

Draft
Environmental Assessment
Lone Pine State Park
Grassland and Forestry Management
Proposal



3/11/2022



MONTANA FWP



**Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- 1. Type of proposed state action: Forest thinning and prairie prescribed burn**


- 2. Agency authority for the proposed action:**
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
655 Timberwolf Pkwy
Kalispell, MT 59901


- 3. Anticipated Schedule:**
Estimated Commencement Date: 4/1/2022
Estimated Completion Date: 12/1/2022
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 10%

- 4. Location affected by proposed action:** Section 24, Township 28 N, Range 22 W


Project location: Kalispell, MT, Flathead County



Kalispell, MT



Lone Pine State Park – including



5. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/	<u>30 acres</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
Areas		Other	<u>0</u>

7. **Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.**

(a) **Permits: None**

Agency Name None Permits

(b) **Funding: Montana Forest Action Plan Grant**

Agency Name: Forest Action Grant Funding Amount \$65,000

Agency Name: Montana FWP+DNRC Match % Amount \$8,100 (in kind)

*Note: The values listed above are budgeted for the entire grant project including both the grassland burn and forest thinning. The expenses are not separated between the two because the in-kind labor applies to both project aspects.

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

Agency Name: None Type of Responsibility: NA

8. **Narrative summary of the proposed action:**

This grant project has two parts, a prescribed burn of the native grasslands and a forest thinning. The project is funded by a Montana Forest Action Plan grant, in cooperation with Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). This Environment Assessment focuses on the native bunchgrass habitats, which require periodic disturbance to avoid becoming decadent and thus diminishing in function. The Montana Natural Heritage Program website (<https://mtnhp.org/>) identifies the bunchgrass ecological system as Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland. This website and the professional experience of DNRC foresters indicate that burning is the best type of disturbance and should be performed every five to ten years. A

test burn was performed in cooperation with a neighboring landowner with positive results. The results of the test burn had no native plant mortality and the release of nitrogen promoted native plant accelerated green up (Appendix D – Test Burn Photos). The timing of the burn is vital to remove the thatch, but not damage the native grassland plants' root systems. The desired result was confirmed by the test burn.

Aerial photography from 1946 shows that the area south of Lone Pine SP was predominantly bunchgrass habitat. By 2019 most of this had disappeared due to conifer encroachment, elimination of fire and grazing, and urban sprawl. One of the goals of the project is to preserve the current grassland. The prescribed burn would eliminate seedlings gradually overtaking this area. See Appendix H – 1946 – 2017 Lone Pine Forest Comparison Map.

The forest thinning project will be reviewed in a separate environmental assessment later in 2022. The anticipated forest thinning would start in the fall of 2022.

9. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

The grassland will continue to gradually become more susceptible to invasive species. Native bunchgrasses will continue to decay and rot from the inside resulting in thick thatch. This condition, if exposed to wildfire in the summer, could cause the death of the bunchgrass as the heat from the fire in the thatch will kill the root system.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

FWP and DNRC will cooperatively implement a prescribed burn on 17 acres of native grassland at Lone Pine State Park in early April of 2022 or 2023. The prescribed fire will help sustain this fire-dependent community by removing the thatch build-up and fire-intolerant species encroaching into the native grassland, leaving a healthier plant community. This will improve and maintain a vibrant prairie ecosystem and associated flora and fauna. According to FWP biologist Franz Ingelfinger, the burn would provide some benefit to mammal and bird species that frequent the area. But, because of the small area of the burn, the greater impact would be to local insect populations by promoting the growth of the native plants.

The prescribed burn would follow the “Burn Plan” written by Montana DNRC, specifically for this project. The plan outlines responsibilities of both DNRC wildland firefighters, who will be conducting the burn, what equipment will be staged on site, and FWP employee responsibilities as well. By policy, FWP employees will act only in a support role and DNRC fire professionals will be managing “firing and holding” portion of the project. The plan also details a contingency plan if the fire escapes the planned burn area, what actions will be taken, including who should be contacted and when. The additional contacts

include the Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center (KIC) and local volunteer fire departments.

A map of the proposed burn area can be reviewed by reviewing Appendix E – Planned Forest & Grassland Treatments.

