scale of project.

**Dates for comment period:**

**PART V. EA PREPARATION**

- 1. 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.**

Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed road improvement project in Bannack State Park. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

- 2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Jerry Walker  
Regional Parks Manager  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406)994-3552

Dale Carlson  
Park Manager  
4200 Bannack Road  
Dillon, MT 59725  
(406)834-3413

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith  
Independent Contractor  
1027 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406)495-9620

- 3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Parks Division  
Wildlife Division  
Fisheries Division  
Design & Construction Bureau  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism  
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

## PART VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

### 3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> 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				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				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

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

- 1a. The proposed road reshaping and associated work would not affect geologic substructure or soil stability.
- 1b. Soil would be disturbed during the road reshaping, realignment, widening, etc., and during implementation of the erosion control plan near Grasshopper Creek. However, most of the soil affected by the proposed project has been previously disturbed.
- 1c. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action.

\* 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.

2. <u>AIR</u> 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. ***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:		X				

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

- 2a. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by heavy equipment during construction, but would end after completion of the project.

\* 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.

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			3a.
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				
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		yes	3h.
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. ****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:		X				

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

- 3a. The proposed action would involve a temporary and increase in turbidity when the barbs are installed in Grasshopper Creek.
- 3b. The proposed road improvements would alter drainage patterns from the road, and the erosion control plan that has been proposed for the area below the flume would alter drainage from the flume and hillside.
- 3h. There is a minor risk of temporary contamination of Grasshopper Creek from petroleum products from heavy machinery during installation of the barbs and erosion control devices on the hillside.

\* 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.

4. <b>VEGETATION</b>  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		yes	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				
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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):4a.**

- 4a. Vegetation in the area of the by-pass road consists mainly of grass, sagebrush, willows and juniper. The construction of the bus pull-out, enlargement of the overflow parking area, maintenance work on the road, and implementation of erosion-control devices on the hillside and in the Creek would temporarily reduce the abundance of these plant species in the area. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or otherwise reclaimed following construction.
- 4b. Please see comment 4b.
- 4c. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 7 plant species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because all construction would occur over previously disturbed ground which does not contain populations of those species of concern.

\* 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.

<b>** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
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				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-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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

5f. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 6 wildlife species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because almost all construction would occur over previously disturbed ground.

\* 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.

**B. 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				
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:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

6a. There would be a temporary increase in noise level during implementation of the proposed project. It is unlikely that any area residents would be affected by the noise because of the distance between residences and work areas and vegetative buffer zones.

\* 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.

7. <b>LAND USE</b>  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. Conflict 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 Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

7a. There would be no alteration or interference with the existing land use in the greater Bannack State Park area.

\* 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.

8. <b>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</b>  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 positive			8b.
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		yes	8c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 8a. There is a minor risk of spill or leak of petroleum products from heavy machinery used in the proposed project. This risk can be minimized by adherence to BMP's during all phases of the project.
- 8b. The proposed project would improve the condition of the County by-pass road through Bannack State Park, thereby making travel easier for emergency responders.
- 8c. Please see comment 8a.

\* 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.

9. <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>  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 positive			9e.
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

9e. The proposed project would increase road safety for visitors and area residents who use the by-pass road.

\* 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.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> 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				
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 use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 10a. The proposed project involves major maintenance to the by-pass road in Bannack State Park, which is owned and maintained by Beaverhead County. The County supports the proposed improvements and would carry out the work. After the improvements have been completed the road will be safer, more durable, and easier for the County to maintain.
- 10e. The road improvement aspect of the proposed project would be funded by Beaverhead County, mostly in the form of labor. Gravel for the uplift on the road would come from a stockpile near Holland Ranch on Hwy 287. The cost of the erosion control-measures on the hillside and in the creek is expected to be approximately \$9062, paid by FWP.
- 10f. There are no additional maintenance costs anticipated to be associated with this project.

\* 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.

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

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

11c. The proposed project is not expected to affect the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings. Please see Tourism Report in Attachment A.

\* 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.

12. <b>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b> 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.)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

12. SHPO clearance pending

- \* 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.

**SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

13. <b>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  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 that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a.
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 Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

13a. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action.

\* 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.

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

Bannack State Park is an important historical and cultural site for the State of Montana and of the West in general. As the location of Montana's first Territorial Capitol and best-preserved ghost town, Bannack State Park attracts thousands of visitors a year, especially during July's popular 'Bannack Days'. Public safety on the narrow by-pass road becomes a real concern at this time. In addition, the amount of parking available in the park is often insufficient for the number of visitors, and people often park in non-designated areas, causing damage to park grounds. The proposed road and parking improvements would increase public safety and help the park serve the public better.

The proposed road improvements are basically necessary maintenance issues, and do not require major earth-moving or disturbance of soils. Some vegetation would be removed, but the species are well-represented in the park, region, and area.

This EA did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. No threatened or endangered species have been observed in the area, and no unique or physical features would be affected. In short, the proposed project would increase visitor enjoyment of the site without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

- \* 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.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**HB495**  
**PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**Date** March 22, 2007

**Person Reviewing** Linnaea Schroeer-Smith

**Project Location:** Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to improve the condition of the by-pass road in Bannack State Park through reshaping, widening, fixing drainage issues, removing vegetation, and adding a shoulder in areas. Event parking would also be expanded by enlarging the existing overflow lot and adding a bus pull-out. As part of the same project, various erosion control measures would be implemented on an eroding hillside underneath a historic water flume and barbs installed in Grasshopper Creek.

