



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-9947

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

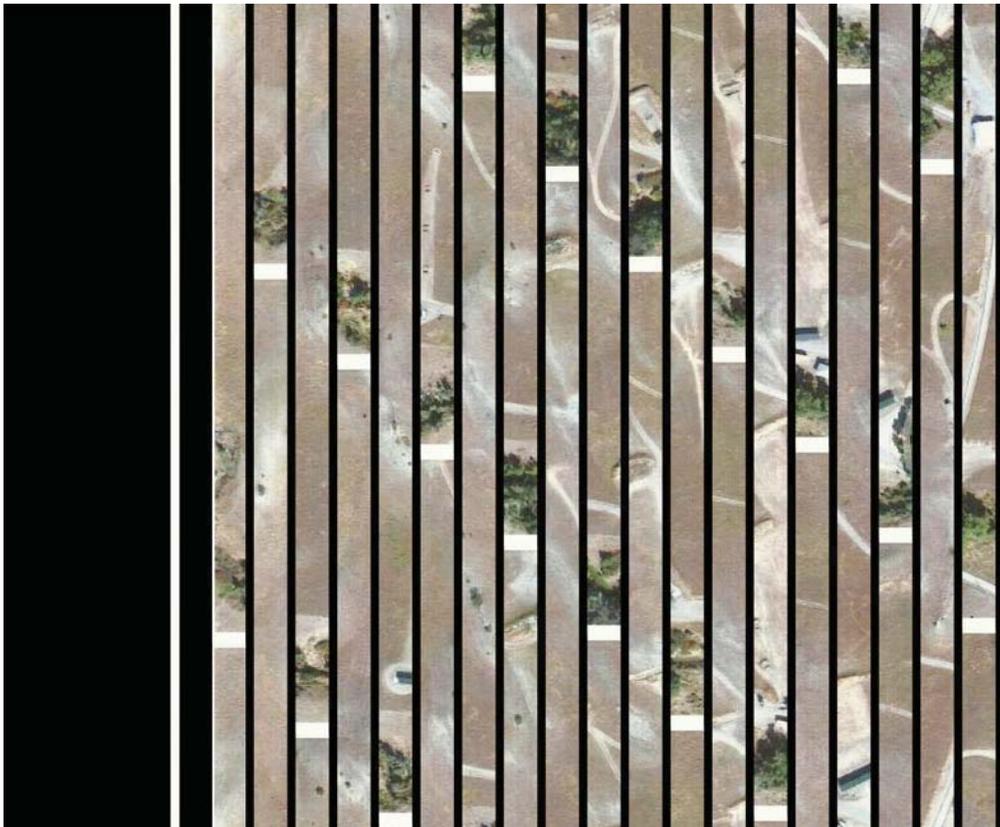
1. Project Title: Park County Rod and Gun Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

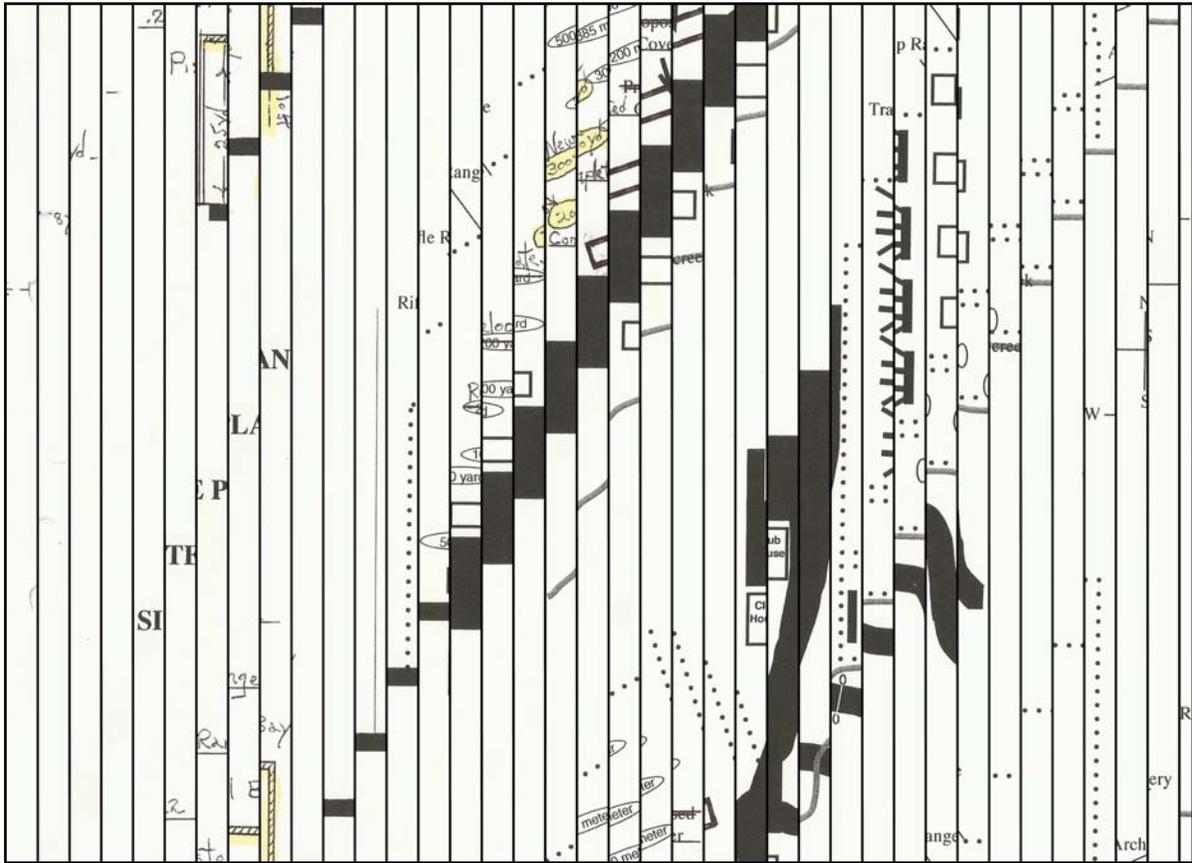
- Install handrails.
- Heighten walls of pistol berm.
- Install target supports.
- Move existing and install new rifle range and black powder range backstops.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club is located on 62 acres of leased private land, 3 miles north of Livingston, Montana at 154 Meigs Road, Livingston, Montana 59047, Lat. 45.70048, Long. -110.57487.



