

Draft Environmental Assessment

KELLY ISLAND Fishing Access Site Addition Donation



July 2007



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Kelly Island Fishing Access Site Addition Donation 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 (MFWP) proposes to accept the donation of 40 acres of land adjacent to the Kelly Island Fishing Access Site (FAS) in FWP Region 2.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605 MCA, which directs Fish, Wildlife & Parks to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature established a funding account to ensure that this function would be accomplished. Sections 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 15-1-122, 61-3-321, and 87-1-303, MCA, authorize the collection fees and charges for the use of state park system units and fishing access sites, and contain rule-making authority for their use, occupancy and protection.
3. **Name of project:** Kelly Island Fishing Access Site Addition Donation.
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **If applicable:**
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Fall 2007
Estimated Construction Completion Date: Fall 2007
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 75%
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township:** Kelly Island FAS is located on the outskirts of the City of Missoula, in Missoula County. Directions: Take I-90 to Missoula, then Reserve St. Exit 101, then south to Spurgin Road, then 2.9 miles west. Township 13N, Range 20W, Section 23, Missoula County.

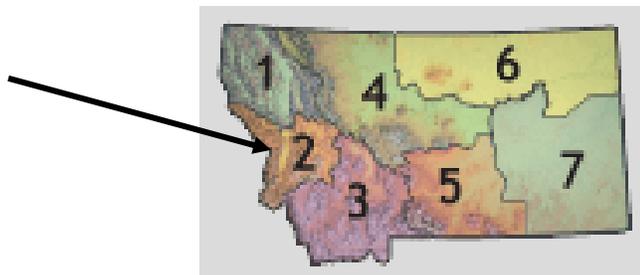


Figure 1. State map showing approximate area of Kelly Island FAS.



7. Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:	
Residential	<u>0</u>
Industrial	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>20</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>20</u>
(d) Floodplain	<u>40</u>
(e) Productive:	
Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
Forestry	<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: No actions that would require a government permit are planned for this site.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
City of Missoula	\$20,000 (purchase price)
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	not to exceed \$3,700 (Appraisal and closing costs)

