



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

July 16, 2012

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  
Dillon Tribune, 22 S. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725  
Helen Sorel, 4900 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725  
Kim & Nate Finch, 4700 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725  
Cindy Staszak, BLM, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101  
Bannack Association, P O Box 1426, Dillon MT 59725  
Dave L Prewett, PM 3-7-77 and PGM of Montana, 5905 Thorpe Rd, Belgrade MT 59714-8910  
Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 South Pacific St. STE #4, Dillon MT 59725  
Larry Lakner, Beaverhead County Flood Plain Administrator, 2 South Pacific St. STE #4, Dillon MT 59725

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Bannack State Park Pole Building. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes building an 18' x 24' shed style pole building on the east side of the existing maintenance facility.

This Draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library, and the Environmental Quality Council. 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 July 17, 2012 to August 16, 2012. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and comments should be sent to the following:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
c/o Bannack Pole Barn Project  
4200 Bannack Road  
Dillon MT 59725

Or e-mailed to: [dalec@mt.gov](mailto:dalec@mt.gov)

Sincerely,

Jerry Walker  
Region Three Parks Manager  
Attachment

# Environmental Assessment

Comments to Dale Carlson 4200 Bannack  
Rd. Dillon, MT 59725  
406-834-3413  
[bannack@smtel.com](mailto:bannack@smtel.com)



## BANNACK STATE PARK Pole Building Project

June 2012



Pole Building Project  
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 building an 18' x 24' shed style pole building on the east side of the existing maintenance facility. The maintenance facility was built in 1996 and the original plans included an addition for storage but funding constraints forced the park to cut this feature. The building will consist of 11-13 posts set in concrete approximately 2' deep, board and batten construction, a shed style roof with rolled roofing material covering 5//8" sheeting. The building will be used to house lumber and other building materials used for preservation and maintenance of the park's buildings.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established "for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational, and economic life of the people and their health". Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives FWP "jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments".
3. **Name of project:** Bannack State Park Pole Building Project
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **Construction Timeline:** June through September. Construction will be completed by park staff and the regional maintenance crew as time and weather permit.
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):** Section 7, Township 08S, Range 11W.
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:	
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>0</u>	Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
		Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Forestry	<u>0</u>
		Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>.01</u>



8. Map/site plan:







**9. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

Permits: A Beaverhead County building permit is required and will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	
(b) Funding:	0

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Bannack Association	\$6000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Cultural Artifact Determination

**Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**

**10. Narrative summary of the proposed action:**

The purpose of this project is to provide a covered storage facility for aged building materials used in the preservation and maintenance of the historic buildings at Bannack State Park. Currently there are no covered facilities to store these materials and while these materials are aged naturally outside, long term exposure to the elements causes deterioration and thus financial loss. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes building a pole building on the east side of the existing maintenance facility to fill this need. The existing maintenance facility was built in 1996 and is situated outside the historic town site in the east end parking area. Our goal is to seamlessly integrate the pole building addition with the maintenance facility by employing the same board and batten finish used in 1996. The shed style pole building was included in the original design of the maintenance facility but was cut because of funding constraints.



Figure 1: The cones represent the approximate location of the proposed pole building relative to the maintenance building.

Figure 1



Figure 2: Looking east across the east end parking lot. The addition of the pole building here will not cause any visual distraction from the historic town site.

Figure 2

The building will consist of 11-13 posts set in concrete approximately 2' deep, board and batten construction, a shed style roof with rolled roofing material covering 5/8" sheeting, and gravel floor. Preservation and maintenance of Bannack's historic buildings is the top priority of the park's staff. This storage facility will protect building



materials from long term exposure to the elements, which will help eliminate waste cause by deterioration and thus be cost effective.

