

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Fish Creek Fire Road Restoration
Proposed Implementation Date:	June 15, 2011
Proponent:	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation(DNRC) Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
Location:	Sections 7,17, 18, 19, 20, & 21 T13N R24W Section 1, 12, & 13 T13N R25W
County:	Mineral

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

FWP and the DNRC propose to exchange and abandon road easements, construct new roads and obliterate existing roads in the Fish Creek drainage in Mineral County, Montana(Attachment A: Vicinity Map). This is a relatively remote valley in steep mountainous terrain. Roads identified for removal occupy wet draw bottoms and pose a risk of possible failure and sediment delivery into adjacent streams. New roads would be constructed to provide improved access.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. List number of individuals contacted, number of responses received, and newspapers in which notices were placed and for how long. Briefly summarize issues received from the public.

Project development began in the fall of 2009 with a meeting between DNRC, FWP, Trout Unlimited and S&K Environmental regarding cooperative plans for road maintenance and rehabilitation of sites in the Fish Creek drainage in the. DNRC and FWP specialists conducted site inspections in May, 2010. Subsequent meetings occurred regularly between FWP and DNRC to identify objectives, issues and procedures. Public scoping was not initiated due to the remote location and limited extent of the proposed action.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Examples: cost-share agreement with U.S. Forest Service, 124 Permit, 3A Authorization, Air Quality Major Open Burning Permit.

Removal of wet site culverts and roads adjacent to live streams would require 124 Permit authorization from FWP. Exchange of Easements would require approval from the State Land Board and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission.

3. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Describe alternatives considered and, if applicable, provide brief description of how the alternatives were developed. List alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis and why.

Alternative A: No Action

No easements would be exchanged or abandoned, no roads would be obliterated and no new roads would be constructed as a result of the proposed action. Road maintenance or abandonment could occur as the result of separate projects at some point in the future.

Alternative B: Action

Alternative B: Action was designed to achieve project objectives, address relevant issues and mitigate for potential impacts associated with the proposed action. As a result, only the No Action and Action alternative will be considered.

The proposed action would obliterate 2.8 miles of existing road on three road segments (segments D, F and I; Attachment B: Project Map) occupying sites at risk for failure or sediment delivery to streams. 2.5 miles of marginal access (segment E) would be obliterated on School trust lands. To facilitate removal of these roads, the DNRC would acquire 1.2 miles of easements (segments A, C, G and H) from FWP for alternative access routes to school trust lands and grant 0.8 miles of easements (segments B, J and K) to FWP for alternative access to Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands. The DNRC would abandon 5.2 miles of existing easements and FWP would abandon .2 miles of existing easements that would no longer provide favorable access to respective ownerships.

Alternative access routes were designed to utilize existing roads as much as possible, avoid high risk sites and consolidate road systems. Approximately .8 miles of new road construction (segments A & B) and realignment of a switchback (segment C) would occur under the Action Alternative. 0.2 miles of new construction (segment J) would be deferred until needed for commercial activities.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i> • <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i> • <i>Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soils.

