



# NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

Phone: (406) 444-3750 • [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2016

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## Public Comment Sought for Proposed Storage Shed Project at Bannack State Park

-Comments accepted through Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5pm-

(Dillon, MT) – Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) announced today that it is seeking public comment on a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed storage shed project at Bannack State Park near Dillon, MT. **Public comments accepted through Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5pm.**

The draft EA proposes building a 24' x 40' five bay storage shed in the parking area east of the existing maintenance facility. The shed will be used to house the park's maintenance equipment and materials used for preservation projects which are currently exposed to the elements year round. Year round exposure to the elements is hard on the equipment and stabilization materials. Construction of the storage shed would extend the life of equipment and keep materials from damage due to exposure. Additionally, the placement of the shed would clean-up and improve the maintenance area while blending into the historic character of the park.

To view a full copy of the EA visit [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) and click "Public Notices". Or by **direct link** here: [http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0056.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0056.html)

**The public comment period will be open for 30 days. Comments must be received by Monday, May 2 at 5pm.** The public is invited comment **online** at [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) and click "submit comments" or by direct link here:

[http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0056.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0056.html)

Comments may also be sent by **email** to [mmarcinek@mt.gov](mailto:mmarcinek@mt.gov). Or by **mail** to: Bannack Storage Shed Project, Montana State Parks, 1400 19th Ave So, Bozeman, MT 59718.

**For question about the draft EA and/or the public comment process, contact Matt Marcinek at (406) 994-3552 or email [mmarcinek@mt.gov](mailto:mmarcinek@mt.gov).**

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A division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
[stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)

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**Draft  
Environmental Assessment**

**BANNACK STATE PARK  
Storage Shed Project**



**March 2016**



***Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks***

**Draft 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 a 24' x 40' = 960 sq. ft., five bay storage shed in the parking area east of the existing maintenance facility and vault latrine. (See Photos 1-3) The maintenance facility was built in 1996 and the original plans included a storage shed, however funding constraints forced the park to downsize the original design, resulting in loss of the storage shed. The shed will consist of 16 - 6"x6" laminated posts set in concrete approximately 4' deep, with pine siding applied in a "board and batten" style over an OSB sheathing on three walls, front will be open (no doors or siding), metal gable roof and trim will be burnished slate (gray) in color to match the roof color of adjacent vault latrine. The shed will have 12' side walls and a 3' roof overhangs on the front and will have a gravel floor. The shed will be used to house the park's maintenance equipment and materials used for preservation projects which are currently exposed to the elements year round. Year round exposure to the elements is hard on the equipment and stabilization materials, thus we believe this storage shed makes sense financially because it will help extend the life of the equipment and keep materials from damage due to exposure. The placement of the shed will result in a general clean-up and organization of the east end area. The shed will be a natural extension of improving the situation in the long-standing maintenance area within the park.

**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, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency)**

Montana State Parks

**4. Anticipated Schedule:**

Estimated Commencement Date: Fall 2016

Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2016

Current Status of Project Design (10% complete):

**5. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):**

Section 7, Township 08S, Range 11W.







**Photo 1**

The storage shed will look similar to one of these structures, however open in the front.



**Photo 2**

The storage shed will sit to the right of the latrine



**Photo 3**

Site specific location of the storage shed

**6. 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:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<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>

**7. Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.**

(a) **Permits:** permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.  
Agency Name Permits

(b) **Funding:**  
Agency Name Funding Amount  
 Bannack Association \$17,000

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**  
Agency Name Type of Responsibility

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

The purpose of this project is to provide a covered storage shed for equipment and stabilization materials used in the preservation and maintenance of Bannack State Park. Currently there are no covered facilities to store the equipment and preservation materials. Long term exposure to the elements causes deterioration and thus financial loss. Montana State Parks proposes building a 24' x 40' = 960 sq. ft., five bay board and batten sided storage shed in the east end parking lot east of the existing maintenance facility and vault latrine. 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 build a storage shed that provides protection for the park's equipment while blending into the historic character of Bannack State Park. Continuous exposure to the environment is hard on the equipment causing mechanical issues and issues with materials used in Bannack's stabilization efforts causing warping due to exposure to the elements this also causes a financial loss. We believe this storage shed will help mitigate issues related to environmental exposure. This project will be funded by the Bannack Association, the parks friends group who supports Bannack's endeavors.

**9. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:**

**Alternative A: No Action**

If no action is taken the park will have to continue as it has in the past, storing equipment in public view and exposed to the harsh environment of Bannack State Park.

**Alternative B: Proposed Action**

In the preferred alternative, FWP will build a 24' x 40' = 960 sq. ft., board and batten sided storage shed on the north side of the east end parking lot near the existing maintenance facility. The maintenance shop facility was built in 1996 but lacks the necessary space to house the park's maintenance equipment. The proposed action (Alternative B) will create the covered storage shed which will protect park maintenance equipment and stabilization materials, while protecting Bannack's historical integrity by taking the equipment and stabilization materials out of the parking lot and housing them in a board and batten sided, covered storage shed. The proposed action (Alternative A) should have a positive financial benefit by limiting damage to park equipment and stabilization materials caused by exposure to the elements.

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

**PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST**

**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					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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				

**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 *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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 regulations? (Also see 2a.)		N/A				

**2a)** This project will not affect air quality other than dust created during the construction process. Air quality will return to normal upon completion.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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.)		N/A				
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.)		N/A				

**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. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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?		N/A				
g. Other:		x				

**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. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?						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			
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? (Also see 5f.)		NA				
i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		NA				

**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. Craig Fager- FWP Wildlife Biologist, Clair Gower-non game Wildlife Biologist and Matt Jaeger, Fisheries Biologist were consulted and do not foresee any negative impacts with this project.

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

**B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			x			6a
b. Exposure of people to serve 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				

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

**6b)** The construction site is located in a developed parking area outside the historic town site not often used by the public except for special events thus minimizing the effects of the nuisance noise level caused by construction. To further minimize the impact of nuisance noise on visitors, the project will be completed during the park’s shoulder season.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	
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				

**7a)** The site proposed for the project is maintained as a graveled parking area so in no way does it 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>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</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				
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)		NA				

<b>9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u></b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</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				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		x				

<b>10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
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 use of any energy source?		x				
e. Define projected revenue sources		x				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.		x				10f

10f) The projected maintenance costs will be minimal and well within the park's ability to perform.

<b>11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
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. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		x				

**11a)** Park staff is very conscious of its view shed and the pole building/storage shed will be built in a developed parking area near the shop facility which is located outside the historic town site. The structure will consist of board and batten siding which will minimize its visual impact by blending in with the other Bannack structures.

There are visitors who utilize the parking area to access recreational opportunities (horseback riders, bicyclists and fisherman) available within the park but it will not diminish access to these opportunities.

<b>12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u></b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</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			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. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		x				

**12a)** The project will require digging 16 post holes 4' deep creating a minimal chance that historic objects may be unearthed but the site of the proposed project. This area has been previously disturbed historically by the impact of mining and more recently with the development of the east end parking area. Care will be taken to document and preserve any historic objects that may be unearthed. SHPO clearance letter attached.

**SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

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

13a) This project will not cause any secondary or cumulative impacts.

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

### **PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **1. Public involvement:**

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Montana Standard and Helena Independent Record*
- One statewide press release:
- Public notice on Montana State Parks website: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/>.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, all of which can be mitigated.

#### **2. Duration of comment period:**

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2016 and can be emailed to [mmarcinek@mt.gov](mailto:mmarcinek@mt.gov).

### **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)?**  
**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 Storage shed project at Bannack State Park. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, 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. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

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

**3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Parks Division  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division  
Design & Construction Division  
Responsive Management Unit

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

**Date** February 2016 **Person Reviewing** Dale Carlson

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

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana State Parks proposes to build a 24' x 40' = 960 sq. ft, board and batten sided storage shed at Bannack State Park. The proposed storage shed will be built on the north side of the east end parking lot, located east of the existing maintenance facility and vault latrine. The storage shed will consist of 5 bays, 12' foot walls, and a 3' overhang on the front supported 16 posts set in concrete approximately 4' deep. 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.

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: None
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf. and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: The storage shed will be approximately 960 sf.
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?**  
Comments: Excavation will be less than 20 c.y. and consist of 16 post holes approximately 4' 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: A clearance letter has been obtained by SHPO for this project.
- 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 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 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 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 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 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)

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 nearly devoid of vegetation.

**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 D  
SHPO CLEARANCE LETTER**

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.  
**Montana**  
**Historical Society**

*Historic Preservation  
Museum  
Outreach & Interpretation  
Publications  
Research Center*

February 4, 2016

Sara Scott  
Montana FWP  
Travelers' Rest State Park  
PO Box 995  
Lolo, MT 59847

Ref: Bannack State Park NHL Pole Barn Plan Revisited

Dear Sara:

Thank you for your ongoing consultation on the above referenced project. SHPO concurs with FWP that the shed you describe in your January 26 letter, as clad with board-and-batten siding, would have no adverse effect on the Bannack National Historic Landmark District. We appreciate the extra effort FWP made to help bring about a more architecturally compatible building.

Sincerely,



Pete Brown  
Historic Architecture Specialist

File: FWP-Bannack-2016012802

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