



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701 (406) 444-2452

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

### **PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

1. Project Title: Application for Roadside Menagerie Permit
2. Application Date: 5/25/2019
3. Description of Project: Applicant wishes to obtain a permit for a roadside menagerie in order to showcase an (1) American alligator or (up to 2) caiman lizards in his pet store in Havre within a large existing tank.
4. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives

#### Alternative A: No Action.

Under the No Action Alternative, FWP would not issue a roadside menagerie permit to the applicant. Impacts from adopting the No Action Alternative are unknown. It is uncertain whether the applicant would seek to fill the tank with some other animal species, leave the tank empty, or tear it down.

#### Alternative B: Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, FWP would issue the requested permit for a roadside menagerie to the applicant which would allow him to keep one American alligator or up to two caiman lizard, of the same sex, in a large tank within his pet store in Havre. This action would have few if any impacts to the human or physical environment.

The applicant is responsible for contacting other state or federal agencies which may have overlapping jurisdiction and obtaining any other necessary permits or licenses.

**PART II. 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		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X	X	1.3
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

**Comments**

1.3 There is a remote possibility that the animal could escape from captivity, but their survival in the wild is unlikely due to the cold weather environment.

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 Or On Attached Pages
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		X	2.5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income			X			2.6
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		

**Comments**

- 2.5. There is a small possibility that the animals could escape and harm someone, or that someone could trespass on the property, gain access to the enclosure, and be injured. This impact can be mitigated by the employee area remaining locked at all times and a second lock being placed on the door to the enclosure.
- 2.6. The ability to obtain a roadside menagerie permit could lead to more customers for the applicant's store and therefore a small rise in personal income.

### **Part III. Narrative Evaluation and Comment**

The applicant seeks a roadside menagerie permit in order to keep and display one (1) American alligator or up to two caiman lizards of the same sex in his commercial pet store in Havre. The applicant previously had an American alligator in the same location, but it died, and he wishes to replace it. The habitat consists of an enclosed 800-gallon tank with waterfall. The tank has a viewing window for patrons of the store but is only accessible by one door located within the employees-only area at the back of the store. FWP is not aware of any issues that arose with the previous animal and therefore proposes to approve this permit. There are no foreseeable significant or cumulative impacts to the proposed action.

### **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:

- One public notice in each of these papers: Helena Independent Record and the Havre Daily News
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring businesses and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

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

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

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., August 22, 2019 and can be mailed to the address below:

Linnaea Schroer  
FWP MEPA Coordinator  
1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Helena, MT 59601

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

#### **1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)?**

No. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for an action like this with few if any impacts.

#### **2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Phil Kilbreath, FWP Operations Sargent-Enforcement Division  
Ron Howell, FWP Warden Captain Region 6  
Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Manager  
Linnaea Schroer, FWP MEPA Coordinator