Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Gun Club Improvements.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

3. Project Title: Tobacco Valley Rod & Gun Club (TVRGC)

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:
Rose Carey, President Tobacco Valley Rod & Gun Club
Box 672
Eureka, MT 59917
(406) 297-3378

Resolution Date: June 23, 2005

5. Cooperating Agencies and/or Supporting Groups: Hunter Education, U.S. Border Patrol, Montana Highway Patrol, Eureka City Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Tobacco Valley Rod & Gun Club, Lincoln County approximately 2 ½ miles southwest of Eureka, Montana. SW¼NE¼ , Section 27, Township 36 North, Range 27 West, P.M.M.

7. Project Size: Less than one acre on 10 acres.

8. Map:

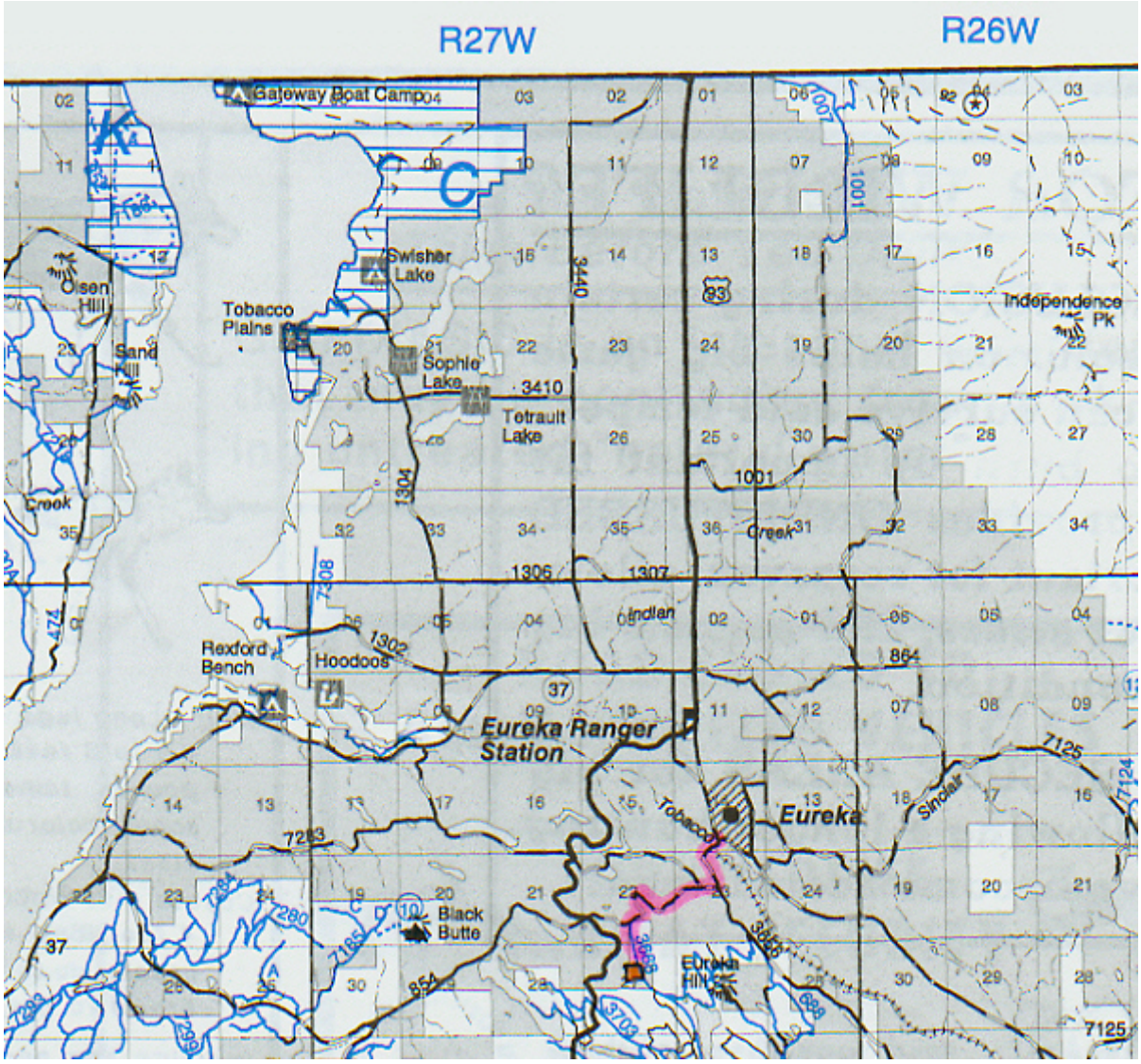

Figure 1 – Tobacco Valley Rod & Gun Club, Eureka, MT

9. Description of Project:

Project is 100% designed and all required permits have been obtained. The area of current development is less than one acre.

1. Dig & hook-up well.
2. Purchase and install 1,000 gallon concrete septic tank.
3. Install 200 ft. of drain field sewer pipe from septic to trailer site.

All projects should be completed by June 30, 2007.

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

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#
MT Dept. Environmental Quality and Lincoln County, MT	Water Supply, Sewage, Solid Waste Disposal, and Storm Drainage	June 3, 2004

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	$5,500

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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 Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		X
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

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

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands.

5. All permitting required for water supply, sewage, solid waste disposal and storm drainage have been approved by both the Lincoln County and Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

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**		**X**
5. Human health				**X**		**X**
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				**X**		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				**X**		**X**
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**		

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

4. The site is located at the edge of an forest area primarily utilized for logging. Site is owned by the TVRGC.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans have been reviewed by the National Rifle Association for standards of safety for the range. Both procedural and physical range recommendations are being implemented now.

7. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. With range improvements an on-site caretaker's trailer will be possible improving both range and public safety. The range has been and will continue to be available for hunter education classes, Eureka City Police Department,

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Sheriff's Department, USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement, Border Patrol, U.S. Customs Border Protection, and Highway Patrol for training and instruction.

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? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. 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.

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 any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (construction of the ranges), such as increased recreational opportunities, firearms and hunter safety training, and law enforcement training within the community. The no action alternative would be not drill the well, install the septic system and drain field, but continue on with present activities. Consequently there will be no on-site caretaker to prevent vandalism and unauthorized shooting activities or to allow expanded range use. Land use would remain the same. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, using safely designated, designed and supervised ranges, such as the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:
Rose Carey, President TVRGC

<u>Narrative Evaluation and Comment:</u>
All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, 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 positive support of all local law enforcement agencies and the Hunter Education

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program with the potential increased shooting opportunities and limiting of unauthorized and unsafe shooting activities all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the construction of the relocated range and range improvements for the Tobacco Valley Rod & Gun Club.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 20, 2005
(EA revised April 20, 2007)

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: Adjacent neighbor has been contacted and range plans discussed.

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.