Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 11, 2010

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Director's Office Parks Division Lands Section FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division Legal Unit Wildlife Division Design & Construction
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Kim & Nate Finch, 4700 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Robin & Toby Sorensen, 401 4 Ave. East, Three Forks, MT 59752
Mayor, Gene Townsend, Box 187, Three Forks, MT 59752
Dunmire James L & Lola J, 6300 Buffalo Jump Rd, Three Forks, MT 59752-9488
Williams Larry D & Cathy L, PO Box 933, Three Forks, MT 59752-0933
Scully John P & Antoinette C, PO Box 986, Ennis, MT 59729-0986
Sande Vernor S & Arlene S, 1151 E Baseline Rd, Belgrade, MT 59714-8517
Schutter John N Q, 3821 Wooden Shoe Rd, Manhattan, MT 59741-8115
Klompien Ronald G & Marlys R, 7777 Buffalo Jump Rd, Three Forks, MT 59752-9402
Gallatin County Commissioners, 311 West Main, Room 306, Bozeman, MT 59715

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) recently published a draft environmental assessment (EA) which was completed for the "Madison Buffalo Jump State Park ADA Trailhead and Interpretation Project". Based on unforeseen circumstances, the project has been put on hold and FWP is withdrawing the EA from public review.

We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions regarding this EA, please contact Ray Heagney at 994-6934.

Sincerely,

Gerald Walker

Jerry Walker
Region Three Parks Manager
Attachment

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 7, 2010

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Director's Office Parks Division Lands Section FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division Legal Unit Wildlife Division Design & Construction
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Kim & Nate Finch, 4700 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Robin & Toby Sorensen, 401 4 Ave. East, Three Forks, MT 59752
Mayor, Gene Townsend, Box 187, Three Forks, MT 59752
Dunmire James L & Lola J, 6300 Buffalo Jump Rd, Three Forks, MT 59752-9488
Williams Larry D & Cathy L, PO Box 933, Three Forks, MT 59752-0933
Scully John P & Antoinette C, PO Box 986, Ennis, MT 59729-0986
Sande Vernor S & Arlene S, 1151 E Baseline Rd, Belgrade, MT 59714-8517
Schutter John N Q, 3821 Wooden Shoe Rd, Manhattan, MT 59741-8115
Klompien Ronald G & Marlys R, 7777 Buffalo Jump Rd, Three Forks, MT 59752-9402
Gallatin County Commissioners, 311 West Main, Room 306, Bozeman, MT 59715

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Madison Buffalo Jump ADA Trailhead and Interpretation Project. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to build a trail to provide reasonable access for those with disabilities as well as to comply with state and federal accessibility standards. The trail will originate from an ADA-compliant concrete parking pad, then follow the existing trail route to a point near the existing picnic area. The project will include the installation of asphalt parking pad with a connecting asphalt trail 8' feet in width for a distance of approximately 200 feet, terminating at a concrete pad. The dimensions of the concrete pad will be circular and approximately 15' in diameter. A sun shelter and ADA-compliant picnic table will be installed. Interpretative panels depicting how the jump was used and cultural and historical information will be incorporated at this pad.

The second phase of the project will be to reclaim and develop an ADA-accessible picnic area at the base of the abandoned interior roadway near the southeast edge of the newly redesigned parking area. This new development would be adjacent to the trail leading to the upper interpretive pavilion. Development would include a concrete pad, picnic table, and sun shelter. An ADA-compliant concrete parking pad would also be installed. This element of the non-motorized trail proposal would also be open for use by the public.

This Draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters and the State Library. It also may be obtained from FWP at the address provided above, or viewed on FWP's Internet website: http://www.fwp.mt.gov .

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. The public comment period will run from February 7, 2011 to March 18, 2011. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., March 18, 2011, and comments should be sent to the following:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
c/o **Madison Buffalo Jump ADA Trailhead and Interpretation Project**
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

Or e-mailed to: rheagney@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Jerry Walker
Region Three Parks Manager
Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MEPA NEPA Checklist

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development	___X____
Renovation	___X____
Maintenance	_____
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	_____

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks / Parks Division

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.
   Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks / Parks Division / Region Three
   Ray Heagney, Park Manager
   406-994-6934
   rheagney@mt.gov

4. Name of project. **Madison Buffalo Jump ADA Trail Project**
5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date: **September 2011**