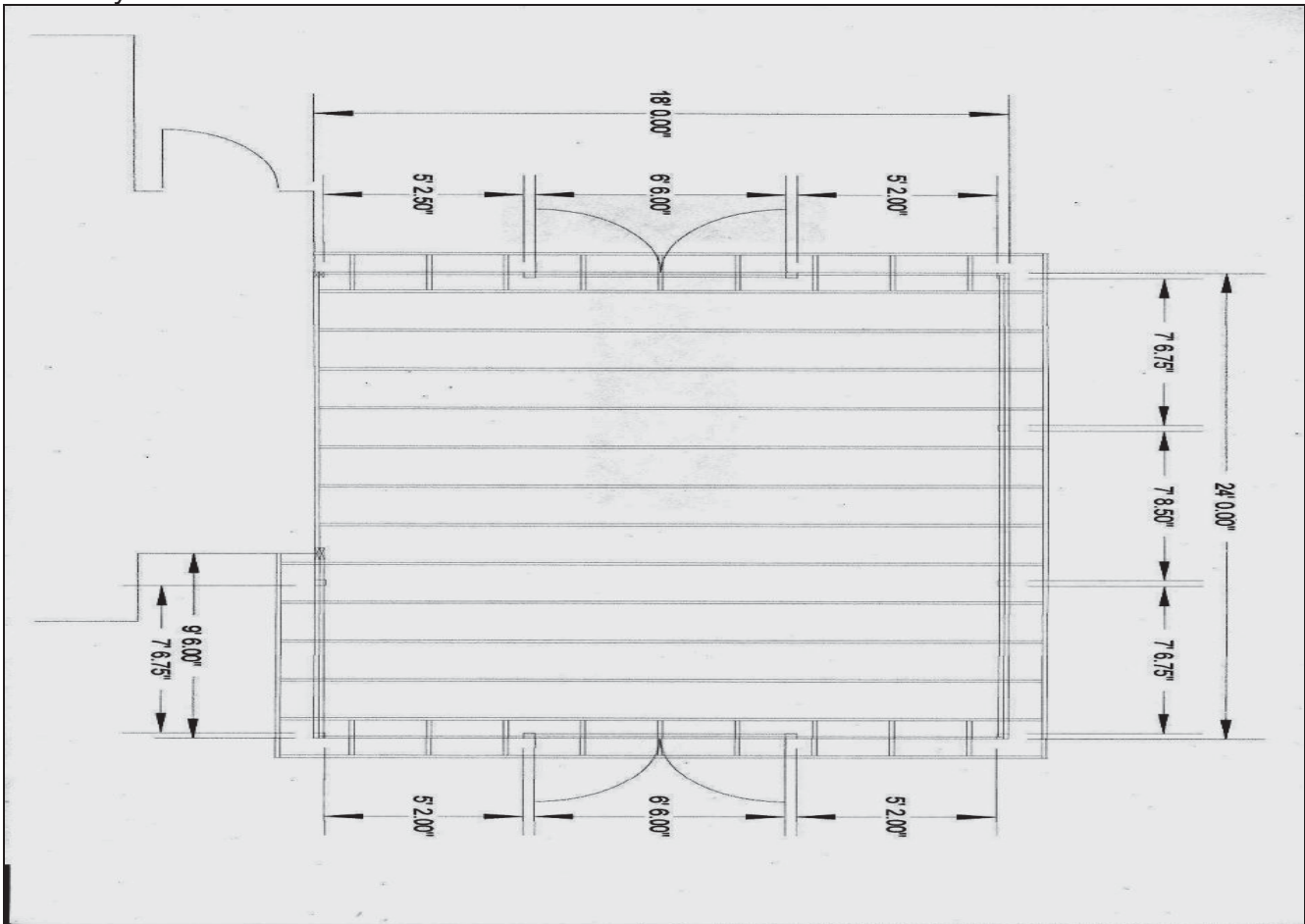


Figure 3

Floor Plan

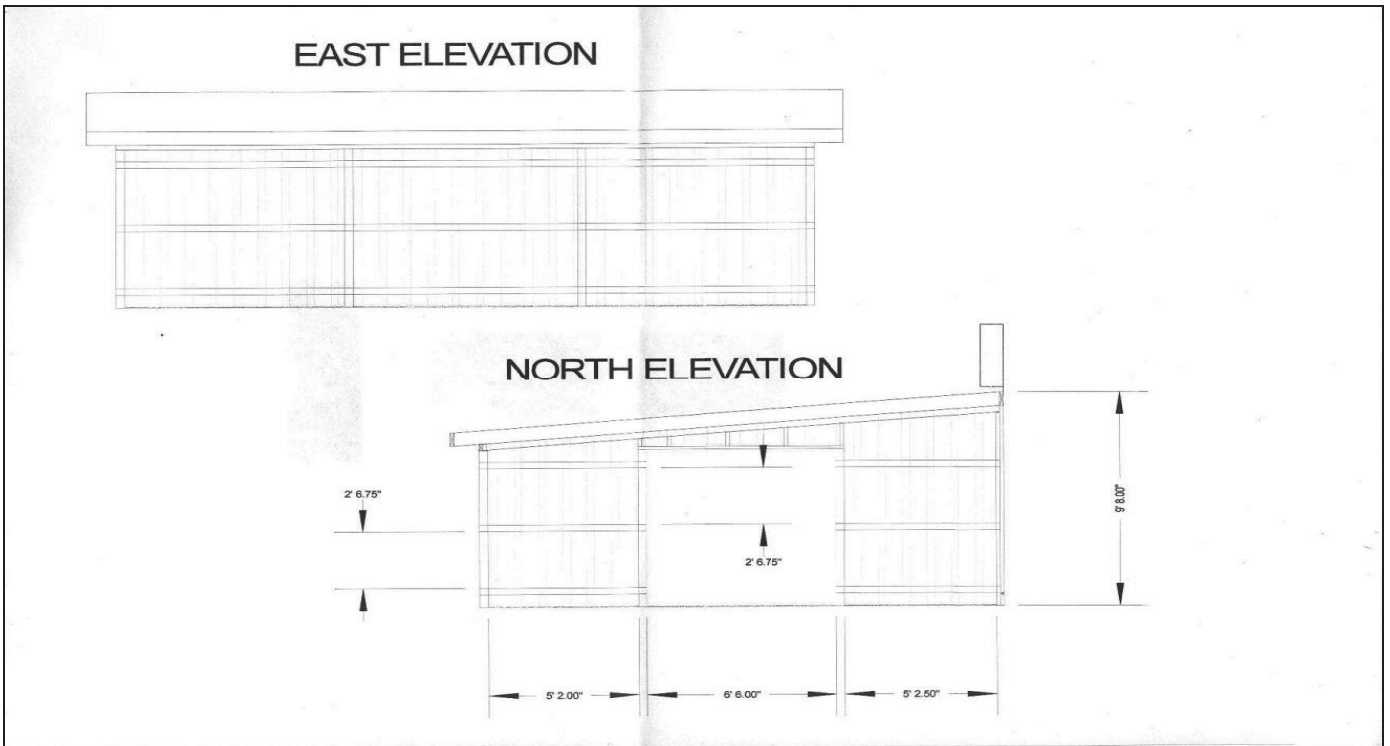


Figure 4

Elevation

**11. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

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

**PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action 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 *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a
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				
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				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**1a)** The site for the proposed action is maintained as a gravel parking area and there will be a minimal amount of ground disturbance.



2. <u>AIR</u> 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				2a.
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				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**2a)** In no way will this project effect air quality or disturb any vegetation.

3. <u>WATER</u> 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				3a
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. ****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				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**3a)** There will be a minimal amount of ground disturbance and the construction site sits back from Grasshopper Creek approximately 250' so we do not expect this project to affect the creek, change run off patterns or effect ground water resources.

4. <b>VEGETATION</b>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				4a
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				
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**4a)** The site is maintained as a gravel parking area and is devoid of vegetation (accept for a couple cottonwood trees which will not be affected) so in no way will it have a detrimental impact on the surrounding vegetation. The park has an established weed control program so there should be no spread or establishment of noxious weeds.

** 5. <b>FISH/WILDLIFE</b>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				5a
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		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?		X				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location?		X				
j. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**



5a) Construction will take place in a developed parking area so in no way should it affect fish and wildlife habitat or the abundance of game and non-game species.

5g) Noise created from construction should be minimal and only temporary and should not create any more stress than occurs from vehicle traffic.

**B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> 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			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X			6b
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				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

6a) There will be a temporary and minimal increase in noise.

6b) The construction site is located approximately 250' from areas within the park frequented by visitors and the nuisance noise created by construction will be minimal and temporary.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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				7a
b. Conflicted 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				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

7a) The site proposed for the project is maintained as a graveled parking area. Thus, the project will in no way diminish productivity/profitability, or in any way interfere with designated natural area or areas of unusual scientific or educational importance.

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

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**8a)** This project should not create human health hazards.

<b>9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u></b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
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				9d
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**9d)** The only impact this project may have on local communities would be a positive commercial impact by allowing the park to purchase larger quantities of materials used in preservation and maintenance.