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

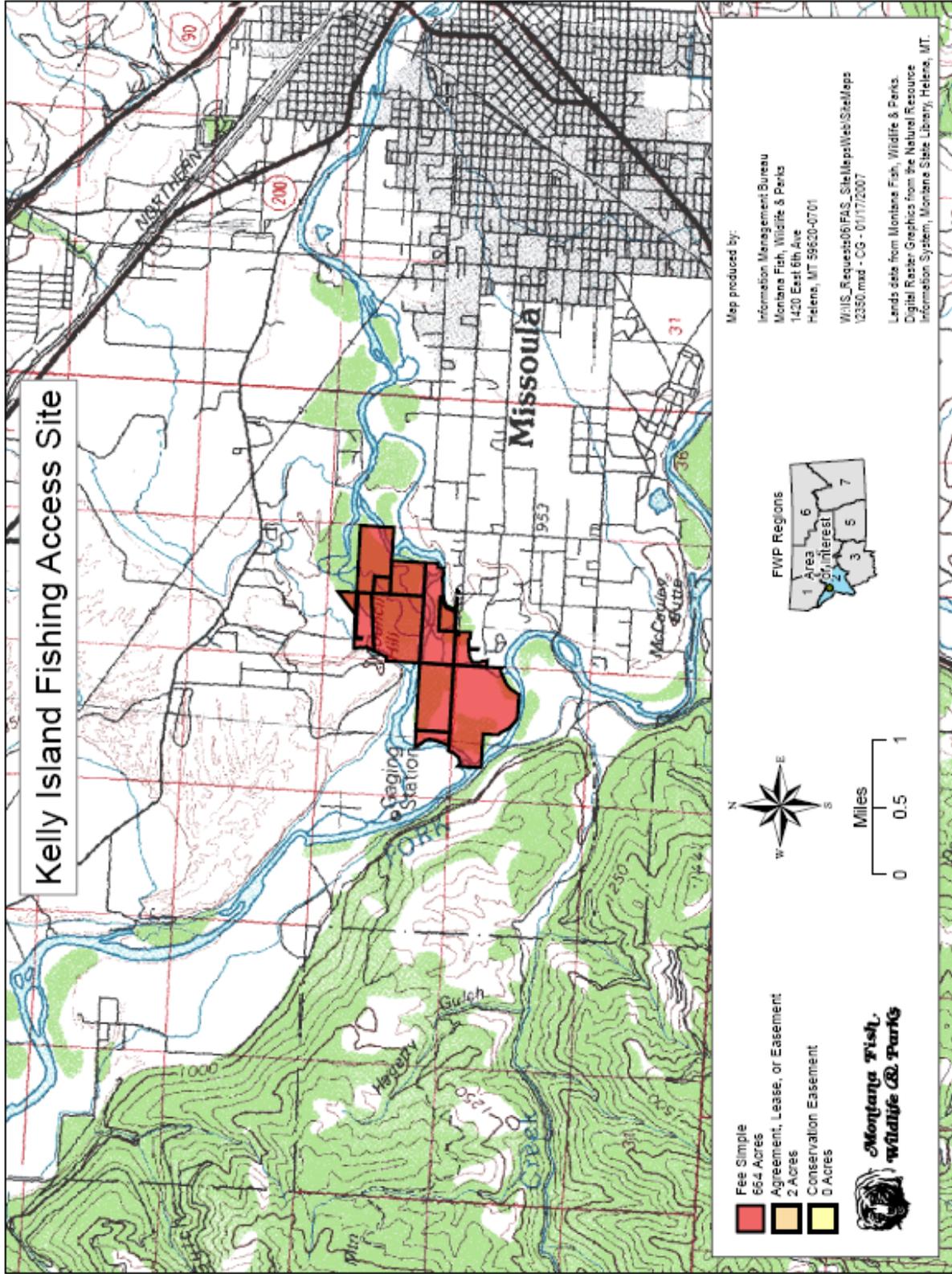
<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
City of Missoula	Transfer of Property