Other Alternatives:

FWP could take a reactive approach with both the grassland. This would follow current practice of invasive species weed spraying/pulling. The weed spraying/pulling has been an annual task. The prescribed burn would be a better long-term solution to allow native species to thrive in the park.

10. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

FWP would utilize the public use rules in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) to ensure and to promote safety and resource conservation.

The FWP Region 1 Noxious Weed Control Plan would be implemented for the control of noxious weeds.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Evaluation of the impacts of the **Proposed Action** including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		x				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			x		yes	x
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			x		yes	x
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regulations? (Also see 2a.)		na				

a + b: There will be some smoke which may temporarily affect air quality. The prescribed burn would follow closely with all county, state and federal guidelines. The burn would be performed by Department of Natural Resource and Conservation employees. The burn day would be selected based on the recommendations of Flathead County Health Department for good smoke dispersion. The burn would last only one day, with follow-up mop-up and monitoring in the days following the fire.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		x				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		x				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		x				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		x				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		x				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		x				
m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		x				

- a. Any disruption in water drainage patterns will be minimal if even noticeable.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?				x	yes	x
b. Alteration of a plant community?			x	x	yes	x
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x		yes	x
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?	na					
g. Other:	na					

4a+b: The intent of the project is to significantly impact the local plant community for a long-term benefit. The goal is to improve the overall sustainability of the grassland, which will also help native animal species. By creating an environment that encourages the growth of and health of native plant communities, the project will improve its overall vitality.

4c. see Appendix G: Montana Natural Heritage, Species of Concern Report

4e: This area already has multiple noxious weed species, but it is also annually assessed for control measures including spraying and hand pulling. The project area would be closely monitored for any new noxious weed establishment, and corrective action would be taken according to the noxious weed management plan.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				5h
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			x		yes	5g
h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)	na		x		Yes	5h
i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)	na	x				

5g. Temporary and minor. Within three years the native bunchgrass habitat will be fully revegetated to pre-burn conditions. The benefit of the test burn on adjacent private property to illustrate the bunchgrass regrowth after one year was conducted in 2021. Palatability of grasses will improve, and the cover factor will be impacted for the spring season. However, adjacent grasslands on private lands will offset this.

5h. Threatened and Endangered species

According to information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), there are a total of four threatened and one candidate species that have the potential to occur on this project area: Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) (Threatened), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) (Threatened), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (Threatened), Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) (Threatened), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) (Candidate). There are no critical habitats for any of these species on the project area according to the USFWS.

Grizzly bears have a home range across northwest Montana, including the project area, but this area is not considered primary habitat for this species. Grizzly bear and Canada lynx could pass through this property, but it does not provide primary habitat for these species or even a known movement corridor. Any Canada lynx that did move through this property would not likely be impacted by the burn.

Information on the current status of the yellow-billed cuckoo is limited. Historically, they have only been observed in Montana in June and July within open and riparian woodlands. The grassy, open project area does not have this type of habitat, so cuckoos would not be

affected by this proposed project. Neither Spalding's catchfly or monarch butterflies are known to occur on or near the project area. These species would not be affected by the proposed project.

According to the Montana Natural Heritage website, the brown creeper, great blue heron, and rufous hummingbird have been observed outside of the project area in similar habitats. The proposed project will have little to no impact on habitat associated with these species. The northern leopard frogs have been documented within a mile of the project area. Although these species are present near the project area, the project goals will not affect these populations.

Clark's nutcracker and great grey owls have been unofficially observed within a mile of the project area, but the proposed project will have little to no impact on the habitat associated with these species.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		x				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		x				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x				

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?				x	x	x
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				x
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				

- 7a. The purpose of the project is to have positive, potentially significant, impact on the vitality of the grassland of the park land and the adjacent property owners who were included in the grant proposal. The proposed 2022 spring burn will be on both state and private land. The private burn land is outside the scope of this Environment Assessment, but the area can be seen on the map attached (see Appendix E – Planned Forest and Grassland Treatments)
- 7c. This project is working in collaboration with adjacent landowners who were included with the grant proposal.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		x				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		x				x
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			x		x	x
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)	na					

8b. No changes to the Lone Pine State Park Emergency Action Plan would need to be made by the implementation of this project. The archery range area, and trails leading to it, will be closed for the day of the burn and two days of monitoring afterward. The rest of the park will be open to the public each day of the burn. This is the highest point of the park and so any risk to the public using the other trails would be remote. All park trail access points will have signs and maps indicating the area and timing of the burn.