The proposed project area is located on moderate slopes with soils weathering from Belt Series, Precambrian age sedimentary argillites and quartzite bedrock. These soils are very gravelly silt loams over shallow to moderately deep extremely gravelly sandy loams. Most soils in this area have a volcanic ash surface layer with a silt loam texture. The soils occurring in the proposed project area are excessively well drained, droughty and resilient to erosion. This material is considered well suited for road construction. The terrain is also considered relatively stable due to resilient properties of the soils and the extensive occurrence of shallow bedrock. There are no unique or unusual geologic features within the project area.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from existing conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The proposed action would obliterate 2.8 miles of existing road and construct approximately 0.8 miles of new road. Obliterated road surfaces would be ripped, partially re-contoured, re-vegetated and stabilized in a manner that would not require future maintenance. Some short-term low level increases in erosion would be expected during and immediately following road obliteration and road construction activities. All applicable BMPs and other site specific mitigation measures designed to reduce and/or minimize erosion would be fully implemented. Direct and indirect impacts would be limited to 3 acres of disturbed area associated with 0.8 miles of newly constructed road prism. No long-term cumulative impacts are anticipated due to the proportional greater amount of area that would be stabilized and re-vegetated through obliteration of 2.8 miles of existing road. The proposed actions would result in a net decrease of 2 miles of road within the proposed project area. The expected result would be improved long-term soils productivity and overall decreased long-term erosion risk.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The proposed action would obliterate 2.8 miles of existing road on three road segments (See segment D, F and I on Attachment B: Project Map). Road Segment D is located in the headwaters of the Wig Creek drainage. This road contains sustained steep grades and a portion of it, including two stream crossings, is located immediately adjacent to a small intermittent stream channel. This stream channel is discontinuous with no direct channel connectivity to Wig Creek. This segment of road does not fully meet BMP's and is at high risk of sediment delivery to the stream.

Road segment I is a sustained steep grade located immediately adjacent to a small unnamed perennial stream. The existing road does not meet BMP's, direct sediment delivery from the road has occurred in the past and the segment is considered a chronic source of future sediment delivery. Past attempts to install adequate road surface drainage and filter road surface drainage to prevent sediment delivery to the stream have failed or have not been adequately maintained. The unnamed stream channel is discontinuous with no direct channel connectivity to Fish Creek.

Road Segment F is located on a gentle bench or alluvial terrace feature which is well-buffered from Fish Creek. There are no other streams or ephemeral drainage features affected by this road segment. The road meets BMP standards and is very low risk to water quality or downstream beneficial uses in Fish Creek.

Short-term and low levels of increased sediment delivery would likely occur in both of these unnamed discontinuous streams during and shortly after the proposed culvert removal and road obliteration activities. The risk of erosion and sediment delivery would be expected to decrease to a low level within one year as reclaimed sites re-vegetate and stabilize. No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to down slope cold-water fisheries or other beneficial uses would be anticipated due to the discontinuous nature of both affected streams. The proposed restoration activities would likely result in a long-term reduction in risks of erosion and sediment delivery and improved watershed conditions.

The proposed 0.8 miles of new road construction (Segment A and B) are located on moderate slopes near the ridge top dividing the Lion Creek and Wig Creek drainages. There are no stream crossings planned and there are no stream channels, ephemeral drainages or other at risk sites near the proposed road location. All applicable road BMPs would be fully implemented during road design and construction. The proposed new road construction would present a low risk of erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to streams. No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to water quality or cold-water fisheries and other down slope beneficial uses would be expected from the proposed new road construction.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced (i.e. particulate matter from road use or harvesting, slash pile burning, prescribed burning, etc)? Identify the Airshed and Impact Zone (if any) according to the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A: No Action

No effects to air quality would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Slash generated from right-of-way clearing would likely be burned. Burning of slash would likely generate smoke that could affect air quality. Dust could be created by equipment during the course of road construction and obliteration. Due to the remote location and the temporary nature of the project, it is unlikely that dust would affect air quality.

DNRC is classified as a major open burner by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and is issued a permit from the DEQ to conduct burning activities on State lands managed by the DNRC. As a major open burning permit holder, DNRC agrees to comply with all of the limitations and conditions of the permit.

DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, which regulates prescribed burning, including both slash and broadcast burning, related to forest management activities done by DNRC. As a member of the Airshed Group, DNRC agrees to burn only on days approved for good smoke dispersion as determined by the Smoke Management Unit in Missoula, MT. As a result, there would likely be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to air quality.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to vegetation.

