PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

June 3, 2008

Governor's Office, Mike Volesky; mvolesky@mt.gov
Environmental Quality Council, Maureen Theisen, mtheisen@mt.gov
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tom Ellerhof, tellerhof@mt.gov
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
MT Historical Society, SHIPO, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
Montana Wildlife Federation; csharpe@mtwf.org
Montana Audubon; jellis@mtaudubon.org
Montana Environmental Information Center; meic@meic.org
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 4, bauchly@mt.gov

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for review and public comment regarding a proposal to grant funds to the Central Montana Shooting Complex in Fergus County Montana at T15N, R18E Sec. 3: lots 1 & 2, S1/2 Ne ¼; approximately 2 miles North of Lewistown, MT. This project tentatively plans to provide $9395.00 in partial funding towards purchase and installation of two vault toilets. A draft EA has been completed and is available for your review. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this EA, please contact **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at (406) 444-1267. You can review an electronic version at http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/** comment period ends June 27th, 2008. Written comments will be accepted at FWP, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620 or e-mail kcunningham@mt.gov. Please note that this draft EA will be considered as final if no substantive comments are received by the deadline listed above.

Kurt Cunningham
Shooting Range Grant Coordinator

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Central Montana Shooting Complex

2. Type of Proposed Action: Installation of two Vault Toilets

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:
Central Montana Shooting Complex in Fergus County Montana
T15N, R18E Sec. 3: lots 1 & 2, S1/2NeI/4
Approximately 2 miles North of Lewistown, MT

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:

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

5. Need for the Action(s):

Make handicapped accessible toilets available at each of the shooting sites. With over 50 members over the age of 70 and additional handicapped shooters having handicapped accessible toilets available throughout the shooting complex is a necessity.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

To make the whole shooting complex more comfortable for all shooters, but especially the physically challenged shooter, whether they are challenged by age or by physical abilities.

