

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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Environmental Assessment Checklist

Part 1. Proposed Action Description

Project Title: Missouri River livestock water gaps

Application Date: 3/31/15

Name, Address and Phone Number:

Grant Grisak
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, Mt. 59405

Project Location: Missouri River near Craig

Description of Project: Fortify 6 existing livestock water gaps with rock foundation and fencing.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

Montana DEQ is involved by proxy through the issuance of a 318 permit by FWP.

Part 2 Environmental Review

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 provided
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 and quality.				x		
5. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				x		
6. Existing water right or reservation.				x		
7. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				x		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors			x			8.
9. Historic and archaeological sites	x					
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy				x		
11. Aesthetics			x			11.

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. There may be a short term and minor impact to resident and migratory birds and small mammals. Fish would not likely be impacts. Impacts would be limited to displacement during construction. Conducting the project in a short time period will lessen any impacts. These impacts would be likely limited to causing fish to travel to an adjacent area, upstream or downstream, during the project. Fish would redisperse after the project was completed. No impacts are expected to terrestrial organisms beyond disturbance and disbursement from the site. These impacts would be short term and minor.

8. The project involves using 2-cycle engines (chainsaws) and diesel powered equipment which emit exhaust and can be loud. It is unlikely that neighbors would be disturbed in any significant level from the noise generated from this project. Any disturbance would be short term and minor.

Impacts from exhaust would be short term and minor as exhaust fumes would dissipate rapidly.

11. There will be some impact to the aesthetics at this site. The site will have aspects characteristic of a construction site. The project will result in a 'manicured' appearance at this site. It is likely that other trees will be added to the river during natural processes.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially significant	Minor	None	Can Be mitigated	Comments provided
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		4.
5. Human health				x		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				x		
7. Access to and quality of recreational activities			x			7.
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)	x					
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				x		
10. Demands for government services	x					
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				x.		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

4. The neighboring lands are used for livestock, farming and recreation. The project is designed to provide a safe watering system for livestock while protecting the river bank.

7. The project is expected to result in a positive impact to recreationists.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

There is little risk of major impacts to humans, the environment or fish and wildlife.

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

No. The proposed action is localized.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

The applicant listed the No Action alternative, but this alternative would not fulfill the objectives of the project. The applicant also listed off site water developments as an alternative. This alternative is in place in 2 of the pastures, but is not practical at the other sites, for now. The proposed project is designed to provide safe and environmentally friendly water for livestock.

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

The project is designed to mitigate the impacts of high density livestock use and provide water for livestock during emergencies.

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

EA prepared by:

Date Completed: _____ Jason Mullen _____

Email address for comments: _____jmullen@mt.gov_____

Comments due by: _____ Due to the localized nature of the project, a formal public comment period is not recommended.