Alternative A: No Action

No changes to vegetation or vegetative communities would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

New road construction would remove vegetation from 2,057 linear feet (1.42 acres) of right-of-way on FWP WMA lands and 2,441 linear feet (1.68 acres) of right-of-way on school trust lands. Soil disturbance resulting from road obliteration and road construction could provide an opportunity for the introduction or spread of noxious weeds. The project would include an Integrated Weed Management Plan focusing on prevention, revegetation of disturbed soils, monitoring and herbicide treatment. No activities would occur in old growth stands. As a result, there would be low risk of direct, indirect and cumulative effects to vegetation.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Fisheries

No activities would occur in the immediate vicinity of fish bearing streams. All stream channels within the project area are small and discontinuous with no direct channel delivery to down slope streams supporting cold-water fisheries. Perennial reaches are limited to short isolated spring-fed reaches with extremely low levels of base flow. No indirect, direct or cumulative impacts to down slope fisheries are expected due to the lack of channel connectivity and the large buffer area between the proposed activities and streams supporting cold water fisheries. Obliteration of road segments adjacent to streams and removal of culverts on these streams should have long term beneficial impacts to water quality and to fisheries.

Terrestrial Species

The Fish Creek drainage is a forest carnivore linkage zone (American Wildlands, 2009; Servheen et. al., 2003), with important upland and riparian habitats that provide seasonal and year-round use by a variety of species, especially wintering ungulates. In addition, combined, riparian and wetland habitats make up less than 5% of the surface area of Montana, yet they support the richest diversity and density of birds in the state. There is a minimum of 182 wildlife species (57 mammals, 115 birds, 5 amphibians, and 5 reptiles) that biologists have either verified or are likely to be found within the drainage. Of those, 31 terrestrial vertebrate species of concern (SOC) have been verified or are potentially found within the Fish Creek drainage, with 12 of those identified as Tier 1 species (Montana Natural Heritage Program, 2011; FWP, 2005). Also, there are six potential species of concern (including one Tier 1 species), and one additional Tier 1 species, which was recently removed from the SOC list (See Appendix A).

The Wig Creek drainage of the Project area provides important elk winter range for the Burdette Creek elk (*Cervus elaphus*) herd, as well as seasonal habitat for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and moose (*Alces alces*).

If completed, the Fish Creek Fire Road Restoration Project would decrease the road density and associated maintenance on the Fish Creek WMA. It also would improve water quality within the drainage, and provide additional big game habitat security within important winter range.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Thirty-one terrestrial vertebrate species of concern (SOC) have been verified or are potentially found within the Fish Creek drainage, with 12 of those identified as Tier 1 species (Montana Natural Heritage Program, 2011; FWP, 2005). Also, there are six potential species of concern (including one Tier 1 species), and one additional Tier 1 species, which was recently removed from the SOC list (See Appendix A). There are no wetlands located within the proposed Project area.

Alternative A: No Action

No changes to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The proposed action would reduce road densities in the project area and remove road segments occupying riparian habitat. 0.8 miles of new road construction would disturb approximately 3 acres of forested lands that are identified as Canada Lynx "Non-Habitat" (DNRC Stand Level Inventory, 2011). These forests are predominantly open stands of ponderosa pine not favored by Canada Lynx or Fishers or are non-stocked due to past management and fire.

The proposed action would likely require 2-3 weeks of equipment operation. Operations would be limited to the period of August 1 – September 30 to avoid disturbance to nesting songbirds. Road closures would be maintained throughout the course of the project, and new construction would occur on closed road systems. As a result there would be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to endangered, threatened or sensitive species or species of concern or their habitat as a result of the proposed action.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

No historical or archaeological sites have been identified in the project vicinity.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The project is located in steep mountainous terrain. Most of the drainage was intensively managed industrial timberland that recently experienced high intensity fire and has reduced aesthetic value. Proposed new road construction and the majority of proposed obliteration are located several miles behind locked gates and visibility is limited from most locations by topography. One segment of road obliteration is accessible from open roads adjacent to an informal campsite on school trust lands. There is potential for minor temporary reduction in aesthetic value due to the appearance of disturbed soils and noise produced by equipment at this location. Equipment would likely be limited to a period of 2-3 days and revegetation efforts would largely eliminate any impacts within the period of one growing season.