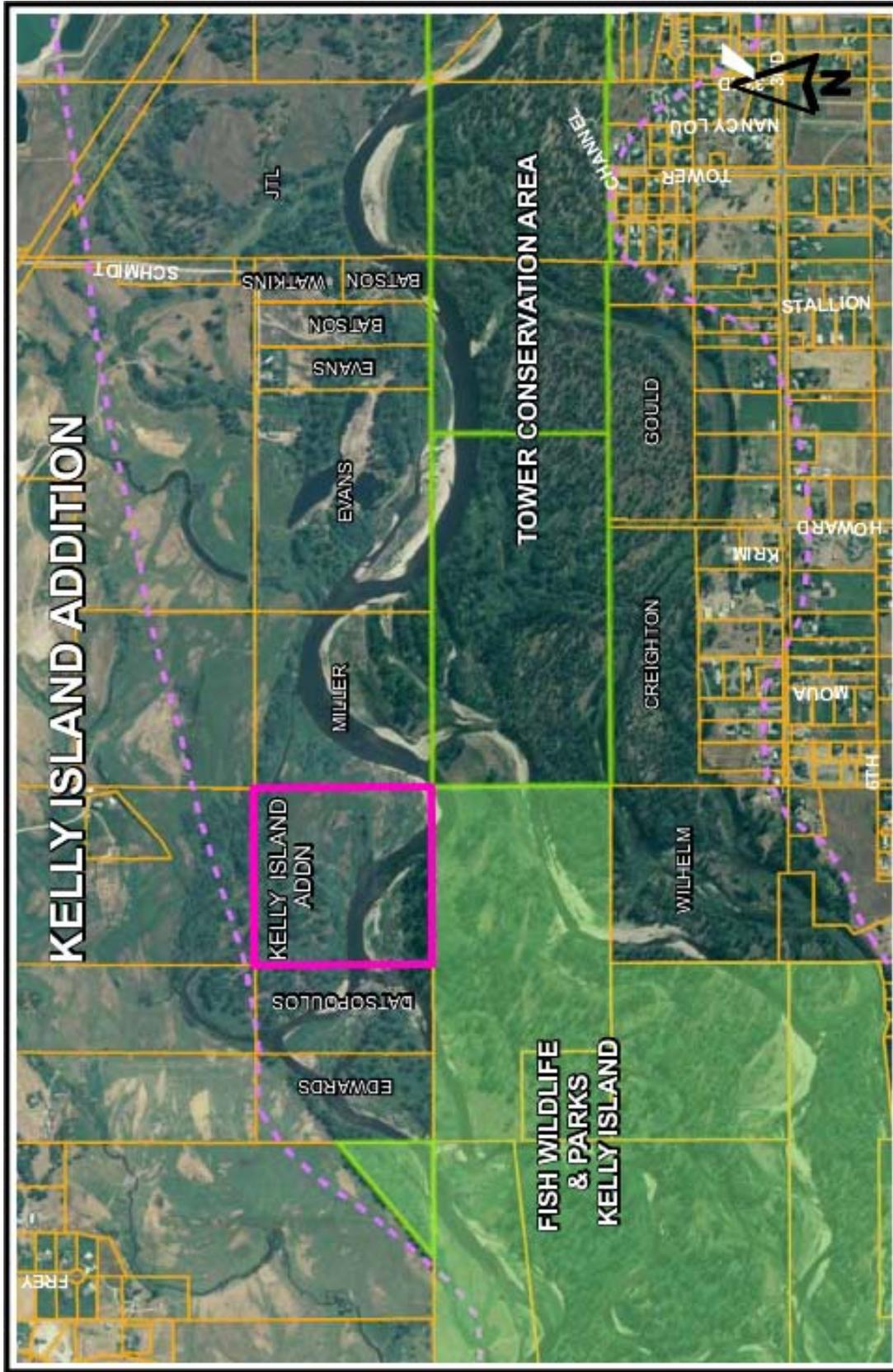
9. Kelly Island Fishing Access Site (FAS) is a large (666 acre) FAS on the Clark Fork River on the western edge of Missoula (see Figure 3). The property is bisected by the river (see Figures 4 and 5) and includes one large island and eight smaller islands. Approximately half of the property is characterized by riparian vegetation, large cottonwoods, and wetland pockets; while the other half is somewhat upland in nature,

with open grassy meadows (see Figures 6, 7, and 8). Numerous bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile species utilize this type of habitat.

Four co-owners of a 40-acre parcel adjacent to the Kelly Island FAS property have expressed a wish to sell their property at a bargain price to an entity that would permanently protect the land as open space. The City of Missoula has agreed to purchase the property for \$20,000 (\$500/acre) with 2006 Open Space bond funds and then donate it to FWP for addition to the Kelly Island FAS Property. FWP would pay for the land appraisal and closing costs (not to exceed \$3,700). The City of Missoula would then donate the property to FWP, who would own the deed and maintain the property as part of the Kelly Island FAS complex.

The Clark Fork River corridor throughout the Target Range/Mullan area is designated as a cornerstone in the Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan, which means that such lands are a high priority for protection. This property meets five out of the seven criteria listed by the 2006 Open Space bond passed by the residents of Missoula: 1) protecting the water quality of rivers, lakes and streams; 2) protecting wildlife habitat; 3) providing access along rivers and streams; 4) providing open space and scenic landscapes; and 5) providing wildlife corridors. The Open Space Advisory Committee met on April 12, 2007 and unanimously recommended approval of this project. The project has also been approved by the Missoula City Council and Missoula County Commission.





