



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: Denton Rod & Gun Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

- Replace Outhouse
- Repair Clubhouse, storage shed, & sidewalks

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Denton Rod & Gun Club is located in Fergus County, Denton, MT. The Rod & Gun Club is leased from the Town of Denton, MT on the west part of outlot "E"; 750 feet long and 340 feet wide, about 6 acres of the original town site of Denton, MT.



Map 1 – Denton Rod & Gun Club, Denton, Montana

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):

- Need of a better-handicapped accessible bathroom, as the current bathroom is a two-hole outhouse without handicap accessibility.
- Old clubhouse is in immediate need of maintenance and repairs to prevent further deterioration including improved drainage around building base.
- Older shed needs a new roof, painting and trim boards.
- Sidewalks from clubhouse to shooting stations need replacement.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

- Remove old outhouse and replace with handicapped accessible toilet.
- Repair clubhouse to prevent further deterioration and improve drainage.
- Repair shed with new roof, paint, and trim boards.
- Repair sidewalks to mitigate trip hazards and improve handicap accessibility.

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

The proposed improvements cover a small area than the total acreage and will be safely spread within the leased properties.

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

The area affected is the existing Denton Rod & Gun Club, which has been in place for more than 60 years.

9. Description of Project:

- Remove the old outhouse and fill the resulting hole, then cap it with a concrete slab. Install and attach a new hard plastic handicap accessible toilet to the concrete slab. Installation of a light and new windbreak around the new toilet.
- Clubhouse repairs include scraping and painting all the windows, installation of a new back door, adding and grading of gravel around the clubhouse for improved drainage.

- Storage shed will be reroofed, painted, and trim boards added.
- Sidewalks sections will be cut and removed in sections and re-poured.

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:
None

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
--------------------	---------------	---------------------

N/A – No permits are required for this project

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
--------------------	-----------------------

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$21,038.87
--------------------------------	-------------

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Men’s and women’s Indoor target league, Denton trap league, Youth indoor .22 and Youth trap shoot, Hunter Education Classes, Boy Scouts, and Denton and Hobson 4-H. Hosts the Buddy Walton Memorial Trap Shoot, and 6-8 Central Montana Rifle Club indoor .22 matches.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Portions of this proposal fall under action that is considered a minor repair or maintenance of an existing facility, and is therefore exempt from an Environmental Assessment under MEPA (Montana Environmental Policy Act), IAW the MEPA Model Rules implemented under Title 75, chapter 1, MCA, the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) para. III...

(5) The agency is not required to prepare an EA or an EIS for the following categories of action:...(c) minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities;

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club, the associated project vendors, contractors, and Tribal authorities.

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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

Rod Boling, Denton, MT 59430 (406) 567-2608

15. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 18, 2012

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project). Replacement of outhouse, refurbishment of clubhouse and shed, and replacement sidewalks.
- **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 improvements proposed. Physically challenged patrons of the range could be inconvenienced by the lack of an accessible

restroom. The equipment and supplies kept in the shed may need to be moved and stored offsite if the existing roof fails. Drainage problems adjacent to the clubhouse would remain a contributing issue to the structural health of the building. The Club may seek other funding options to meet the immediate facility needs of the range.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE. 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.

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 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		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

2. & 5. There are no delineated wetlands on the property.

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		
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. Proposed replacement of the existing toilet and concrete sidewalks would make the range’s facilities more accessible and user-friendly for patrons with physical challenges.

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 d 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 Denton Rod & 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, Para. 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 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:

Rod Boling, Denton, MT 59430
MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by:

GENE R. HICKMAN
MS Wildlife Management
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: June 29, 2011

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the Lewistown News - *Argus* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.