Easements would be exchanged between cooperating agencies to facilitate future commercial activities in the project area. These could include vegetation treatments, road maintenance, logging and hauling of commercial products on existing roads. The scope of this analysis would be limited to transportation on proposed easements to facilitate construction, obliteration and maintenance of roads and could result in a minor temporary affect to aesthetic value. In the long term, obliteration would reduce road density and could improve the aesthetic value of the area. As a result, there would be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to aesthetics.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Approximately 1.42 acres of FWP WMA lands and 1.68 acres of DNRC School Trust lands would be occupied by new road construction. 18.24 acres of road prism on WMA lands and .85 acres of road prism on school trust lands would be obliterated and returned to a vegetated state.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

In January, 2010, FWP released the Fish Creek Environmental Assessment analyzing acquisition of 34,000 acres of WMA lands and 6,900 acres of State Park land including the project area. DNRC completed the Fish Creek Fire Restoration Project Categorical Exclusion for road maintenance/repair and culvert removal and replacement in the Fish Creek drainage.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES* potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain *POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS* following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The proposed project would require the use of heavy equipment including excavators, dozers and dump trucks. While most activity would take place on gated roads where public traffic is restricted, non-motorized recreation could be restricted for a short period due to equipment operation. Warning signs would be posted where obliteration would occur on one segment of ungated road. Transportation of equipment could expose the public to increased heavy truck traffic for a limited period. There would be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to health and safety due to the proposed actions.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The proposed action would eliminate marginal access to approximately 20 acres of forested School Trust Lands. This would have no impact in the short term due to wildfire that recently deforested these stands. In the long term, technology is available that could be used to manage timber on these stands without this access. The proposed action would also improve access to several sections of school trust lands and WMA lands and consolidate road systems.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

The project would provide work for approximately 2 individuals for 10-12 days. There would be low risk of direct, indirect and cumulative effects to quantity and distribution of employment due to the proposed action.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Income generated by contractors performing construction and obliteration would generate income tax. It is unlikely that the proposed action would have direct, indirect or cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Approximately 4.4 miles of gated roads and .8 miles of open roads would be obliterated on WMA lands and school trust lands. Alternative access would be included as part of the project. The project would temporarily increase heavy truck traffic on the Fish Creek road for the duration of approximately one month.

The project would require approximately 60 hours of time from DNRC and FWP officials for the development and administration. There would likely be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to traffic or government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Plans for the management of the Fish Creek State Park and the Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area are currently under development. FWP and DNRC anticipate cooperation on this and future projects in the Fish Creek Drainage.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected. Ongoing road maintenance and road system consolidation may occur independent of the proposed action.

Alternative B: Action

Most of the roads involved in the project are currently gated and provide no access to wilderness and limited access to recreation. Motorized vehicle access and non-motorized recreation access would be provided by alternative open and gated roads to lands currently accessed by roads that would be obliterated.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to population and housing.

Alternative A: No Action

No changes from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Approximately two contractors or employees could reside in the project area for approximately one month while performing road work. Four School Trust land cabin site leases exist within three miles of the project area. It is unlikely that the proposed action would have direct, indirect or cumulative effects to population and housing.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No native or traditional lifestyles or communities have been identified in the project area.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected.

Alternative B: Action

Fish Creek is a pristine watershed that provides substantial water based recreation. Road obliteration would occur on two road segments within approximately .5 miles of Fish Creek, potentially reducing the quality of recreation on adjacent stream segments for a short period. It is unlikely that the project would have direct, indirect or cumulative effects to stream recreation.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A: No Action

No change from current conditions would be expected. No revenue would be returned to the trust. Timber management and recreation would likely continue as the dominant activities in the project area.

