Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Manhattan Wildlife Association – "Washhouse-Clubhouse"

2. Type of Proposed Action: Build a new Washhouse-Clubhouse

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: Approximately 118.216 acres in Gallatin County Montana owned by the Manhattan Wildlife Association. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, and NW ¼ of Sec. 26, and in the NE ¼ of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 2 East P.M.M.

4. 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). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Current membership is 1500 and it has been increasing by about 100 per year for the past 4-5 years. Along with this membership growth has been an increase ranges and other types of shooting activities. Consequently, the old clubhouse has been outgrown. Increasing multiple uses, have caused frequent conflicts for clubhouse space among the different range users. A new clubhouse would allow concurrent multiple events, such as, a pistol match and a trap or skeet league or shoot. Increased indoor space is also needed for meetings, education, training and administration. The clubhouse will also provide additionally needed restroom facilities, running water and a kitchen facility. The new facility will also provide a comfortable and secure location for spectators and shooters during club events.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective is to provide a larger more usable washhouse-clubhouse to accommodate the

increasing numbers of users and shooting activities. This will ultimately result in better training or educational environment for the club, other user organizations, law enforcement, hunter education, and other additional public uses.

7.Map:

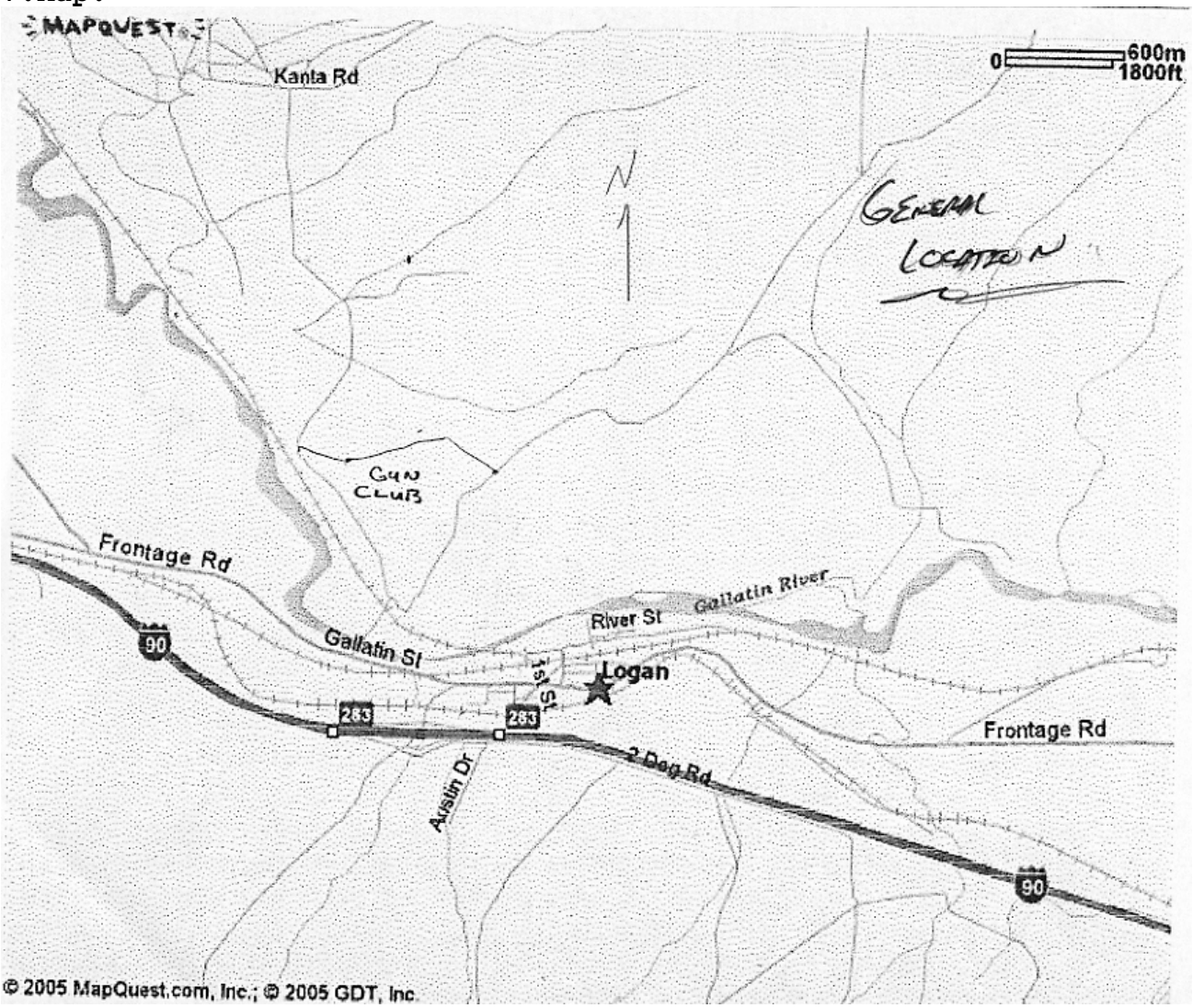

Figure 1 – Manhattan Wildlife Association Shooting Complex/Gun Club Northwest of Logan, MT

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Range is approximately 118.216 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area with construction of a new 32'X50' washhouse-clubhouse. The new facility will be centrally located below or approximately south of the rifle and pistol ranges.

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

The site is located at the edge of an agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site has been a shooting range for many years and no agricultural activities are disrupted nor intended in the future for the range area.

10. Description of Project: In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

Items to be funded for this grant for the construction of a new washhouse-clubhouse:

- Site Work
- New Well
- New Septic System
- Concrete slab for new building
- The actual 32' X 50' building, with electrical and plumbing included with carpet and linoleum floors, as small kitchen and administrative area, restrooms and shower facility.

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

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

Agency Name	Permit
N/A	

Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	$65,900

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: FWP- Hunter Education Program, 4-H Club, Young Life, High School shooting classes, Women on Target, Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept., Montana Highway Patrol, Montana State University Police, Manhattan Police Dept., Three Forks Marshall's Office, NRA Concealed Carry Classes, and R-3 Game Wardens.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. No public involvement was deemed necessary.

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Gary Delin
407 N. 5th
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-2581

16. Other Pertinent Information: Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: May 1, 2007

PART II. 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 environmental 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		
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 or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

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**		#4
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**		

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 agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site has been a shooting range for many years and not agricultural activities are disrupted nor intended in the future for the range area.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the National Rifle Association and Montana Skeet Shooting Association standards for safety of the range participants and the public at large. A very comprehensive safety plan and well posted safety guidelines are in evidence throughout the range complex.

7. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. Cooperating organizations are aware of the improved range options and the has a long history or cooperation with hunter education classes, 4-H, Sheriff's Department, Game Wardens,

local police departments and other law enforcement & youth groups for training and instructional facilities. Range is open to the public during normal operating times and is handicapped accessible.

Part III. 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? 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.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:
The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project), a new clubhouse with well and septic system.

- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active shooting complex with rifle, pistol, trap and skeet ranges and an older smaller clubhouse.

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: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide a larger and much improved washhouse-clubhouse to support the education, training and administrative aspects of the club and its shooting complex.
- The No Action Alternative would be not to build the larger and more versatile washhouse-clubhouse, and continue on with present shooting activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include hunter education, law enforcement training, women's and youth shooting training, trap, skeet, rifle and pistol shooting will continue

without the advantages and improvements of the new clubhouse. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:
NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):
NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:
Gary Delin, 407 N. 5th, Bozeman, MT 59715

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 proposed are on properties owned by Manhattan Wildlife Association. The low impact activities proposed, and the increased educational and administrative benefits that support the increased recreational opportunities, 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 (A). The long history of the Manhattan Wildlife Association providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (**A**) for the Manhattan Wildlife Association improvements.

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Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 16, 2007

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

None