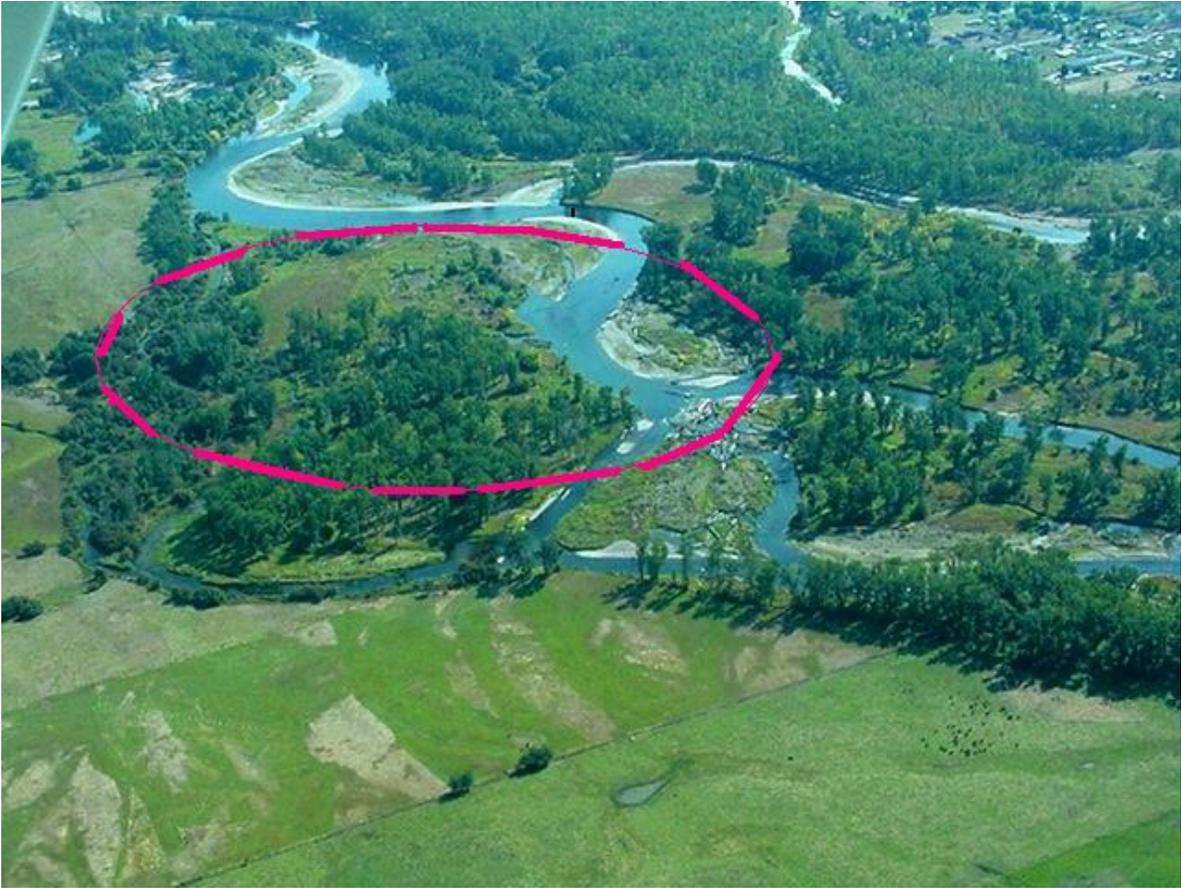
Map created by Missouri Parks & Recreation
 Property lines are taken from the Missouri
 Central Mapping Project. Aerial photo
 backgrounds from City of Missouri. Boundary
 lines on this map are illustrative in nature and
 may not reflect exact boundary locations on the ground.

Legend

- Kelly Island Addition
- Fish Wildlife & Parks
- Property Boundaries
- City Parklands

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

1 inch equals 1,000 feet







PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 1. 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, FWP would not accept donation of the 40-acre Kelly Island Addition parcel. The City of Missoula would likely proceed with plans to purchase the parcel from the current owners and include it in the City's Open Space program. This is not the preferred alternative because the parcel does not adjoin any other City Open Space lands except at one corner. Management of the parcel would be easier if it was part of the Kelly Island property, and easier to maintain.