8c. There is a potential risk of human injury or structural damage to neighboring properties should the prescribed burn escape the control lines. Montana DNRC will follow their protocol and techniques to prohibit this from occurring. This includes monitoring wind speed and direction, humidity levels, weather reports, and surveying ground fuels. DNRC and FWP will work cooperatively with staffing and equipment resources to control the burn. All burn personnel will be trained and carrying PPE.

This project benefits from a “test” burn on adjacent private land in the exact same habitat. We utilized a slow backing fire to meet our objectives. This reinforced that a head fire is not required, and we can move slowly and deliberately. Abundant personnel and equipment will be present at the time of the burn, and post-burn monitoring will be used. It should also be noted that the neighbors were enthusiastic regarding the proposed burn.

Control lines will be in place prior to ignition, and trees within the burn area will have had bottom branches removed to avoid torching.

8d. There is human risk associated with the use of herbicides to control noxious weeds. Application will be conducted by certified operators and in compliance with the FWP Noxious Weed Treatment Plan.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
		x				

b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?						
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		x				

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				

- e. The funding source for the project is a Montana Forest Action Plan Grant. The Grant will cover the expenses of a grassland prescribed burn (Spring 2022 or Spring 2023) and a forest thinning in Fall 2022 (EA completed Spring/Summer 2022). FWP and DNRC will contribute the \$8,100 (blue highlighted section) in match with in-kind labor. The other expenses listed below are funded by the awarded grant. The contracted services are for the forestry portion of the project.

<i>Project Funding Summary:</i>	
Grantee salary/wages/benefits	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$1,200
Payments to Landowners (Beneficiaries)	\$0
Contracted Services	\$63,800
Subtotal – Direct Costs	\$65,000
Indirect Costs (0.0%)	\$0
Total Grant Amount	\$65,000
Match Required (15% additional may be met in part by partner under another Agreement)	\$8,100
<i>Total Project Funding under this Agreement:</i>	<i>\$73,100</i>

- f. There would be no future expenses for the burn portion of this project. FWP incurs staff expenses for land inspection as standard operating procedure. Weed spraying for the area is already allocated as an annual expense. Subsequent burn plan funding for future burns in 5 to 10 years would be established in cooperation with DNRC. They would also be in 5 to 10 years.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			x			
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)				x		
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		x				

11 a. The project area will temporarily appear much different to regular park users. The burn will create a blackened area, but in a few weeks the area will grow back healthier than it had once been. This was demonstrated by a test burn conducted on an adjacent property in 2021 (See Appendix D Test Burn Photos).

11 c. There would be some improvement to the visitor experience at the state park. (See Appendix C – Montana Department of Tourism Report)

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		X				X

12d. Project will not affect historic or cultural resources. See Appendix B - Cultural Compliance Report

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole?						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?				x		x
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		x				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		x				

13b. Potential risks and adverse effects associated with broadcast burning are always a possibility and therefore represent an element of uncertainty. Numerous efforts including the burn plan, monitoring of weather and fuel conditions and a robust assessment of what risks and hazards may be present. The project implementation includes the likelihood and consequences of unintended outcomes, and a keen focus on mitigation measures to reduce both the probability and severity of any potential risks and/or adverse effects. This being a fire project, the potential exists for burn injury and possible damage to property: either private vegetation not intended to be burned, or to structures or other developments. The Operational Risk Assessment that will be applied will list all the known and anticipated risks and hazards and will apply mitigations for the purpose of reducing the likelihood or severity to the extent that the Line Officer in charge of the project feels the benefit from the project outweighs the potential for adverse effects.

The burn plan specifies the number of staff and types of equipment to be on site during the burn. Each portion of the project (firing, containing, mop-up, and control) have a specified number of wildland fire-certified staff. All necessary environmental factors such as time of day, wind direction, wind speed, and humidity have defined parameters that determine if the burn will be conducted.

The burn plan also specifies contingency action if the fire would escape the designated area and the initial containment efforts fail. This plan lists not only immediate resources, such as

the Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center (KIC) and local volunteer fire departments, but also adjacent neighbors to the park with their contact information.