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

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**10d)** The project is a storage facility and will have an electrical outlet but the increase use of energy will be nearly negligible.

**10e)** The project is funded by the Bannack Association, a non-profit friends group.

** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X			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				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted?		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**11a)** Park staff is very conscious of its view shed. The pole building will employ board and batten construction to match the maintenance facility built in 1996. Visitors rarely visit the project area because it is outside the historic town site. There are people who use this area to gain access to recreational opportunities (horseback riders, bicyclists and fisherman), but the use of board and batten construction will help the pole building blend in with the existing maintenance facility and be virtually un-noticeable to visitors.



<b>12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?			X		Yes	12a
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 12.a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources.**

**12a)** The project does require digging 11-13 holes 2' deep and there is a minimal chance that historic objects may be unearthed but the site of the proposed project was disturbed historically by the impact of mining and more recently with power and water lines. Care will be taken to document and preserve all historic objects that may be unearthed. Before construction begins SHPO clearance will be obtained.

**SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

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

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources**

## **PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

1. 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: Proposed Action:**

In the preferred alternative, FWP will build an 18' x 24' shed style pole building adjacent to the existing maintenance facility. The existing maintenance facility was built in 1996 using board and batten construction and the pole building will employ the same building to seamlessly integrate the old and the new. The preferred alternative will create a covered storage facility for building materials, thus limiting deterioration and waste caused by long term exposure to the elements. The proposed action should have a positive financial benefit by limiting waste caused by exposure to the elements.

### **Alternative B: No Action:**

If no action is taken the park will have to continue as it has in the past, storing building materials in the open and limiting the amount of materials they purchase. Building materials deteriorate after long term exposure to the elements. This limits the quantity of materials on site.

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

There are no formal stipulations of mitigation or other controls associated with the proposed action. This action does not involve any permits or granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

## **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 by way of a statewide press release in the Helena *Independent Record*, the *Dillon Tribune*, and the *Butte Montana Standard*; and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>. Individual notices will be sent to the region's standard EA distribution list and to those that have requested one. If requested, FWP will hold a public meeting for the proposal.

### **Duration of comment period, if any.**

A 30-day comment period is proposed. This level of public involvement is appropriate for this scale of project.

## **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on an evaluation of the 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 from the proposed Pole Building project at Bannack State Park. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impacts. FWP also assessed the probability that impacts would occur or reasonable assurance that impacts would not occur, and growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of impacts. FWP assessed the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential 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:**

John Phillips  
Interpretive Ranger  
4200 Bannack Rd  
Dillon, MT 59725  
406-834-3413

Dale Carlson  
Park Manager  
4200 Bannack Rd  
Dillon, MT 59725  
406-834-3413



## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. HB 495 Checklist
- B. Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Bannack State Park Area
- C. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- D. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office

**APPENDIX A**  
**HB495**  
**PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**Date** March 15, 2012 **Person Reviewing** John Phillips

**Project Location:** Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11 W.

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes building an 18' x 24' shed style pole building at Bannack State Park. The proposed pole building will be built adjacent to the existing maintenance facility in the east end parking lot and employ the same style board and batten finish to make the addition almost imperceptible. The building will consist of 11-13 posts set in concrete approximately 2' deep, board and batten construction, a shed style roof with rolled roofing material covering 5/8" sheeting. When the maintenance facility was built in 1996 a storage facility was included in the design but funding limitations caused the park to cut this element.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: None
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: The facility will be about 432 sf.
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?**  
Comments: The only excavation will consist of 11-13 post holes approximately 2' deep.
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**  
Comments: None
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?**  
Comments: None
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?**  
Comments: None

- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?**  
Comments: SHPO clearance will be sought before the project begins.
- H. Any new above ground utility lines?**  
Comments: None
- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?**  
Comments: None.
- J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?**  
Comments: None

If any of the above are checked, HB 495 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

### Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Bannack State Park Area

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database ([nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal](http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal)) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site.

### Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

**Montana Species of Concern.** The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

#### ▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

### Status Ranks

Code	Definition
<b>G1</b> <b>S1</b>	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G2</b> <b>S2</b>	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G3</b> <b>S3</b>	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
<b>G4</b> <b>S4</b>	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
<b>G5</b> <b>S5</b>	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.



### 1. *Centrocercus urophasianus* (Greater Sage-grouse)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G4**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A documented lek occurs approximately 1.75 miles north of the proposed project site, but population data is unavailable. It is unlikely that the proposed action would affect this species, as inferred extent of this species range does not overlap with the town site.