Estimated completion date: **September 2010 or May 2012**

Current status of project design (% complete) **0%**

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
Gallatin T2N, R2E, Sec. 34

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

(a) Developed:
residential..... ___ acres
industrial ..... ___ acres

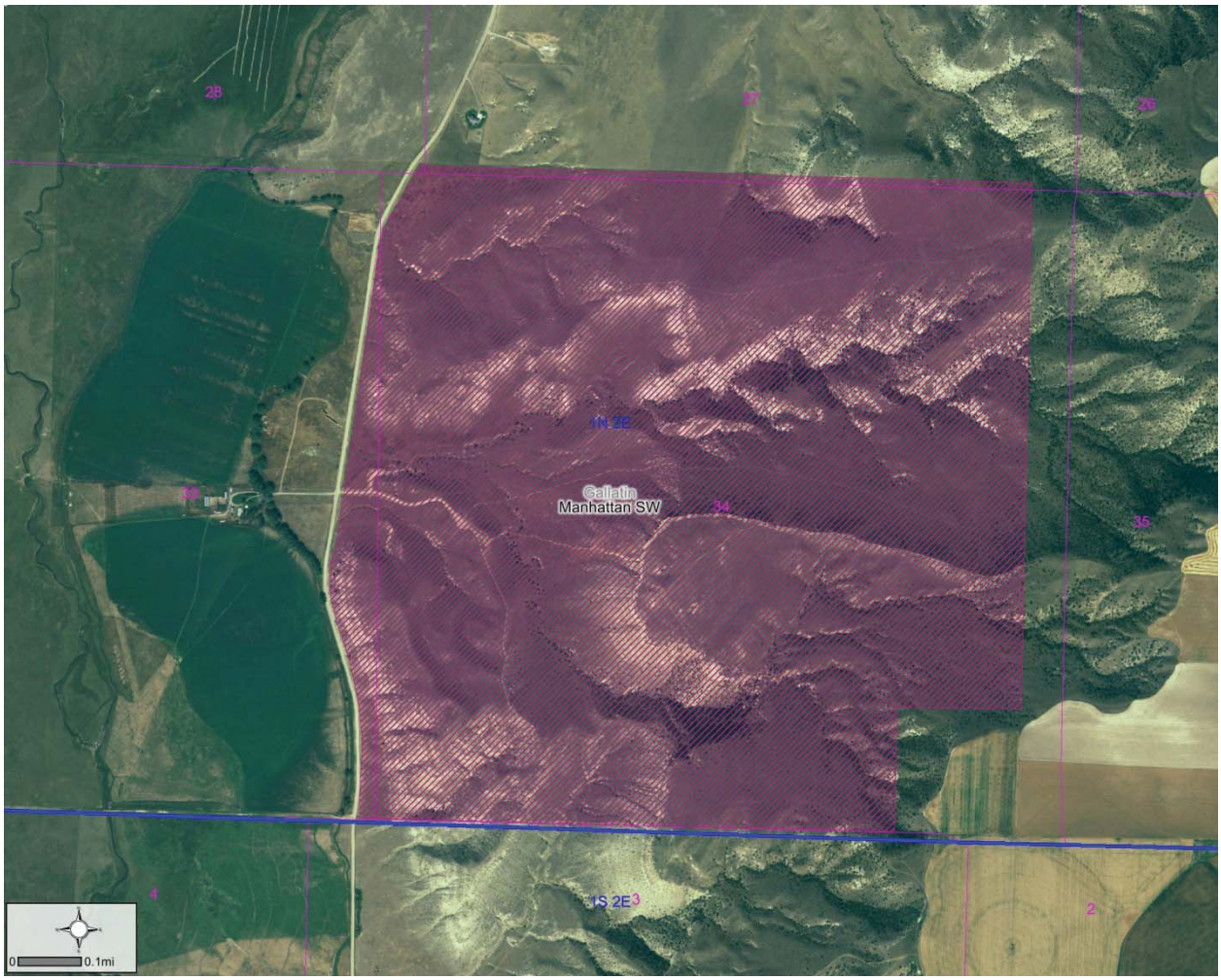
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation..... 1-2 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas ..... ___ acres

(d) Floodplain ..... ___ acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... ___ acres
dry cropland ..... ___ acres
forestry ..... ___ acres
rangeland..... ___ acres
other..... ___ acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.



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

The principle intent of this trail proposal is to provide reasonable access for those with disabilities as well as to comply with state and federal accessibility standards. The trail will originate at the parking lot following the existing trail route to a point near the existing picnic area. The trail will then divert to the northeast and terminate at a point which allows a panoramic view of the buffalo jump and the surrounding topography. The project will include the installation of asphalt parking pad with a connecting asphalt trail 8' feet in width for a distance of approximately 300' to 400' feet, terminating at a concrete pad. The dimensions of the concrete pad will be circular and approximately 15' in diameter. A sun shelter and ADA picnic table will be installed. Interpretative panels depicting how the jump was used and cultural and historical information will be incorporated at this pad.

The secondary element of the project will be to reclaim and develop a new picnic area at the base of the abandoned interior roadway near the southeast edge of the newly redesigned parking area, reference photo below. This new development will be adjacent and associated to the trailhead leading to the upper interpretive pavilion. Development would include a concrete pad, picnic table, and a sun shelter.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the MEPA-required no action alternative). At a minimum, the following three alternatives must be presented.

a). Preferred Alternative: The preferred alternative is to proceed with the described and defined ADA trail and secondary enhancement project. This would include oversight by Park Staff to monitor and prohibit disruption of sensitive archeological points of interest.

b). No-action Alternative: This alternative would discontinue all planning processes for the construction of an ADA-compliant trail. This may result in a failure to comply with federal statutory requirements regarding "reasonable access" into a recreational / cultural site.

c). Additional Alternatives: Modified preferred alternative is to proceed with the described and defined ADA trail only. This would include oversight by Park Staff to monitor and prohibit disruption of sensitive archeological points of interest.

11. Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits		
Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Permit:	Date Filed:

(b) Funding	
Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Funding Amount:
➢ Biennial Budget	$14,548
➢ Major Maintenance Program	$20,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name: Montana State Historical Preservation Office	Type of Responsibility: Cultural and Historical Review and or project approval.

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:
Montana State Historical Preservation Office

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist: **Ray Heagney, Park Manager**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Three.

Signed by: _____ _____Ray Heagney
(signature) (print)

14. Date submitted: **2/1/11**

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?			X			See 1C below
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 NONE		X				

1C: Construction of the new trail will cause minor disruption and change of a short segment of the resource topography. Prior to this work, a cultural review will have taken place to evaluated potential impacts.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Air" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			See 2a below
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			See 2a below
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			See 2d below
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other: NONE		X				

2a: Short-term impact to air quality may occur from heavy equipment use during the construction phase of the project.

2d: During the construction phase of the project it is anticipated that vegetative areas along the edge of the proposed trail will be affected. These areas will be reclaimed and reseeded with native grasses.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Water" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other: NONE		X				

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Vegetation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				See 4e below
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: NONE		X				

4e: Any disruption of soil elevates the potential for the introduction of noxious weeds or other vegetative invader species. The reclamation of the work area will be a required element in the overall project. Additional monitoring for noxious weeds by the Parks Division is part of the ongoing management of the site.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Fish/Wildlife" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed**.**

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other: NONE		X				

Narrative: See attached Wildlife and Fisheries Reviews / comments.

Summary of Fish and Wildlife review of the project found that the project posed no definable impacts or need for mitigative measures. The project was recommended for completion.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Noise/Electrical Effects" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			See 6a below
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?						
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?						
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?						
e. Other:						

6a: Short-term elevation in sound levels will occur from heavy equipment used during the construction phase of the project.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Land Use" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A 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. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
g. Other: NONE		X				

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Risk/Health Hazards" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other: NONE		X				

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Community Impact" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
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: NONE		X				

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Public Services/Taxes/Utilities" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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 so, specify:		X				
b. Effects on 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 used of any energy source?		X				
e. Other. NONE		X				
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	Park day use fees					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	Maintenance of this trail will be covered under the biennial budget for the park.					

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Aesthetics/Recreation" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other: NONE		X				

11a: This project will protect sensitive cultural areas of the park and at the same time provide an appropriate level of access for those with mobility disabilities to view the buffalo jump.

11c: This project will allow FWP to meet its obligation to federal statute as it relates to "reasonable access" under American with Disabilities Act. It is anticipated that this project will improve access for the public in general.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Cultural/historical Resources" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?						
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?						
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?						
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?						
e. Other:						

Narrative: The construction along an existing trail would be tempered with an onsite presence of State Park staff to limit or prohibit the potential impact to known sensitive cultural points of interest with in the park or near the planed trail work.

The RTP grant application process does not require SHPO clearance, however:

*****This projects will not proceed until such time as a Cultural Survey and the State Historical Preservation Office find that sensitive cultural values will not be impacted.*****

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this "Summary Evaluation of Significance" checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked "none" in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which 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				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.						

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole. These are impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in combination to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

The directive by the Montana State Parks Administrator to apply for major maintenance funding and a Recreational Trails Program grant to complete this project requires that the entire amount of funding requested from each program must be awarded in full to complete the project. If either one of the funding sources fails to meet the requested funding levels, the result may jeopardize all or part of the project proposal.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

   YES _____

   NO __X___

   If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

3. **Public Comment.** At minimum, public input to the proposed project must be solicited through a legal ad in a daily newspaper with widest circulation in the immediate project area. This ad must run for a minimum of one day with at least 30 days allowed for public comment. The ad must include a brief description of the proposed project with the name, address, and contact information of the project sponsor. Comments should be provided in writing. The public comment period for this project must have occurred within 24 months (2 years) of the grant submission deadline.

   a). Please include a photocopy of the legal advertisement, showing the date on which it ran in the newspaper.

   b). Describe the total public involvement for this project beyond the legal ad. Projects may not be planned in isolation. The general public, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties should be involved from the onset. Promotion of public participation may be through newspaper articles and any other means available, such as public meetings, federal quarterly newsletters, TV programs, radio announcements, etc.

   The EA was distributed internally for agency review that included Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions. The State of Montana Historical Preservation Office was provided an EA for pre-public review. The EA was then mailed to the standard State Parks distribution list and posted to the FWP Web-site.

4. **Public Input Summary.** Please describe the nature of the public comments received during the official public comment period. Tally numbers of comments in support of the project and the numbers against. Summarize the most important comments received and

your response to these comments. For example, if a reviewer made suggestions on how the project could be made better, how did you respond to that suggestion?

a). Provide copies of all comments received.

b). Changes to project design or scope of work based on public input.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA

and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.