Preferred Alternative B: Proposed Action

The preferred alternative is for FWP to accept donation of a 40-acre parcel adjacent to the Kelly Island FAS for addition to the FAS and FWP-owned lands. This is the preferred alternative because the parcel adjoins Kelly Island FAS and its inclusion in this property would better serve the public than being an isolated piece of City property. FWP would manage and maintain the parcel in accordance with other properties within FWP Region 2, including noxious weed control.

- 2. 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 granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

PART III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. 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 proposed action was first approved by the 12-member Missoula Open Space Advisory Committee, which then gave its recommendation to Missoula City Council and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). A joint Missoula City Council/BCC public hearing occurred on June 25, 2007. All 12 council members and the BCC voted in favor of the purchase and subsequent donation, and several citizens spoke in favor of the project. The public will be further notified of the proposed acquisition by way of one statewide press release, by legal notice published in the *Independent Record* (Helena)

and *The Missoulian*, and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

- 2. Duration of comment period, if any.** 21 days. The comment period will open on July 20, 2007 and close at 5 p.m. on August 10, 2007.

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 impacts to the physical and human environment under MEPA, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts from the proposed action: therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis.

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

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Region 2 Parks Manager
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Allan Kuser
Fishing Access Site Coordinator
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-7885

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith
Independent Contractor
1027 9th 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
Lands Division

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
City of Missoula

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				
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:		X				

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

- 1a. The proposed action involves only an acquisition of property and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.

* 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.)		X				
f. Other:		X				

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

2a. The proposed action involves only an acquisition of property and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.

* 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				
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				
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.)		X				
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.)		X				
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 involves only an acquisition of property and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.

* 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. 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				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

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

- 4a. The proposed action involves only an acquisition of property and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.
- 4b. Please see comment 4a.
- 4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed one sensitive plant species (pointed broom sedge) that might occur in or near the Kelly Island FAS addition. The proposed action would help protect this sensitive species from adverse effects caused by possible future private development. Please see Appendix 2 for further information regarding species of concern found in the Kelly Island FAS Addition area.
- 4e. The 40-acre Kelly Island Addition parcel is lightly to moderately infested with noxious weeds, including leafy spurge, common tansy, and houndstongue and is not currently managed for control of those weeds. Upon transfer of ownership, the parcel would be included within the Region 2 Weed Management Plan and weed control would likely begin in the Fall of 2007. FWP management estimates that \$1,000 -\$1,500 would be spent in the initial phase of weed control on the parcel, dropping significantly in the following years once the weeds are controlled.

* 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.

** 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				5a.
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				
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				5g.
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.)		X				
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.)		X				
j. Other:		X				

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

- 5a. The proposed action involves only an acquisition of property and does not include development or physical alteration of the property.
- 5b. Please see comments 5a. and 5f.
- 5f. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed two listed threatened (Canada lynx and bull trout) animal species and four sensitive (bobolink, westslope cutthroat trout and a species of stonefly) animal species that might occur near the Kelly Island FAS addition. It is unlikely that the proposed acquisition would have a negative impact on these animal species. If the site is acquired and becomes open to the public, the presence of humans would likely be slightly higher than before acquisition. However, by FWP accepting the donation of this land, its ecological value would be largely protected and safeguarded from future private development. Please see Appendix 2 for further information regarding species of concern found in the Kelly Island FAS Addition 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.

5g. The acquisition itself would not affect wildlife populations. However, once the site became open to the public, the presence of recreationists on the property could cause stress to wildlife populations. However, visitation would not be expected to ever be high, and most wildlife species present on the two parcels are probably already somewhat accustomed to human presence, given the site’s proximity to Kelly Island FAS and the City of Missoula.