Alternative B: Action

Federal funding for road obliteration and construction has been provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. No revenue would be generated in association with the proposed action. Consolidation and improvement of road systems would potentially improve transportation efficiency and reduce road maintenance costs. There would be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative economic effects as a result of the proposed action.

Table 1: Estimated Project Costs

Activity	Road Segments	Cost/mile	Miles	Total Cost
New Construction	A,B and C	\$16,000	0.8	\$12,800
Obliteration	D,E,F and I	\$10,000	5.2	\$52,000
TOTAL:				\$64,800

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Wayne Lyngholm	Date: 5/9/11
	Title: Management Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Upon a thorough review of the potential impacts/benefits of each of the alternatives presented in this Environmental Assessment, I have decided to implement the Action Alternative.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The potential impacts of implementing the Action Alternative appear to be minor when contrasted to the significant benefits to the Fish Creek watershed after the proposed road work is completed. The proposed mitigations are adequate to further minimize any potential harmful impacts the proposed project may have.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS
 More Detailed EA
 No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Jonathan Hansen	
	Title: Missoula Unit Manager	
Signature: /s/ Jonathan Hansen		Date: 5/09/11

LITERATURE CITED

American Wildlands. 2008. Priority Linkage Assessment Reports. <http://www.wildlands.org/programs/corridors/pla>

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. 2005. Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Management Strategy. <http://fwp.mt.gov/specieshabitat/strategy/default.html>

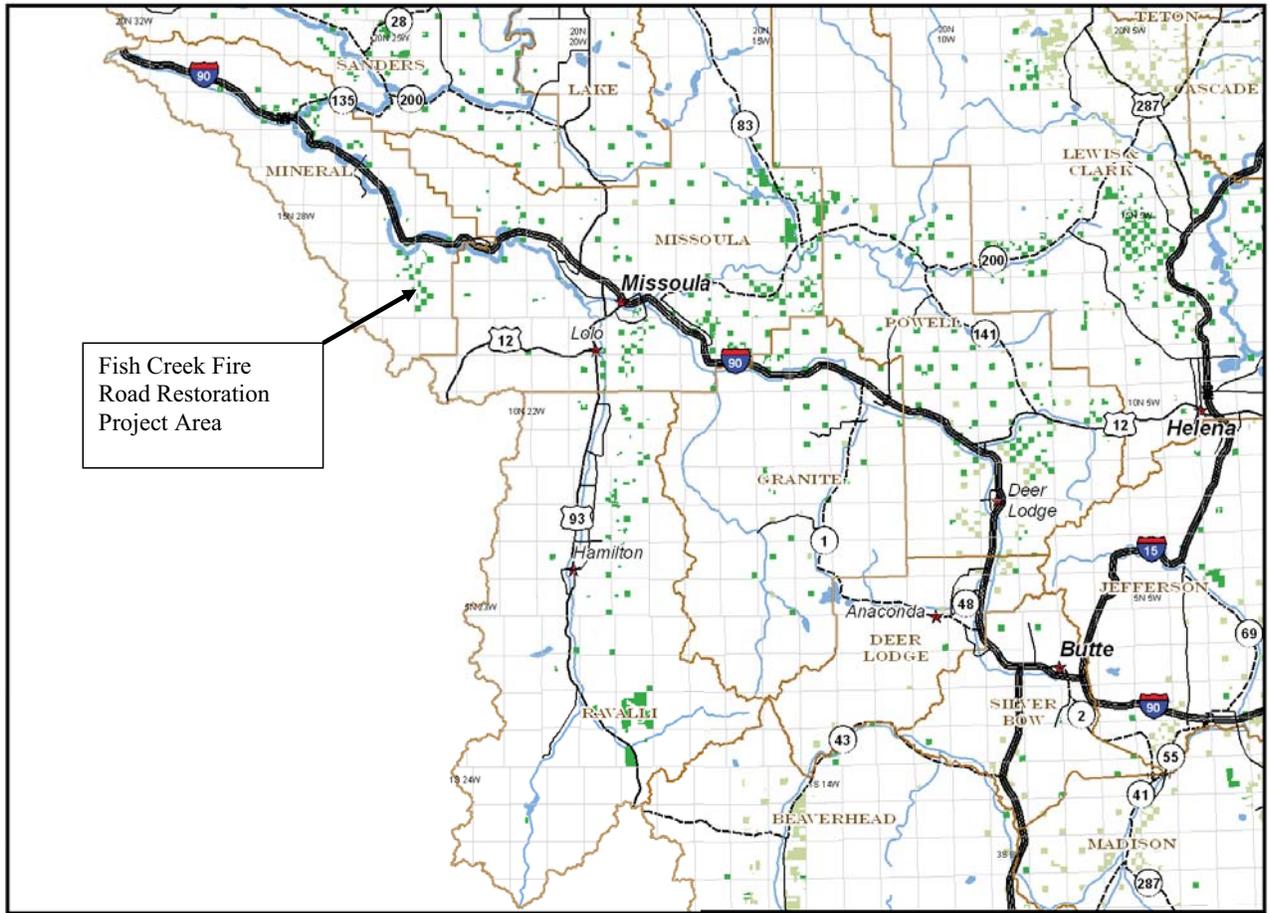
Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2011. Montana Animal Species of Concern, July 2009.