Map 1 - Aerial Photo of the Park County Rod and Gun Club Range.



Map2. Proposed Site Plan for Park County Rod and Gun Club.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

- (a)(i) *Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*
- (ii) *May not limit the number of members;*
- (iii) *may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
- (iv) *shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) *Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

5. Need for the Action(s):

A new handrail is necessary to complete the ADA requirements for the new cover that was installed last year. The target supports for the pistol range and the Black Powder range will greatly improve the present system, which is in need of upgrades for the enjoyment of the shooters. The additional height on the back and east walls of the pistol berm and the extension of the east wall is necessary to insure the safety of shooters on the rifle and black powder ranges.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

- Install handrails to meet ADA requirements.
- Heighten the pistol range berm to insure the safety of shooters and other users of the range.
- Install target supports to replace and upgrade the current targets supports and improve the enjoyment of shooters.
- Move the rifle range backstop to allow better use of the range.
- Install a new black powder range backstop to improve use of the range.

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club Range is located on 62 acres. The proposed improvements will cover approximately .25 to .5 acres.

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

The property is located on 62 acres of privately owned land. The Park County Rod and Gun Club entered into a 99-year lease with the Kensue Ranch in 1981. There are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The range offers opportunities for several shooting sports, including rifle, pistol, black powder, shotgun, and archery.

9. Description of Project:

- Fabricate and install a handrail to meet ADA requirements.
- Heighten the north and east wall of the pistol berm.
- Fabricate and install target supports in the pistol bay.
- Move the 200-yard backstop on the rifle range to the right so it can be utilized from both the rifle range and the black powder range.
- Install a new 300-yard backstop and target supports on the black powder range.

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

None

Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$5,573

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

The Park County Rod and Gun Club Range is a private range for the use of paying members. The range is open to anyone for organized events at no cost other than the event entry fee. The range is also open free to the public for the free sight-in day and for trap shooting every Thursday evening.

Organizations that have used the range in the past include: BPCR; Schuetzen; Relay for Life; 4H; Archery 3-D; Hunter Education and Safety.

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

Because the Park County Rod and Gun Club Range is a private nonprofit shooting range for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range improvement proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Harold Stewart, 406 West Summit Street, Livingston, MT 59047; (406) 222-2115.

15. Other Pertinent Information:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club is a nonprofit private shooting club. The range provides the only shooting facilities in 50 miles of the property, with the closest near Logan, Montana.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 29, 2013.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A, the Proposed Alternative, and Alternative B, the No Action Alternative, were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project): to install handrails; heighten pistol berm walls; install target supports; and move existing and install new rifle range backstops. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The no action alternative would have no significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. The range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

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: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None. Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent. Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations): None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		#8
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

2. & 5. There are no delineated wetlands and no natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat would be affected. Any resident or transient wildlife may leave the immediate area during road re-surfacing activity.

8. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by construction equipment during the proposed improvements to the pistol range walls and the rifle range backstops. However, the construction time is short and human effects will be limited due to the sparse population in the surrounding area.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

5. The proposed improvements to the pistol, rifle, and black powder ranges and installation of handrails would improve the safety for members and the public using the range.

7. The proposed improvements to the Park County Rod and Gun Club range will improve the quality of the shooting sports within the community.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range/altere areas that together with the insignificant

environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative.

The Park County Rod and Gun Club's proposed alternative, to provide a safe, regulated shooting opportunity, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

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

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

- Harold Stewart, 406 West Summit Street, Livingston, MT 59047; (406) 222-2115.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by:

ANDREA DARLING
Darling Natural Resource Consulting
Montana City, MT 59634

Date Completed:

July 15, 2013

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the *Livingston Enterprise, Livingston, MT* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.