If you would like to review the details of the burn plan, please contact the park manager, Brian Schwartz, using the contact information below.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

For a variety of reasons FWP has had to disjointedly try to manage the forest and grassland habitats of Lone Pine State Park. This has resulted in a state of decadence in these habitats. We now have a unique opportunity to correct a portion of this, and perhaps create a catalyst to continue to address the threats to the Park's ecosystems.

This EA focuses on the grassland burn portion of the project. The proposed prescribed fire action is being promoted and endorsed by the natural resource community as viable, if not necessary, actions to address the grassland health issues.

Any negative impacts to park visitors or the community will be minimal. The revitalized grassland will bring long-term benefits to both park visitors, the community, and the park habitat.

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:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: Flathead Beacon (Kalispell), Daily Interlake (Kalispell), Helena Independent Record.
- One statewide press release (if applicable); None
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>
- Public meeting with a PowerPoint presentation led by Rick Moore, retired DRNC forester, will be available through ZOOM and have a question-and-answer portion. This ZOOM meeting will be held on March 22nd, at 6:00 pm.

Notice the environmental assessment is available will be distributed to the neighboring landowners 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, most of which can be mitigated. The level of public notice and participation is appropriate.

2. Duration of comment period: 17 days

The public comment period will extend for (17) seventeen days, starting March 11, 2022. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. March 27, 2022 and can be mailed or emailed to the addresses below:

Brian Schwartz
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
300 Lone Pine Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

or

Bschwartz2@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

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

No, an EIS is not required. MFWP reviews the potential impacts to the wildlife and plant species, visitation and tourism impacts, air and water quality, increase in noise, hazards and risk, cultural resources and recreation. No significant impacts were identified, and an EA is the correct level of review.

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

Brian Schwartz
300 Lone Pine Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 755-2706 ext. 3
Bschwartz2@mt.gov

DNRC Review:
Holly McKenzie
Service Forester
655 Timberwolf Pkwy,
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-2268
holly.mckenzie@mt.gov

MT

59901

3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA:

- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 - Area Supervisor and Area Service Forester (retired 12/31/2021)
- Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 - Wildlife biologists for the vegetation and wildlife review
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 - Heritage Program Manager
- Montana State Historic Preservation Office
- Montana Office of Tourism

Appendixes

- A. Project Qualification List
- B. Montana State Historic Preservation Office Review

- C. Montana Office of Tourism Report
- D. Prescribed burn test pictures- From page 20, item 11
- E. Map indicating prescribed burn area – also includes forest thinning proposed area
- F. United States Fish and Wildlife Service List of Threatened and Endangered Species
- G. Montana Natural Heritage Species of Concern Animal Report

APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: 10/13/2021

Person Reviewing: Brian Schwartz

Project Location: Lone Pine State Park

Description of Proposed Work: 17-acre prescribed burn of native grassland at Lone Pine State Park. Project in cooperation with MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ☐ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- [] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments:
- [] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments:
- [] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments:
- [] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments:
- [] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments:
- [] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments:
- [] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments:
- [] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments:
- [] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments:
- [] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments:

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

APPENDIX B

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society

March 24, 2021

Rachel Reckin, Ph.D.
Heritage Program Manager
Montana State Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

*Historic Preservation
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Research Center*

Re: Cultural Resource Compliance Report for Grassland Prescribed Fire, Lone Pine State Park, Flathead County, Montana

Dear Ms. Reckin:

Thank you for your letter (received March 17, 2021) regarding the Grassland Prescribed Fire in Lone Pine State Park. We concur on your determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 444-7719 or Laura.Evilsizer@MT.gov. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,



Laura Evilsizer, M.A.
Review and Compliance Officer
Montana State Historic Preservation Office

TOURISM REPORT

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Jan Stoddard
Montana Office of Tourism
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: Lone Pine State Park Forest and Grassland Improvement

Project Description: FWP is proposing to conduct a forest thinning and replanting to create a healthier diversity of tree species. This will also help to minimize the effects of wildfire to the park and neighboring homeowners. The project will reduce the number of Douglas firs, many of which are infected with Dwarf-mistletoe, and follow by planting western larch and ponderosa pine. In addition, a portion of the park grassland areas have also become decadent from the lack of period fire. This area will be control burned with the help of Montana Department of Conservation.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?

NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

As described, this project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy if properly maintained. This project is in alignment with what the Office of Tourism is doing to encourage responsible recreation behavior in Montana. In 2019, Montana's 12.6 million non-resident visitors spent over \$3.8 billion in the state according to a 2020 report from the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. With these improvements, visitors are likely to spend more time exploring which in turn will impact the local economy.

Additionally, recreation access and activities are in high demand for visitors and Montana State Parks are seeing record numbers in visitation. The intent to visit has dramatically increased this year due to the pandemic and a desire for safe outdoor recreation experiences.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

This project has the potential to improve quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities. These improvements are critical to the usability and long-term sustainability of visitor assets for outdoor recreation, including non-resident visitors. This proposed action would positively affect the long-term forest health of Lone Pine State Park. The current timber and grassland are slowly degrading so taking this action will improve the appearance of the forest, create wildlife habitat and improve the overall experience of the park visitors. With these improvements, we are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

Signature Jan Stoddard

Date 8/30/21

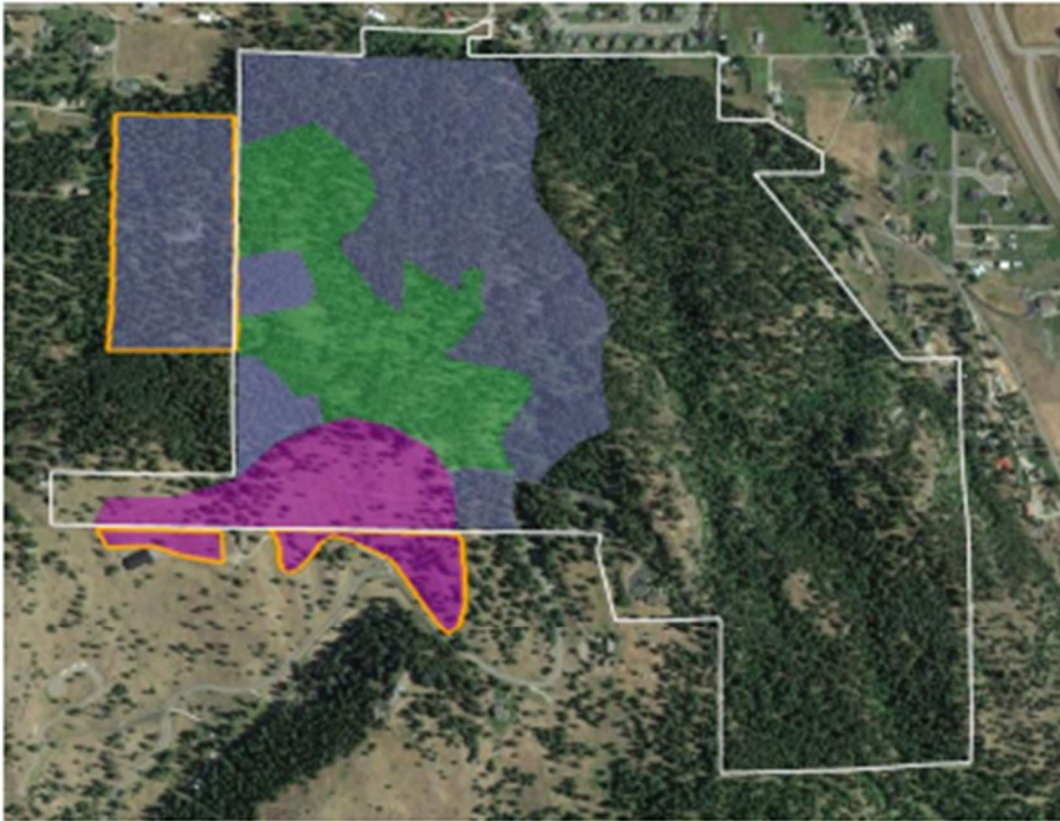
APPENDIX C





APPENDIX D – Test Burn Photos



APPENDIX E

Planned Forest & Grassland Treatments – Lone Pine SP & Neighbors



-  Commercial harvest, selective, target mistletoe. Plant western larch & ponderosa pine.
-  Private Parcel: Commercial harvest, selective, target mistletoe. Plant western larch & ponderosa pine
-  Partial overstory removal, target mistletoe. Remove sapling-size Doug-fir. Plant WL & PP.
-  Prescribed burn – grassland containing native bunchgrasses.
-  Private Parcels: Prescribed burn – grassland containing native bunchgrasses.