### 2. *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi* (Westslope Cutthroat Trout)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G4T3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Westslope Cutthroat do not inhabit this section of Grasshopper Creek and this project in no way should affect the creek or the fish population.

### 3. *Buteo regalis* (Ferruginous Hawk).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2B**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This sensitive species has been regularly observed from 1977 through the present, in short-grass prairie habitat and brushy draws. The full extent of occupied breeding habitat is unknown, but most sightings have occurred in the Lima-Sweetwater breaks northwest of Dillon. It is unlikely that the proposed project would affect this species.

### 4. *Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin Pocket Mouse).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2S3**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This species was first observed at two survey sites east and west of Badger Pass in 1961. No current population information is available.

**5. *Lepus californicus* (Black-tailed Jack Rabbit).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

This record is a summary of multiple observations in the area south of Bannack, with dates ranging from 1937-1997. The proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species, as all construction would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

**6. *Thelypodium sagittatum ssp. sagittatum* (Slender Thelypody).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A specimen of this sensitive species was first collected during the tenth census of the United States Department of Forestry, Northwestern Territories, in 1880. No current population data for this species is available.

**7. *Lesquerella pulchella* (Beautiful Bladderpod).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

While this species has been observed in the Bannack area the proposed action will take place in a developed parking area and in no way should this facility affect this species.

**8. *Sphaeromeria argentea* (Chicken Sage).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G3G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

While this species has been observed in the Bannack area the proposed action will take place in a developed graveled parking area and in no way should this facility affect this species.

**9. *Lomatium attenuatum* (Taper-tip Desert-parsley).**

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 10,000 plants occur within the larger Bannack State Park area, but it is unlikely that this project would affect this species, as proposed action will take place in a developed graveled parking area and in no way should this facility affect this species.

**10. *Astragalus scaphoides*** (Bitterroot Milkvetch).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Approximately 300 plants occur in 3 subpopulations about 2 1/2 miles from the proposed project site. There is sufficient distance between the element occurrence of this species and the parking area where the proposed action will occur.

**11. *Phacelia incana*** (Hoary Phacelia).

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 1000 plants occur in patches on ridge complex within Bannack State Park. The proposed action will occur in the developed east end parking area and in no way should it affect this species.

*Interested parties may contact MFWP Region 3 offices for a detailed map of sensitive species Element Occurrences (EOs).*

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program

**APPENDIX C**  
**TOURISM REPORT**  
**MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks have initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 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 Service Manager  
Montana Office of Tourism-Department of Commerce  
PO Box 200533  
301 S Park  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

**Project Name:** Bannack State Park Pole Barn Project

**Project Location:** Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

**Project Description:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes building an 18' x 24' shed style pole building on the east side of the existing maintenance facility. The maintenance facility was built in 1996 and the original plans included an addition for storage but funding constraints forced the park to cut this feature. The building will consist of 11-13 posts set in concrete approximately 2' deep, board and batten construction, a shed style roof with rolled roofing material covering 5/8" sheeting. The building will be used to house lumber and other building materials used for preservation and maintenance of the park's buildings.

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 if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

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 quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date June 6, 2012

2/93  
7/98sed  
09/03 sed



## APPENDIX D SHPO Letter



*Historic Preservation  
Museum  
Outreach & Interpretation  
Publications  
Research Center*

July 5, 2012

Ms. Sara Scott  
Montana State Parks  
Travelers Rest State Park  
PO Box 995  
Lolo, MT 59847

Ref: Proposed Pole Barn at Bannack State Park, NHL

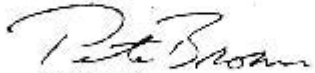
Dear Sara:

Thank you for the follow up on our earlier discussions regarding the above referenced undertaking. The SHPO has reviewed the environmental assessment you provided us that describes this project. From a preservation standpoint, the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) proposed location for the barn is logical. It would be immediately adjacent to another non-historic building and would not occupy a conspicuous spot on the street or in the landscape.

Based on what FWP has provided SHPO, we concur with FWP that the proposed pole barn would have **no adverse effect** on the National Historic Landmark qualities of Bannack State Park.

Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,



Pete Brown  
Historic Architecture Specialist

File: FWP-Bannack-20120705

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