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.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: None
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: None
- C. Any excavation of 20cy or greater?**  
Comments: The proposed road improvements and parking expansion would involve excavation of 20cy or greater.
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**  
Comments: A new bus pull-out is planned, as well as the expansion of an existing parking lot. All work would be done in areas that have been disturbed in the past but have been partially re-vegetated.
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?**  
Comments: None.
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?**  
Comments: None.

- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?**  
Comments: SHPO clearance would be obtained before any development began.
- H. Any new above ground utility lines?**  
Comments: None
- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?**  
Comments: None.
- J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?**  
Comments: None

**If any of the above are checked, HB 495 rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.**

## Appendix 2

### Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Bannack State Park Area

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database ([nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal](http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal)) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site.

### Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

**Montana Species of Concern.** The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

#### ▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

### Status Ranks

Code	Definition
<b>G1</b> <b>S1</b>	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G2</b> <b>S2</b>	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G3</b> <b>S3</b>	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
<b>G4</b> <b>S4</b>	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
<b>G5</b> <b>S5</b>	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

**1. *Buteo regalis* (Ferruginous Hawk).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2B**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This sensitive species has been regularly observed from 1977 through the present, in short-grass prairie habitat and brushy draws. The full extent of occupied breeding habitat is unknown, but most sightings have occurred in the Lima-Sweetwater breaks northwest of Dillon. It is unlikely that the proposed project would affect this species.

**2. *Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin Pocket Mouse).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2S3**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The data report for this species does not show an overlap between the proposed project site and the projected element occurrence. However one may exist. The proposed project would still be unlikely to affect this species, as all construction would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

**3. *Brachylagus idahoensis* (Pygmy Rabbit)**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The possible element occurrence for this species includes most of Bannack State Park. however, the proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species, as all construction would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

**4. *Lepus californicus* (Black-tailed Jack Rabbit).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

This record is a summary of multiple observations in the Bannack, area, with dates ranging from 1937-1997. The proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species, as all construction would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

## 5. *Spizella breweri* (Brewer's Sparrow)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2B**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The Element Occurrence map for this species indicates that it occurs mainly in an area directly south of the park, and thus the proposed project would have a low likelihood of affecting this population.

## 6. *Corynorhinus townsendii* (Townsend's Big-eared Bat)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The element occurrence of this species is located between ¼ and ½ mile from the proposed project site. As this species roosts in caves or abandoned mine shafts, it is unlikely that this project would affect it.

## 7. *Thelypodium sagittatum ssp. sagittatum* (Slender Thelypody).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A specimen for this sensitive species was first collected during the tenth census of the United States Department of Forestry, Northwestern Territories, in 1880. No current population data for this species is available.

## 8. *Lesquerella pulchella* (Beautiful Bladderpod).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G2**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of approximately 1,000 plants belonging to this species has been observed on an adjoining ridge and within the Grasshopper Creek valley about 0.5 miles from the proposed project site, and would be unlikely to be affected.

**9. *Sphaeromeria argentea* (Chicken Sage).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2S3**

Global: **G3G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of between 1,000 and 10,000 plants occurs on a dry, open residual upperslope and ridge crest about 0.5 miles from the proposed project site, and would be unlikely to be affected.

**10. *Lomatium attenuatum* (Taper-tip Desert-parsley).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 10,000 plants occur within the larger Bannack State Park area, but it is unlikely that this project would affect this species, as no previously undisturbed soil would be disturbed during the implementation of the proposed project.

**11. *Astragalus scaphoides* (Bitterroot Milkvetch).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Approximately 300 plants occur in 3 subpopulations about 2 1/2 miles from the proposed project site. There is sufficient distance between the element occurrence of this species and the by-pass road to ensure that this population would not be affected by the proposed project.

**12. *Phacelia incana* (Hoary Phacelia).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 1000 plants occur in patches on ridge complex within Bannack State Park. The proposed project would not occur in the vicinity of this population of plants and would not affect them.

**13. *Townsendia spathulata* (Sword Townsendia)**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

A small population of approximately 10 plants was observed in 1994 in the northwest portion of the park. The proposed road improvements would not occur in the vicinity of these plants and thus would have a low likelihood of affecting them.

*Interested parties may contact MFWP Region 3 offices for a detailed map of sensitive species Element Occurrences (EOs).*

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- B. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office (pending)

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**TOURISM REPORT**  
**MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator  
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce  
PO Box 200533  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

**Project Name:** Bannack State Park Road Improvement Project

**Project Location:** The proposed project would take place in Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

**Project Description:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to improve the condition of the by-pass road in Bannack State Park through reshaping, widening, fixing drainage issues, removing vegetation, and adding a shoulder in areas. Event parking would also be expanded by enlarging the existing overflow lot and adding a bus pull-out. As part of the same project, various erosion control measures would be implemented on an eroding hillside underneath a historic water flume and barbs installed in Grasshopper Creek.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the project appears to improve access, parking and resource protection at Bannack State Park. This should improve visitors' opportunities and the quality of their experience.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

As mentioned above, the project appears to improve access, parking and resource protection so it would improve both the quality and quantity of opportunities and experiences at Bannack State Park

Signature Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, Travel Montana  
Date April 17, 2007