



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Pioneer Gun Club of Dagmar

2. Type of Proposed Action: Replacement Concrete Trap House with Automated Thrower and Voice Command

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Pioneer Gun Club of Dagmar, in located in the unincorporated city of Dagmar, MT on city park property. The range occupies approximately 5 acres (See figure 1).

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). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Current older trap house is not bulletproof and it has issues with water and rodents. Need a more safe and secure concrete trap house, and automatic trap machines to eliminate an individual in the trap house during shooting. Improve efficiency of target releases.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Replace older trap house with a safer and more secure concrete trap house. Eliminate the need for a person in the trap house during shooting, by replacing manual trap machines with automatic machines. Improve the release of “birds” for shooters through the use of a voice release system.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:

Dagmar Shooting Range EA

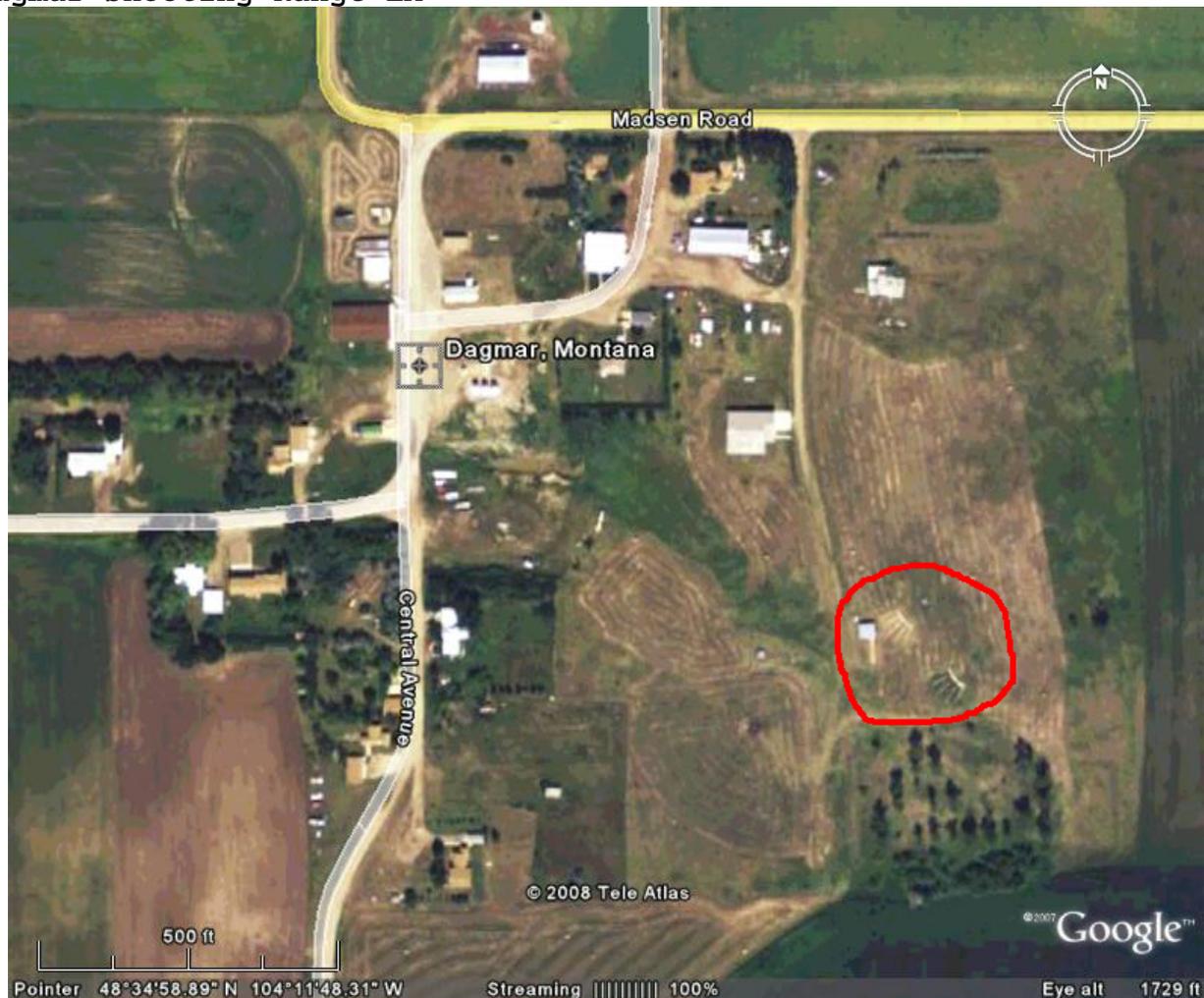


Figure 1 – Pioneer Gun Club of Dagmar circled in red

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

Site is on approximately 5 acres located on the unincorporated Dagmar City's park property. The trap club has been on this site since 1946. However, the improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the actual range area.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The range parcel is located on public property in the unincorporated city of Dagmar's city park. Club range has been in existence since at least 1946 on the present site, and has been on its present site since at least 1938. The surrounding area was rural and located in some of the prime waterfowl and upland game bird hunting in the state.

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10. Description of Project:

Replace older trap house with new concrete trap house and install new automatic trap and voice call release system.

In Accordance With (IAW) contract agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

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

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

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

Funding:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Funding Amount</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sheridan County Recreation Fund Grant | \$ 350.00 |
| Dagmar Centennial Committee | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks | \$ 14,000.00 |

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The range is open to the public for shooting and gets used heavily in the fall from non-residents hunters who are in the area hunting waterfowl and upland game birds. The population in the area is aging and the number and size of youth programs has subsequently declined. The club is used by the local 4-H and is available for Hunter Education classes.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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

Gene Tufton, 63 South Dagmar Road, Dagmar, MT 59701, (406) 483-5233

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 6, 2008.

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.)

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

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to replace the wooden trap house with concrete trap house, replace the manual trap with an automatic trap machine and add a new wireless voice call.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active trap and skeet range without a new trap house or automatic trap machine and a wireless voice calls.

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 to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** improving range safety and efficiency by replacing existing trap house with a concrete house and installing an automatic trap machine and a wireless voice call.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to improve range safety and efficiency but to continue with the older wood trap house, manual trap machine and add no wireless voice calls. Land use would remain the same. Present activities including trap and skeet ranges without the proposed improvements to the safety and efficiency. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

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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:

Gene Tufton, 63 South Dagmar Road, Dagmar, MT 59701
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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 Pioneer Gun Club of Dagmar. The low impact activities proposed, the increased safety and efficiency all indicate 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 62-year history of the Pioneer Gun Club of Dagmar 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 15, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Sheridan County News in Plentywood, MT, and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website and comments will be accepted until August 8, 2008.