



Makoshika State Park Archery Range Improvement

7/19/2023

ACTION

Decision Notice (DN). Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) shall prepare a DN for the proposed action. The DN must identify the agency decision, the reasons for the decision, and any special conditions surrounding the decision or its implementation.

With this action, FWP hereby adopts the Draft Environmental Assessment or Draft EA as final, without modification, and approves Alternative 2, the proposed action.

AUTHORITY: MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

According to the applicable requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act or MEPA and its implementing rules and regulations, before a proposed action may be approved, environmental review must be conducted to identify, consider, and disclose any potential impacts of the proposed action on the affected human environment. The level of environmental review will vary with the complexity and seriousness of environmental issues associated with a proposed action. The level of public interest will also vary. The agency is responsible for adjusting public review to match these factors. *Title 75, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA)*.

Based on these factors, FWP determined a checklist EA (Draft EA) constitutes the appropriate level of review for the proposed action. Therefore, to assess and disclose potential impacts of the proposed action, FWP prepared a Draft EA for public review and comment. See *Public Participation Process* below.

Further, FWP must consider any substantive comments received in response to an EA and proceed in accordance with one of the following steps: determine the EA did not adequately reflect the issues raised by the proposed action and issue an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS; determine the EA did not adequately reflect the issues raised by the proposed action and issue a supplemental EA; or determine the Draft EA adequately addressed the issues raised by the proposed action and make a final decision, with appropriate modification resulting from the analysis provided in the Draft EA and the analysis of any substantive public comments received. See *Public Comment and FWP Response* below.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from 6/19/2023 to 7/18/2023. A legal Notice was published in the Glendive Ranger Review, Sidney Herald and the Draft EA was posted on FWP's Public Notice webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notice>. The Draft EA was also made available for public review on the Environmental Quality Council or EQC website: <https://leg.mt.gov/mepa/search/>, by individual request, and through notice to identified interested parties. FWP received one comment during the public comment period in favor of the project.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The archery range at Makoshika State Park needs repair as it has been in use since the 1960's. The project will include new targets to be placed along the course, new vault latrine, repairs to the current storage shed, an additional storage shed being purchased, improvements to the road, trail repairs for improve safety, and a new practice shooting area.

FWP's objective is to begin the project in the Winter of 2023. Project completion is planned to occur by Fall of 2025.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the existing Archery Range at Makoshika State Park. The archery range improvement project is necessary because the archery range has been in use since the 1960's and needs repairs to improve safety.

The project will maintain and improve access to the archery range for visitors to Makoshika State Park. FWP's objective is to begin the project in Winter of 2023. Project completion is planned to occur by Fall 2025.

Benefits of the proposed project include the following:

- increased trail safety
- provide a more realistic shooting experience
- provide facilities allowing the park to host archery programs

The archery range would be used by visitors to Makoshika State Park. FWP's objective is to start the project in Winter of 2023, with final work completed by Fall of 2025.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

Alternative 1: No Action

In addition to the proposed action, and as required by MEPA, FWP analyzes the "No-Action" alternative in the EA. Under the No-Action alternative, the proposed action would not occur. Therefore, no additional impacts to the human environment would occur. The No Action alternative forms the baseline from which the potential impacts of the proposed action may be measured.

Under the No Action alternative, no archery range improvement project would occur, and the existing range would continue to provide an archery experience to the public at Makoshika State Park. Due to the age and condition of the range it is expected that the course would become more

difficult to use safely and many of the facilities are near the end of their useful life and would have to be decommissioned soon.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, FWP is proposing to purchase new targets to be placed along the course, new vault latrine, repairs to the current storage shed, purchase a new shed, improve the road, trail repairs for improve safety, and a new practice shooting area at Makoshika State Park in Dawson County, Montana.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND FWP RESPONSE

One comment was received during the public comment period in support of the project with no suggested changes.

DECISION

Based on the environmental review provided in the Draft EA, and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies, FWP determined the proposed action (Alternative 2), will not have significant adverse impacts on the human environment associated with the proposed action and constitutes a reasonable and appropriate strategy to achieve identified objectives. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is unnecessary. FWP hereby adopts the Draft EA as final and approves Alternative 2, the proposed action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Schmitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad Schmitz
Region 7 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks