

Draft Environmental Assessment

Lone Pine State Park Hiking Trail Project



September 14, 2009



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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 construct approximately 1.5-to-2.5 miles of hiking trails at Lone Pine State Park.

2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:**
FWP has the authority to develop outdoor recreational resources in the state per 23-2-101 MCA.

Furthermore, State Statute 23-1-110 MCA and ARM 12.6.601-606 guide public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.

3. **Name of project:** Lone Pine State Park Hiking Trail Project

4. **Name, address, and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):**
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

5. **Anticipated schedule:**
Estimated construction commencement date: October 2009
Estimated completion date: October 2009
Current status of project design (% complete): 70%

6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range, and township):**
Lone Pine State Park, Flathead County
Section 24, Township 28 north, Range 22 west

Figure 1: Map of Kalispell area showing location of Lone Pine State Park.

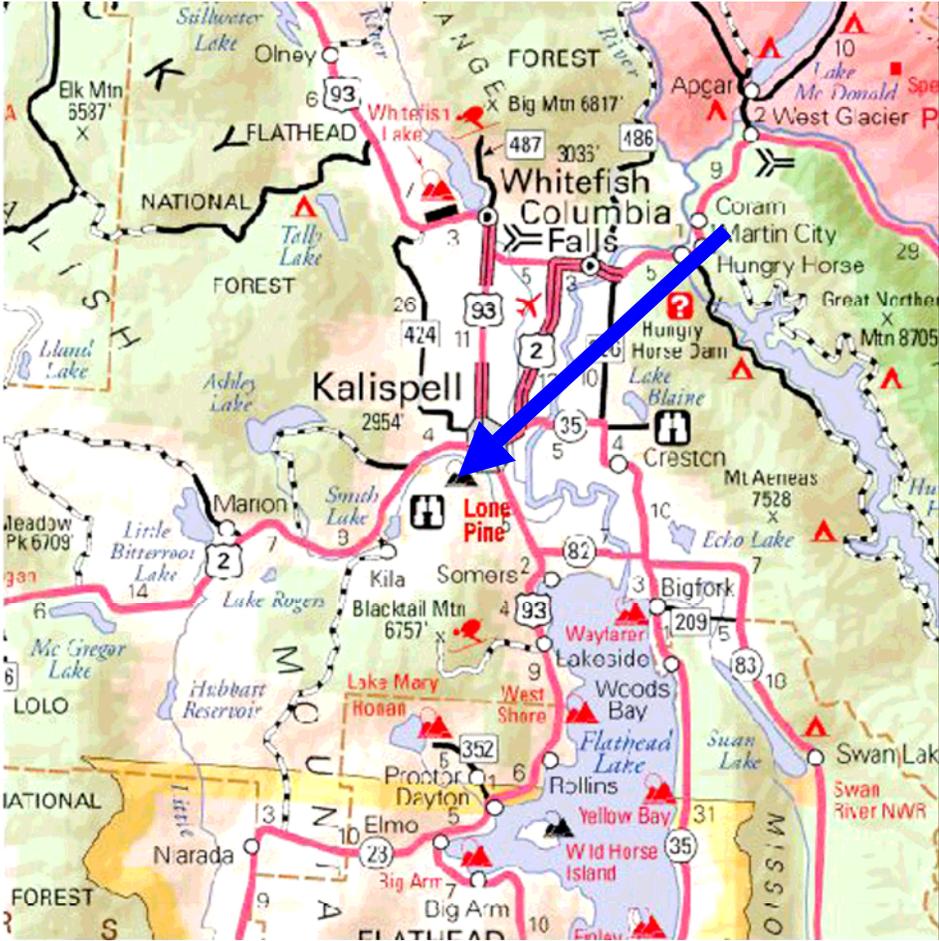
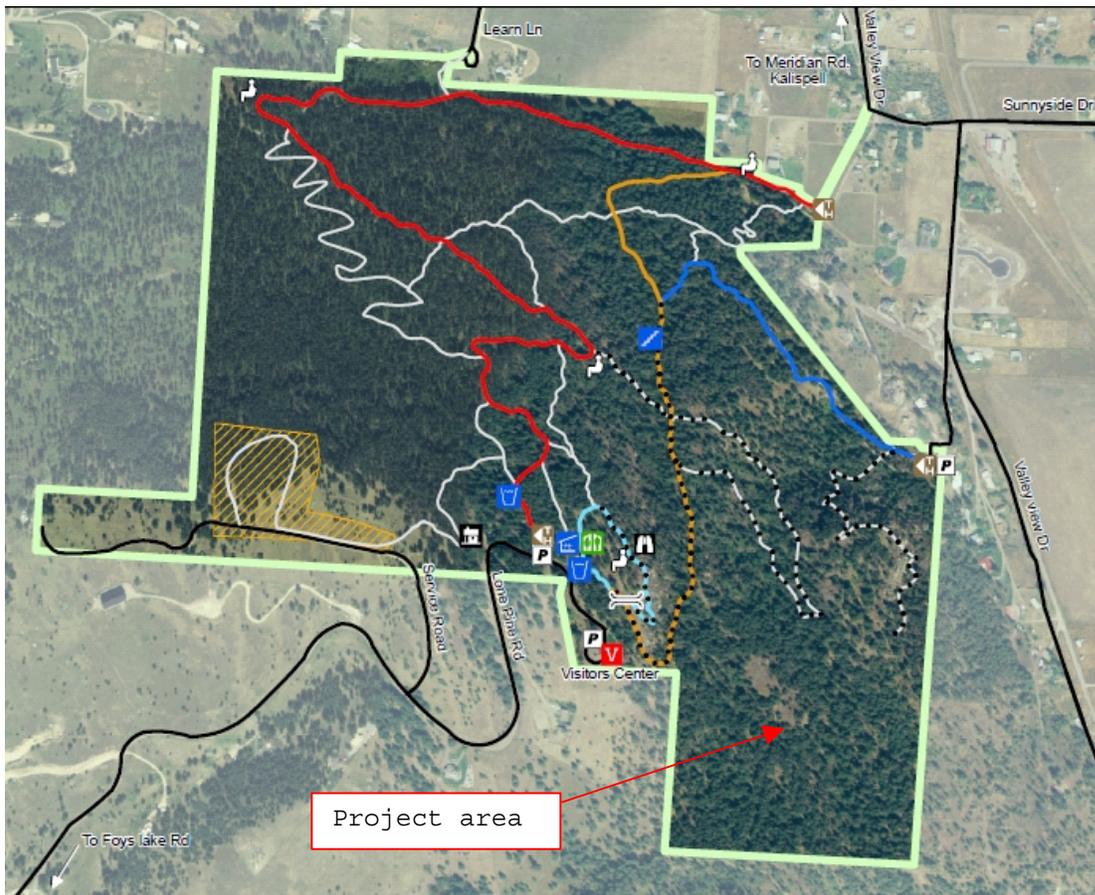


Figure 2: Map of Lone Pine State Park with trails identified and the project area. The dotted segments indicate hiker only trails.



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	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<u>40</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<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 (Permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.):

Agency Name: None _____ Permits: None _____

(b) Funding:

Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks _____ \$4,000 _____

(c) Other overlapping or additional jurisdictional responsibilities:

Agency Name _____ None _____ Type of Responsibility _____

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to construct approximately 1.5-to-2.5 miles of new trails on a recently acquired parcel of land at Lone Pine State Park. FWP purchased the additional 40 acres of land, located in the southeastern portion of the park, in 2007. A conservation easement was placed on the property at that time and is being monitored by the Flathead Land Trust. This proposed project does not violate the conservation easement.

The proposed trail would be approximately 18 inches wide and have a dirt base, keeping in character with the surrounding trails and the more natural and secluded atmosphere of the area. The new trail would be open to foot travel only, due to a lack of an adjoining multiple-use trail that would allow for access of horses and bicycles. In addition, allowing for multiple use would increase the probability of soil erosion due to the steepness of the terrain in areas. The new trails will only be accessed through existing parking areas and park entrances. These developments are intended to 1) provide additional recreational opportunities to park visitors, 2) reduce soil erosion caused by cross-country travel, and 3) improve access to the southeastern portion of the park.

This parcel of land is currently open to use by park visitors and has several user-created and game trails that are being utilized by hikers. There is, however, no established trail system in the parcel. Visitors using the area are traveling cross-country, creating a network of social trails leading to areas of soil erosion and vegetative damage. Many of the sections of user-created trails would be utilized in the proposed project. Areas that have eroded and are too steep would be rehabilitated and trails rerouted. The proposed trails would connect to the existing trails system in three different places.



Vegetative damage and erosion resulting from user-created trails



Existing user-created trails that may be utilized

10. 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

In the no-action alternative, the trails and parcel will remain status quo, and access to the new parcel will remain limited. Visitors still would be able to hike the area, but without benefit of a defined trail system. This would require greater physical effort to negotiate through brush and heavily vegetated areas. This may limit some visitors who are mobility impaired or who find cross-country travel unappealing. In addition, cross-country travel would increase soil erosion and damage to present vegetation. Benefits would be a savings in cost for trail construction.

Alternative B: Preferred Alternative - Development of hiker-only trails

FWP would proceed with the proposed improvements to Lone Pine State Park. This alternative would consist of the development of approximately 1.5-to-2.5 miles of single-track, hiker-only trails that connect to the existing trail system. This option would open up hiking opportunities for many visitors. It would provide additional recreation opportunities for physical exercise, photography, development of outdoor skills, and watchable wildlife. In addition, applying a hiker-only restriction would limit soil erosion to the site. At present, without trails very few visitors venture away from developed facilities. Existing game and social trails will be utilized, and modified, as much as possible to create the new trails. Disadvantages of the project include the cost of construction and periodic trail maintenance.

Alternative C: Development of Multiple-use Trails (Eliminated from further evaluation) FWP would develop a trail system on the new parcel of land, but would allow travel by horse and bicycle in addition to foot travel. This alternative was evaluated and ultimately dismissed because the portions of the area to be developed are relatively steep in nature and use by horses and bicycles would increase the level of soil erosion beyond an acceptable level. In addition, trails leading to the 40-acre parcel are classified as hiker-only trails due to topography and erosion concerns. Thus there is no feasible route for bicycles and horses to access the parcel from the existing trail system.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Preferred Alternative 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					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		NA	1b
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				

- 1b. Areas where hiking tread is constructed will be affected. Erosion problems will ultimately improve as a result of properly constructed trails with water drainage. Soils on footpath will be compacted and result in loss of fertility and ability to support vegetation; however, this compaction is currently occurring on user-created trails. User-created trails that are rerouted would be rehabilitated.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13c.)		X				
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				

No impacts to air quality are anticipated.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		Yes	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				
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				

3b. The proposed project is not expected to detrimentally alter any surface drainage patterns. On sections of trail where slopes are significant to create erosion patterns, water drainage will be installed. Changes in drainage patterns will be limited by trail routing across slopes or by developing trail switchbacks where the route direction indicates travel directly up or down a slope.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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		Yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

- 4a. Some shrubs and grasses will be removed where trail is constructed. This will be limited to 18-24 inches in width. Existing game and user-created trails will be utilized to reduce the need to construct new tread.
- 4b. Disturbance of vegetation for tread construction is limited and not significant enough to affect plant communities overall. User-created trails that are rerouted would be rehabilitated and thus would result in adding vegetation.
- 4c. A search of the Montana National Heritage database revealed no occurrences of plant life that are designated a species of concern, threatened, or endangered within the park.
- 4e. As a result of increased visitor usage, there is some potential for increased spread of noxious weeds to and from other locations within the park. Measures that will be taken to lessen the impact of spread include use of herbicides and mechanical removal of noxious weeds from the area as needed. Noxious weed infestations in the project area primarily include spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, and houndstongue. All of these noxious weeds occur throughout the rest of the park and thus potential spread would not create dispersal of any localized species.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
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				5c
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				

5b & 5c. It is unlikely that the proposed project would cause any changes in the diversity or abundance of game or nongame species due to the project's small scope, and the previous disturbance of and current public use of the site.

5f & 5h. A search of the Natural Resources Information System provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program showed that no threatened or endangered species are in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Canada lynx, wolverine, and gray wolves have potential habitat to the southwest of Lone Pine State Park. The area wildlife biologist does not have any concerns with the proposed project impacting the area wildlife, as the wildlife have adapted to the presence of visitors throughout the rest of the park, and the project area is currently being used by hikers.

5g. A developed trail system may increase the number of people passing through the area. However, numbers would be limited due to the relative remoteness of the area and group sizes expected to be small. Consequently, it is not anticipated that this will have a detrimental effect on wildlife.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
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				

No increase in noise levels will occur.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		NA	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				

7a. The proposed hiking trail system development will not change the existing use of the area, but will provide park users additional recreation opportunities typically associated with formal hiking trails.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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				
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		Yes	8c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a.)		X				8d
e. Other:		X				

8c & 8d. Spot herbicide spraying may be used to control the establishment and growth of noxious weeds along sections of constructed trail. Weed treatment will follow the guidelines of the Region 1 Weed Management Plan.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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				
f. Other:		X				

The construction of additional hiking trails will have a positive impact on the surrounding community by providing a relatively easy access to additional formal, maintained trails with the typical associated benefits.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. 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. An effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. 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. Increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources						10e
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f
g. Other:		X				

10e. There will likely be no revenue generated from this project.

10f. Small increases to current maintenance costs are expected by the proposed trail. Occasional maintenance will be necessary to remove downed trees across the trail and to maintain water bars and limited signing. Anticipated annual cost, including labor, signage, and other maintenance-associated costs, is \$300.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		Yes	11a
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		NA	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				

11a. The hiking trail will be a visible impact on the view of the forest. This is considered an acceptable visual impact and not out of place for the setting. Constructed trail width will be minimal for single person traffic (approx. 18") to reduce visual distraction, and surfacing will be of natural materials.

11c. See *Appendix B* for the Tourism Report. Will attach and update. Once the project is completed, the effects on the quality of the recreation opportunities will be positive. Hiking trails are known to provide social and physical benefits. Visitors will have increased opportunity to enjoy the park's resources.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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 12a.)			X		Yes	12d
e. Other:		X				

12d. State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) records have indicated two possible areas of cultural significance and have recommended that a cultural resource inventory be conducted of the area. The FWP Heritage Resource Program leader has scheduled an inventory of the proposed trail routes prior to any trail construction. If any areas of interest or potential significance are discovered, the trail will be rerouted and the area will be preserved. See Appendix C for SHPO letter.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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				
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				13e
f. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , list any federal or state permits required.		X				

13e. No significant public controversy is expected. Improvements to the park will further the Parks Division's goal to provide visitors with quality recreational experiences by improving hiking opportunities. The project will not create any cumulatively negative impacts that might affect the use of the park by visitors.

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

The hiking trail will be limited to foot travel with a tread width of approximately 18" to allow for single-file travel. Water drainage will be constructed where necessary to prevent erosion on slopes. Trail surfaces will be natural materials. Existing game and user-created trails will be utilized in trail construction where possible. Signage will be minimal to provide direction.

If chemicals are needed for weed control, the FWP Region 1 Noxious Weed Control Plan will be followed. State pesticide use laws and regulations will also be followed. Application records will be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required every five years, and these records will be available to state investigators upon request.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

There are no anticipated cumulative effects of this proposed project. The possible secondary, minor effects include compaction of soil on the constructed trails, potential alteration of some water drainage patterns due to constructed water drainage on trails, a minimal amount of vegetation loss on the trail bed, minimal spread of noxious weeds to be mitigated using herbicide, and a slight potential increase of visitor use of the trails. All other impacts are temporary and minor and most can be mitigated.

PART IV. 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 public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this draft EA, the proposed action, and the alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Helena Independent Record*, *Daily Inter Lake*, and the *Flathead Beacon*
- One statewide press release
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web site: <http://fwp.mt.gov>

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project. If requested, FWP will host a public meeting.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope, having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

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

The public comment period will extend for (14) fourteen days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., September 28, 2009, and can be mailed to the address below:

Lone Pine State Park Hiking Trail Project
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region One Headquarters
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Or by e-mail: agrout@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? No**

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

Based on the evaluation of 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 resulting from the proposed hiking trails project. In determining the significant impacts, FWP assessed the duration, severity, 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 project; the importance to the state and to the society of the environmental resource or value affected and precedence that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to further actions; and possible 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:

Mary Beth Chappelow, Park Ranger
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
300 Lone Pine Road
406-755-2706

Amy Grout, Parks Management Specialist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
300 Lone Pine Road
406-755-2706

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

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

APPENDICES

- A. MCA 23-1-110 Qualification Checklist
- B. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- C. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office

APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: September 1, 2009

Person Reviewing: Amy Grout

Project Location: Lone Pine State Park
Section 24, Township 28 North, Range 22 West

Description of Proposed Work:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to construct approximately 1.5-to-2.5 miles of new trails on a recently acquired parcel of land at Lone Pine State Park. The trail would be approximately 18 inches wide and consist of natural materials, keeping in character with the surrounding trails and the more natural and secluded atmosphere of the area. The new trail would be open to foot travel only due to a lack of an adjoining multiple-use trail which would allow for access of horses and bicycles.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments:

- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments:

- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments:

- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments:

- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments:

- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments:

- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments:

- H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments:

- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments:

- J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments:

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA 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 B: Tourism Report

TOURISM REPORT

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 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:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: Lone Pine State Park Trails Project

Project Description:

FWP proposes to develop approximately 1.5 to 2.5 miles of single-track, hiker-only trails within the 40-acre parcel, located on the southeast portion of the park. This parcel of land has been open to use by park visitors since the acquisition in 2007. Hikers are utilizing several social and game trails; however, a defined trail system does not currently exist. The trails would connect to the existing trail system and would provide additional recreational opportunities to park visitors, reduce soil erosion caused by cross-country travel, and improve access to the southeastern portion of the park.

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

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy.

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

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve the quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date 9/14/2009

Appendix C: SHPO letter

From: Murdo, Damon

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 2:55 PM

To: Grout, Amy

Subject: RE: file search request Lone Pine Trails EA

Attachments: CRABS.pdf; CRIS.pdf

September 3, 2009

Amy Grout

FWP

Lone Pine State Park

300 Lone Pine Rd

Kalispell MT 59901

RE: LONE PINE STATE PARK TRAILS PROJECT. SHPO Project #:
2009090305

Dear Amy:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 24, T28N R22W. According to our records there have been two previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. Site 24FH0968 is a historic stock raising area, and site 24FH0104 is a lithic scatter. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

Based on the new ground disturbance associated with this project, and since the previous inventories in the area are both over 25 years old we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in the project area in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted. I would ask that you contact Sara Scott in the FWP Parks Dept., for any concerns she may have regarding this project.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo

Cultural Records Manager

State Historic Preservation Office