

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Issue a Stream Protection Act 124 Permit for Installing Riprap to Protect the Stipek Boat Ramp in Administrative Region 7 of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Application Date: 10/12/2022

Name, Address and Phone Number: Kenneth M Backes
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0925

Project Location: Stipek Boat ramp on the Yellowstone River in Dawson County and within Administrative Region 7 of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Description of Project:

Propose placing approximately 50-100 cubic yards of riprap rock for bank stabilization adjacent to the concrete boat ramp at Stipek Fishing Access Site. This includes approximately 1,000-1,500 square feet of the embankment (20 feet on the upstream side and 10 feet on the downstream). High flow events in the spring of 2022 eroded the upstream and downstream areas adjacent to the boat ramp. This project would attempt to protect existing infrastructure while the department plans for alternative boat launching solutions. FWP will continue to monitor the condition of the boat ramp and stream bank. Future projects including removal/relocation of the ramp are currently being considered by the department.

Alternatives to Proposed Action:

The alternate project is no project. This area is in need of maintenance and with no project the boat ramp would fail and need to be removed.

For this EA, alternatives to issuing the SPA124 Permit include:

1. Deny the permit – this alternative would leave the boat ramp exposed to continued hydraulic forces and potential failure and permanent closure of the ramp.
2. Issue a 124 Permit for work proposed in the application. The proposed action has few perceived negative effects and improves the recreational and safety aspects of accessing the Yellowstone River.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: US Army Corps of Engineers for a 404 permit.

PART 2. 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 Provided
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		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

NA

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 Provided
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
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational activities			X			X
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

Public boat ramps are generally the only access points for the public and emergency services (search and rescue) to the Yellowstone River. Providing and maintaining a functional boat ramp is a fundamental demand from local users and improves recreational opportunities and quality of living.



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?

No

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternatives listed and discussed above.

EA prepared by: Kenneth M Backes

Date Completed: 10/21/2022

PART 3. EA PREPARATION

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

No. Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed project. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

DECISION NOTICE

Project: Issue a Stream Protection Act 124 Permit for installing riprap to protect the Stipek Boat Ramp located in administrative Region 7 of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Prepared By: Kenneth Backes - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

I. Proposal

Permit the Parks and Outdoor Recreation staff to install rock riprap on the upstream and downstream edges of the Stipek Boat Ramp in Administrative Region 7 of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks.

II. Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

MEPA requires FWP to assess the potential consequences of this proposed action for the human and natural environment. The proposal was detailed in a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) completed by FWP on October 19, 2022. A 30-day comment period for this EA is not required based on no perceived negative environmental or human impacts from issuing a SPA 124 Permit and secondly the project is not considered controversial. The EA and this Decision Notice will serve as the final document.

III. Summary of Public Comment

NA

IV. Decision

It has been decided to issue a Stream Protection Act 124 Permit to the Region 7 Parks and Outdoor Recreation staff to install rock riprap at the Stipek Boat Ramp.

Kenneth Backes



Region 7 Fisheries Manager
MT FWP
PO Box 1630
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Cc. Environmental Quality Council
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks