



2024 Environmental Analysis Review Form

Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs

Review of Unique Impact Projects

Project Overview

Organization Applying for Funds:	The Trust for Public Land
Project Name:	Yellowstone Heritage Trail - Emigrant - New Trailhead/Trail Construction
Project Summary:	Develop new trailhead and trail to enhance community access on the Emigrant segment of the Yellowstone Heritage Trail
Project Location	Park County

Environmental Form Submitted with Application

Environmental Analysis Form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FWP Categorical Exclusion Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
USFS Categorical Exclusion Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>

Before a proposed project may be approved, environmental review must be conducted to identify and consider potential impacts of the proposed project on the physical environment and human population (human environment) affected by the project.

Summary of Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment and Human Population

*The impacts analysis identifies and evaluates **direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts**.*

- **Direct impacts** are those that occur at the same time and place as the action that triggers the effect.
- **Secondary impacts** “are further impacts to the human environment that may be stimulated or induced by or otherwise result from a direct impact of the action.” ARM 12.2.429(18).
- **Cumulative impacts** “means the collective impacts on the human environment of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past and present actions related to the proposed action by location or generic type. Related future actions must also be considered when these actions are under concurrent consideration by any state agency through pre-impact statement studies,

*Where impacts are expected to occur, the impact analysis estimates the **extent, duration, frequency, and severity** of the impact. The duration of an impact is quantified as follows:*

- **Short-Term:** impacts that would not last longer than the proposed project.
- **Long-Term:** impacts that would remain or occur following the proposed project.

Table 1. Potentially Significant Impacts to the Physical Environment

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	Duration of Potentially Significant Impact		Summary of Potential Direct, Secondary, and Cumulative Impacts that are Potentially Significant and Mitigation Measures Identified
	Short-Term	Long-Term	
Resource			
Terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life and habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor impacts of noise and dust during construction
Water quality, quantity, and distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project located on high/dry area of property, with significant buffers to any nearby waterways
Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Soil quality, stability, and moisture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stable base, as area was previously old rail line
Vegetation cover, quantity, and quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Area comprised of a previously disturbed track with non-native vegetation
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor dust from development work
Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Historical and archaeological sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, and energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Table 2: Potentially Significant Impacts to the Human Population

HUMAN POPULATION	Duration of Potentially Significant Impact		Summary of Potential Direct, Secondary, and Cumulative Impacts that are Potentially Significant and Mitigation Measures Identified
	Short-Term	Long-Term	
Resource			
Social structures and mores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Cultural uniqueness and diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project will provide a new high quality recreational amenity
Local and state tax base and tax revenues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Agricultural or Industrial production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Human health and safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant positive impact to health/safety
Quantity and distribution of employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Distribution and density of population and housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Demands for government services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Industrial, agricultural, and commercial activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Locally adopted environmental plans and goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Park County growth policy and active transportation plans show desire for increased conservation/recreation
Other appropriate social and economic circumstances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Table 3: Reference: Determining the Significance of Impacts on the Quality of the Physical and Human Environment

<p>If impacts associated with the proposed project are identified, FWP must determine the significance of the impacts. (ARM 12.2.431) This determination forms the basis for FWP’s decision as to whether additional MEPA review is required.</p> <p>According to the applicable requirements of ARM 12.2.431, FWP must consider the criteria identified in this table to determine the significance of each impact on the quality of the human environment. The significance determination is made by giving weight to these criteria in their totality. For example, impacts identified as moderate or major in severity may not be significant if the duration is short-term. However, moderate or major impacts of short-term duration may be significant if the quantity and quality of the resource is limited and/or the resource is unique or fragile. Further, moderate or major impacts to a resource may not be significant if the quantity of that resource is high or the quality of the resource is not unique or fragile.</p>	
Criteria Used to Determine Significance. ARM 12.2.431(1).	
(a)	<p>The severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the occurrence of the impact</p> <p>“Severity” describes the density of the potential impact, while “extent” describes the area where the impact will likely occur, e.g., a project may propagate ten noxious weeds on a surface area of 1 square foot. Here, the impact may be high in severity, but over a low extent. In contrast, if ten noxious weeds were distributed over ten acres, there may be low severity over a larger extent.</p> <p>“Duration” describes the time period during which an impact may occur, while “frequency” describes how often the impact may occur, e.g., an operation that uses lights to mine at night may have frequent lighting impacts during one season (duration).</p>
(b)	The probability that the impact will occur if the proposed project occurs; or conversely, reasonable assurance in keeping with the potential severity of an impact that the impact will not occur
(c)	Growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, including the relationship or contribution of the impact to cumulative impacts
(d)	The quantity and quality of each environmental resource or value that would be affected, including the uniqueness and fragility of those resources and values

(e)	The importance to the state and to society of each environmental resource or value that would be affected
(f)	Any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed project that would commit FWP to future actions with significant impacts or a decision in principle about such future actions
(g)	Potential conflict with local, state, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis

An impact may be adverse, beneficial, or both. If none of the adverse effects of the impact are significant, an EIS is not required. ARM 12.2.431(2).

NO further analysis is needed for the proposed action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further analysis is needed to complete the EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
FWP must conduct EIS level review for the proposed action	<input type="checkbox"/>

EA Review

	Name	Title
EA reviewed by:	Tom Lang	Trail Stewardship Program Manager