Servheen, Christopher, John Waller and Per Sandstrom. 2003. Identification and management of linkage zones for wildlife between the large blocks of public land in the Northern Rocky Mountains. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. 82pp.

The table below lists the Species of Concern with CFWCS Tier1 noted in blue that are predicted to occur within or in the vicinity of the Fish Creek drainage.

Species	Status	Habitat	Status in Fish Creek & Vicinity
SPECIES OF CONCERN			
Bull Trout	Threatened	Coldwater streams	Verified
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	SOC	Coldwater Streams	Verified in area - abundant
Canada Lynx	Threatened	Subalpine conifer forests	Verified
Fisher	SOC	Mixed conifer forests	Verified
Fringed Myotis	SOC	Riparian & dry mixed conifer forests	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Gray Wolf	SOC	Generalist	Verified
Grizzly Bear	Threatened	Generalist	Suitable habitat for expansion into the area
Hoary Bat	SOC	Riparian and forest habitats	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Spotted Bat	SOC	Arid land rock outcrops	Suitable habitat present along Clark Fork River
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	SOC	Caves and mines	Suitable roost sites possible in or near area, foraging habitat present
Wolverine	SOC	Conifer forests	Verified
Bald Eagle	Delisted, SOC	Riparian forests	Verified. Nesting pair along Clark Fork. Possible nesting pair up Fish Creek.
Black-backed Woodpecker	SOC	Burned conifer forests	Verified near the area, suitable habitat (recent burns) within area
Boreal Chickadee	SOC	Spruce fir forests	Limited suitable habitat, not verified
Brown Creeper	SOC	Mixed conifer forests	Verified on forest service lands around the area, suitable habitat
Cassin's Finch	SOC	Conifer forests	Verified in the area
Clark's Nutcracker	SOC	Conifer forests	Verified in the area
Flammulated Owl	SOC	Low-mid elevation conifer forests with large trees	Verified in the area
Golden Eagle	SOC	Generalist	Suitable habitat in the area, not verified
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	SOC	Alpine	Limited suitable habitat may be present, needs evaluation
Great Blue Heron	SOC	Riparian woodlands	Verified in area
Great Gray Owl	SOC	Conifer forests	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Harlequin Duck	SOC	Mountain Streams	Verified in South Fork Fish Creek south of area, limited suitable habitat present in the area
Lewis's Woodpecker	SOC	Riparian forests	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Northern Goshawk	SOC	Mixed conifer forests	Verified near the area, suitable habitat present
Peregrine Falcon	Delisted, SOC	Cliffs near riparian or wetland habitat	Verified in area, nest site along Clark Fork River
Pileated Woodpecker	SOC	Conifer forests with large trees	Verified in area