APPENDIX F

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Montana Ecological Services
Field Office 585 Shephard
Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-6287

Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2022-0009082
Project Name: Lone Pine State Park Thinning & Prescribed Burn Project

February 17, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Montana Ecological Services Field Office

585 Shephard Way, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-6287
(406) 449-5225

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0009082

Event Code: None

Project Name: Lone Pine State Park Thinning & Prescribed Burn Project
Forest Management Plan

Project Description: Activities will be within the Park boundary over the next 24 months. Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@48.17784365,-114.33909959005754,14z>



Counties: Flathead County, Montana

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Grizzly Bear <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> Population: U.S.A., conterminous (lower 48) States, except where listed as an experimental population There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7642	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Spalding's Catchfly <i>Silene spaldingii</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3681	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940. 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668 (a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31 Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10
Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8878	

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Cassin's Finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Rufous Hummingbird <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15

Probability Of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence ()

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

2. To properly present the pattern across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()

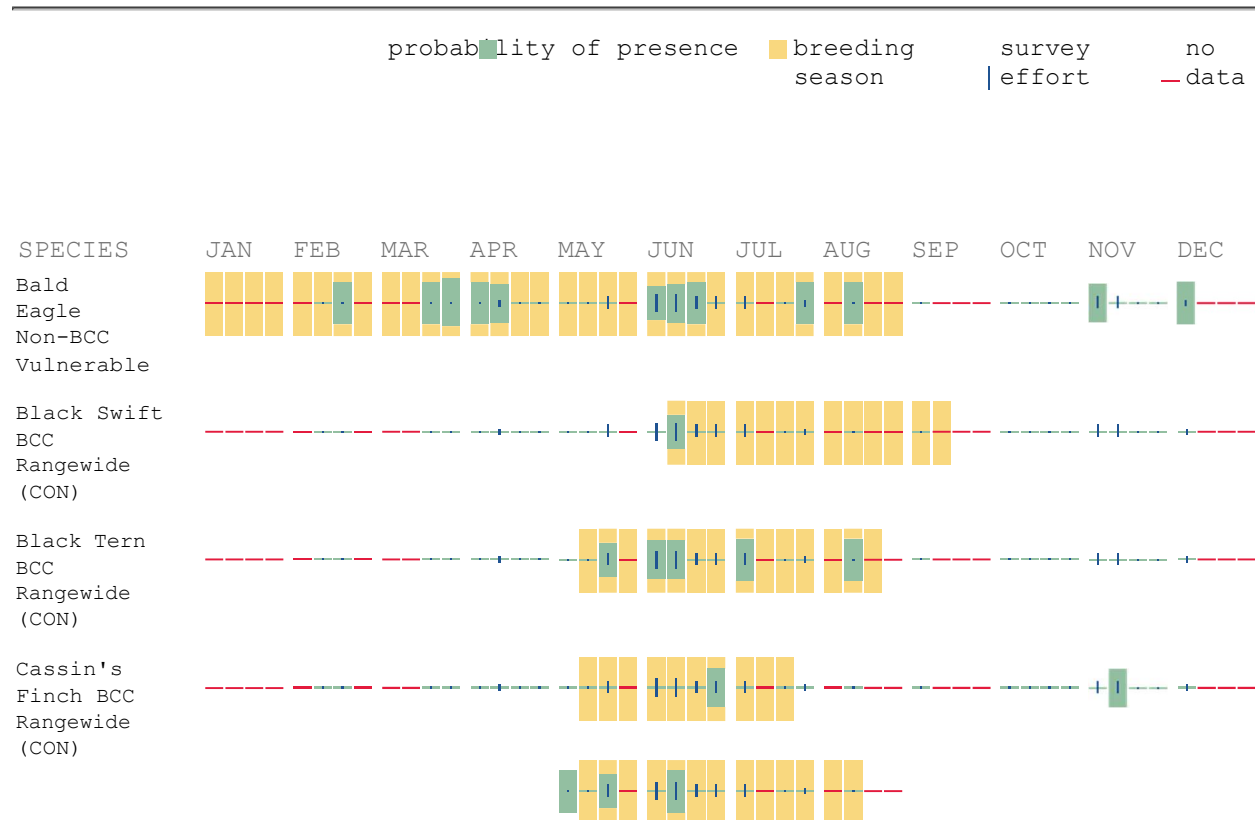
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