7. Map:

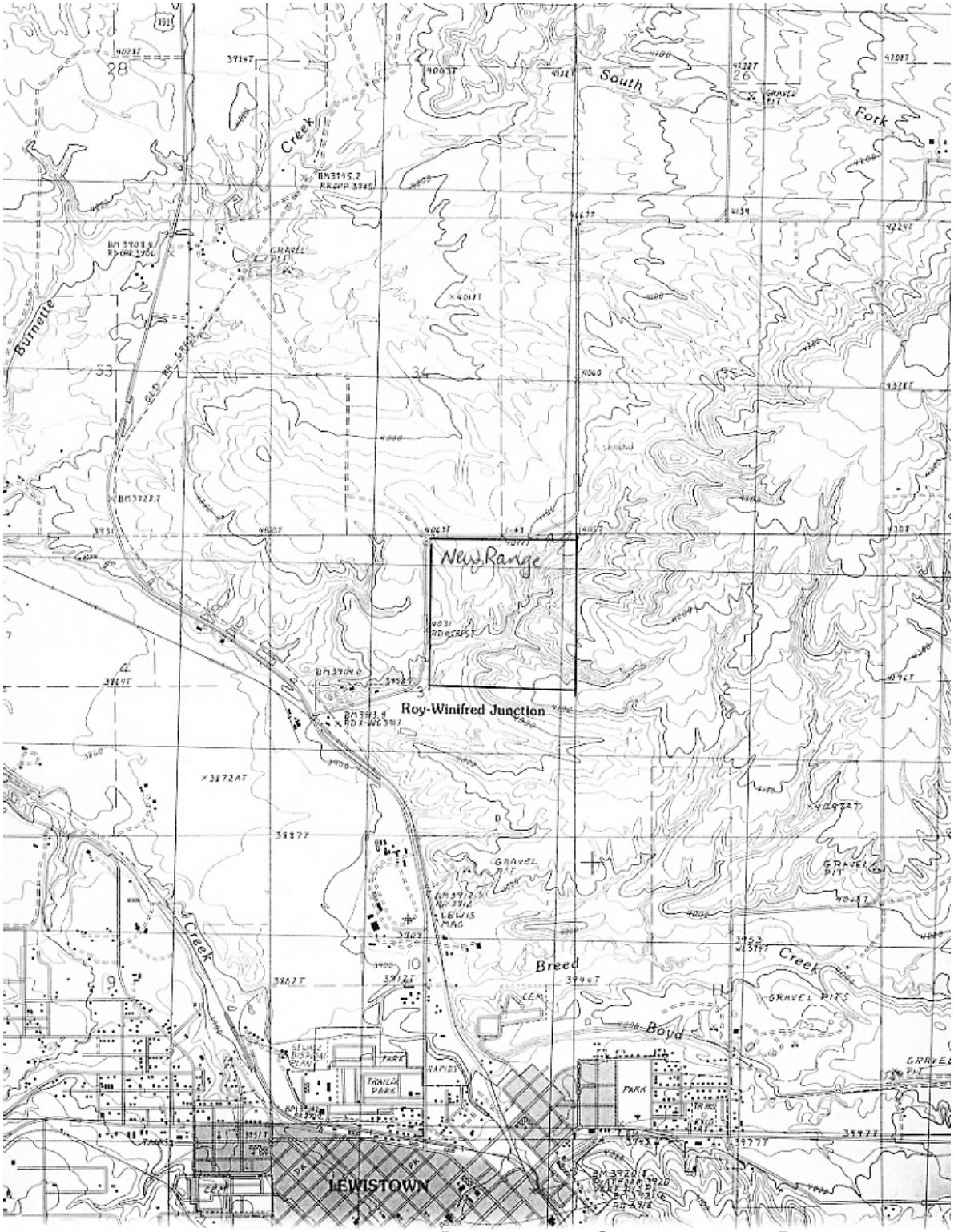

Figure 1 – Map location of range complex.