Veery	SOC	Riparian forests/shrubby habitats	Verified in area
Winter Wren	SOC	Conifer/riparian forests	Verified in area
Northern Alligator Lizard	SOC	Talus/rock outcrops	Verified near area, suitable habitat present
Western Skink	SOC	Open conifer forests/grasslands	Verified near Alberton and Superior, suitable habitat present
Coeur d'Alene Salamander	SOC	Spring/seep, waterfalls, mossy talus	Populations verified in Woodman Creek to east, and Trout Creek to west, some suitable habitat in area
Western Toad	SOC	Wetlands, lakes, floodplain ponds	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Magnum Mantleslug (<i>Magnipelta mycophaga</i>)	SOC	Moist conifer forests	Verified in W. Fork Petty Creek, suitable habitat in area
Rocky Mountain Dusksnail (<i>Colligyrus greggi</i>)	SOC	Cold freshwater streams and springs	A few populations nearby, not verified in area
Western Pearlshell	SOC	Coldwater streams	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Clustered Lady's-Slipper (<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>)	SOC	Montana occurrences are mostly in warm, dry mid-seral montane forest in the Douglas fir/ninebark and grand fir/ninebark habitat types. Elsewhere in its range, it is in western red cedar habitat types.	Verified just west of area in 2000 survey. Timber harvesting has been the primary threat to the species in Montana.
Kelloggia (<i>Kelloggia galioides</i>)	SOC	Open forest in the valley and montane zones	Known in Montana from one 1971 collection in the South Fork Fish Creek valley
Northern Twayblade (<i>Listera borealis</i>)	SOC	Grows in seepy, marshy places along cold-air drainages, often where calcareous	Collected in 1971 in area
Western Joepyeweed (<i>Eupatorium occidentale</i>)	SOC	Rocky outcrops and slopes in the montane and lower subalpine zones	Herbarium specimen from 1975
Potential Species of Concern			
Hoary Marmot	PSOC	Alpine/subalpine meadows/rock outcrops	Limited suitable habitat in SW corner of area, not verified
Silver-haired Bat	PSOC	Riparian and forest habitats	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Hooded Merganser	PSOC	Riparian forests	Limited suitable habitat in area, not verified
Rufous Hummingbird	PSOC	Open and brushy forests	Verified in area
Tennessee Warbler	PSOC	Mixed conifer forests	Suitable habitat in area, not verified
Western Screech-Owl	PSOC	Riparian forests	Verified in area
An Agapetus Caddisfly (<i>Agapetus montanus</i>)	PSOC	Fast-flowing streams	Verified in Burdette Creek
Fir Pinwheel (<i>Radiodiscus abietum</i>)	PSOC	Moist, rocky Douglas-fir or western red cedar forests	Some suitable habitat in area
Additional Tier 1 Species			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	CFWCS Tier 1	Early seral forest/shrub patches, and burned forest	Verified in area