No Data- ()

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

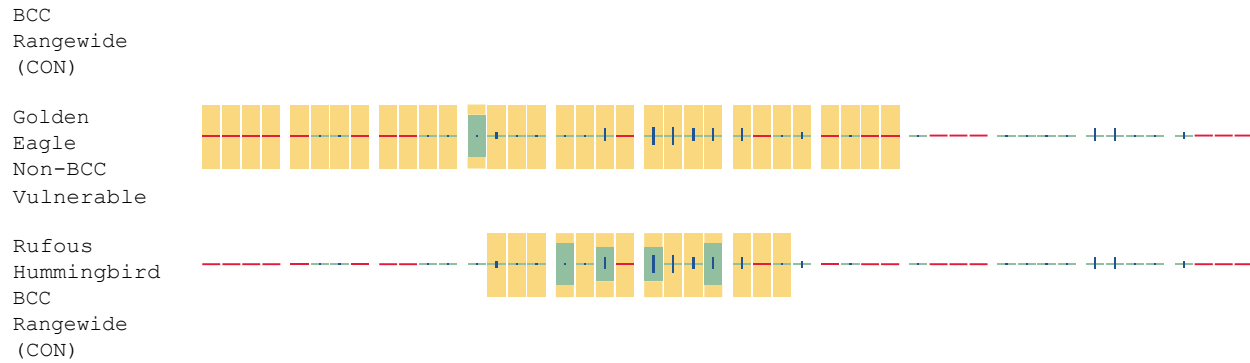
Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Evening Grosbeak





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds
<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf>

Migratory Birds FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides

birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

WETLAND INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED.
PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FWS.GOV/WETLANDS/DATA/MAPPER.HTML](https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html) OR CONTACT THE
FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Name: Adam Brooks
Address: 1420 E 6th AveCity:
Helena
State: MT
Zip: 59601
Email: abrooks@mt.gov
Phone: 4064443032

11/5/21, 2:10 PM

MTNHP.org - SOC Report

Montana Natural Heritage - SOC Report

Species List Last Updated 02/19/2021

Animal Species of Concern

1 Species of Concern

1 Special Status Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)



A program of the Montana State Library's
Natural Resource Information System
operated by the University of Montana.

Expand All | Collapse All

Introduction

Species of Concern

Species of Concern

1 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

BIRDS (AVES)							1 SPECIES			
							FWP STATE PARK = LONE PINE (based on mapped Species Occurrences)			
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Ardea herodias Great Blue Heron	Ardeidae Bitterns / Egrets / Herons / Night-Herons	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Small breeding population size, evidence of recent declines, and declining regeneration of riparian cottonwood forests due to altered hydrology and grazing.										

Potential Species of Concern

Potential Species of Concern

0 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

Special Status Species

Additions To Statewide List

Species Removed From Statewide List

Species of Greatest Inventory Need

Citation for data on this website:

Montana Animal Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Retrieved on 11/5/2021, from mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern?AsOfP=1

11/5/21, 2:12 PM

MTNHP.org - SOC Report

Montana Natural Heritage - SOC Report

Species List Last Updated 02/19/2021

Plant Species of Concern

0 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)



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Natural Resource Information System
operated by the University of Montana.

Expand All | Collapse All

Introduction

Species of Concern

Species of Concern

0 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

Potential Species of Concern

Potential Species of Concern

0 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

FWP State Park = Lone Pine (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

Special Status Species

Additions To Statewide List

Species Removed From Statewide List

Citation for data on this website:

Montana Plant Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program. Retrieved on 11/5/2021, from mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern?AsOfP=1

APPENDIX H
1946 – 2017 Lone Pine Forest Comparison Map