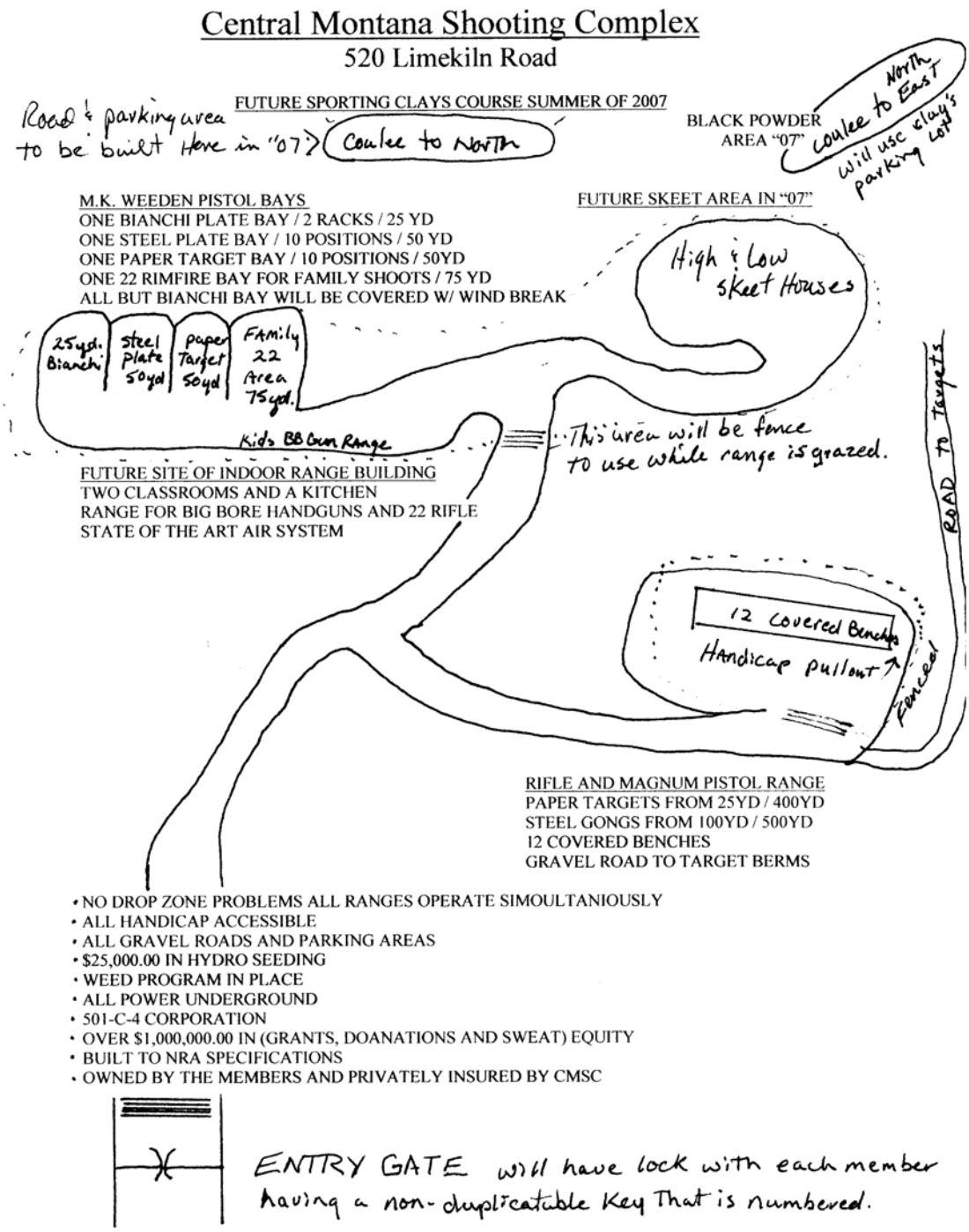

Figure 2 – Layout and Information of shooting complex

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be

directly affected:

Range is approximately 14.2 acres developed within 160 acres of former agricultural land, but the vault toilets are limited to a much smaller area within developed range complex.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project): Small area within the developed range complex, with one toilet installed on the rifle and magnum pistol facility and the other to be installed at the skeet area.

10. Description of Project: Install two FWP type handicapped accessible vault toilets.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

Agency Name	Permit
N/A	

Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	$9395.00

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Fergus County Extension Office (4-H Program), Fergus County Commissioners, Fergus County Sheriff's Department. Central Montana Handgunners, Central Montana Silhouette Club, Central Montana Rifle Club, and the Black Powder Club have all participated on the board of directors. CMSC has made it know to all of the area law enforcement, youth organizations and hunters' education/safety programs all have free access to the facilities.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. Additionally, a public meeting was not deemed necessary.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Dale Pfau
P.O. Box 780
Lewistown, MT 59457

(406) 538-9408

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: June 27, 2005

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				**X**		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				**X**		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				**X**		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				**X**		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				**X**		
6. Existing water right or reservation				**X**		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				**X**		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				**X**		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				**X**		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				**X**		
11. Aesthetics				**X**		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below

1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				**X**		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				**X**		
4. Agricultural production				**X**		
5. Human health				**X**		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				**X**		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				**X**		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				**X**		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				**X**		
10. Demands for government services				**X**		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				**X**		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) Installation of two FWP type handicapped vault toilets.

- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active shooting complex with only one vault toilet available.

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:
Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences for the acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide a handicapped accessible toilet facilities throughout the shooting complex.

- The No Action Alternative would be not to provide additional handicapped toilets on the shooting complex. Land use would remain the same. Present activities of the shooting complex without the proposed toilets would continue. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:
None

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):
None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Dale Pfau, President, Central Montana Shooting Complex

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and

analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Central Montana Shooting Complex of Lewistown, MT. The fact that CMSC has selected the type of vaulted toilet used and approved by Fish, Wildlife & Parks and low impact activity proposed indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The short history of the CMSC providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (**A**) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

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

Date Completed: July 10, 2007

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:
None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:
A newsrelease and newspaper advertisement with a 15 day public comment period.