Fish Creek Fire Road Restoration Project Area

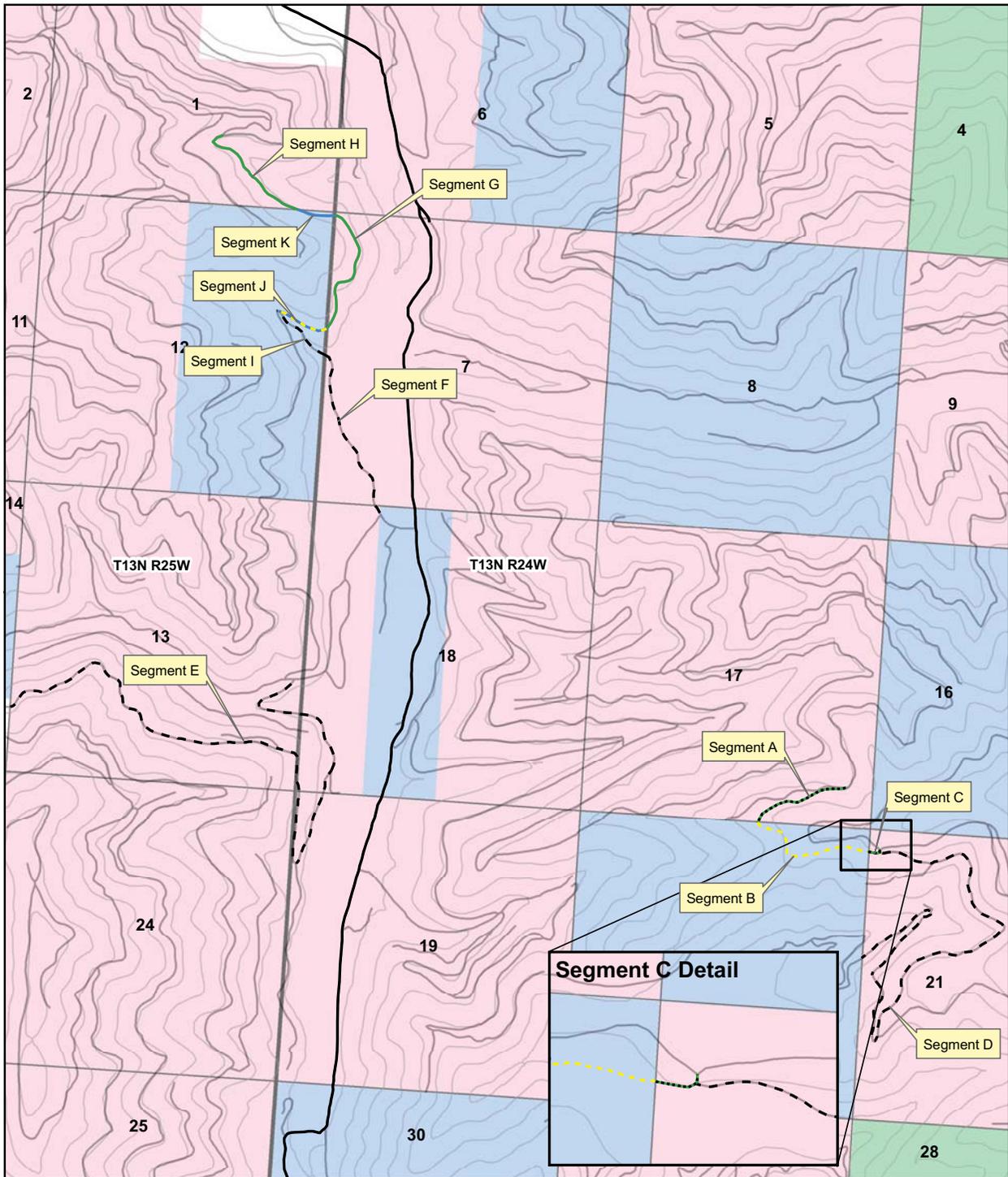


	Interstate Highway		Rivers		Lakes
	U.S. Route		City		DNRC managed for timber
	State Highway		County		DNRC other
	Secondary Roads		Township/Range		

21 February 2007
 Montana DNRC
 Technical Services Section/dr



Fish Creek Fire Road Restoration



Legend		Segment Lengths (ft)					
	Proposed DNRC Easements to FWP	A	1,797	F	3,193	K	673
	Proposed FWP Easements to DNRC	B	2,441	G	2,526		
	Proposed New Construction on DNRC	C	260	H	1,609		
	Proposed New Construction on FWP	D	10,130	I	1,227		
	Road Segments to Abandon	E	13,168	J	950		
	USFS Roads						
	FWP						
	DNRC						
	USDA FOREST SERVICE						

cwalter 03/09/11