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 severe 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. It is unlikely that there would be any increase in noise 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.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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. 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):

The proposed action would result in the transferal of 40 acres of land from the private sector to the public.

* 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. 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. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
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. The 40-acre addition would be managed under the FWP Region 2 Weed Management Plan. This plan calls for an integrated method of managing weeds, including the use of herbicides. The use of herbicides would be in compliance with application guidelines and conducted by people trained in safe handling techniques. Weeds would also be controlled using mechanical or biological means in certain areas to reduce the risk of chemical spills or water contamination.

* 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. 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			9a
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
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:		X				

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

- 9a. The proposed project would increase the amount of public lands adjacent to the City of Missoula, which is a valued commodity to many residents. Missoula voters passed an Open Space Bond Issue in 2006.

* 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				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X			10b.
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased 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):

- 10b. The current tax on the 40-acre parcel is approximately \$200/yr. Any change in tax revenue caused by the proposed action would be minor.
- 10e. The 40-acre Kelly Island Addition would be purchased by the City of Missoula with Open Space bond funds and donated to FWP. FWP would use Fishing Access Site Acquisition Funds provided from the sale of licenses for their contribution of up to \$3,700 for land appraisal and closing costs.
- 10f. The proposed project would require additional maintenance costs of about \$1,500 the first year after acquisition for weed control and approximately \$200/yr thereafter.

* 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.

** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			X			11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

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

11c. While the proposed action would increase the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities in the Missoula area (Tourism Report pending), the effect would be minor. The parcel would likely receive use from float anglers in the spring and summer and waterfowl hunters in the fall, but overall visitation numbers would be fairly low.

* 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. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> 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				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

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

12a. The proposed action would not destroy or alter any site, structure or object of historic importance.

* 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. 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 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.)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

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.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed action of accepting the donation of 40 acres for addition to the Kelly Island FAS would not result in significant changes in use of the donated parcel or Kelly Island FAS lands. These circumstances make it unlikely that the human or physical environment would be negatively affected. However, public recreational values in the area would be increased by the implementation of 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.

APPENDIX 1
HB495
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date June 23, 2007

Person Reviewing Linnaea Schroeer-Smith

Project Location: Kelly Island FAS, T13N, R20W, Section 04, Missoula County.

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) proposes to accept the donation of 40 acres of land adjacent to the Kelly Island Fishing Access Site, near the western edge of Missoula in MFWP Region 2.

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 20 c.y. or greater?**
Comments: None

- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**
Comments: None

- 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: None

- 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 Kelly Island FAS Addition area.

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (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
G1 S1	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.
G2 S2	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.
G3 S3	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
G4 S4	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.
G5 S5	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

1. *Salvelinus confluentus* (Bull Trout)

State: **S2** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **LT**
Global: **G3** U.S. Forest Service: **Threatened**
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

2. *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi* (Westslope Cutthroat Trout)

State: **S2** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4T3** U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

It is unlikely that the proposed land acquisition would have a negative impact on this sensitive species.

3. *Zapada cordillera* (a stonefly)

State: **S2** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3** U.S. Forest Service:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

4. *Lynx canadensis* (Canada Lynx)

State: **S3** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **LT**
Global: **G5** U.S. Forest Service: **Threatened**
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

5. *Carex scoparia* (Pointed Broom Sedge)

State: **S1S2** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5** U.S. Forest Service:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

6. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Bobolink)

State: **S2B** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5** U.S. Forest Service:
U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

7. Ecological Site Report

Council Grove Research Natural Area (RNA) is located 7 miles northwest of Missoula and encompasses a portion of the Clark Fork River system just below the confluence of the Bitterroot River. Council Grove RNA features a variety of low elevation (3070) riparian communities typical of those associated with major rivers in western Montana. The major community types present are those dominated by black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*). The Clark Fork River meanders across its floodplain, creating a wide variety of physical settings such as oxbow lakes and old meander channels. Migrating and nesting waterfowl are particularly abundant in the RNA.

Information Courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.