



## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701  
(406) 444-9947

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

#### PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

**1. Project Title:** Butte Trap Club Proposed Improvement

**2. Type of Proposed Action:**

The Butte Trap Club (BTC) proposes to improve the trap and skeet range by:

- 1) Adding a new ADA accessible concrete parking/camping pad on the East side of the handicap bathroom.
- 2) Updating existing, outdated electrical wiring in the main clubhouse.



**Figure 1. Location of the Butte Trap and Skeet Club Range**



**Figure 2. Location of Main Clubhouse at BTC, where proposed electrical and ADA improvements will be implemented.**



**Figure 3. Location of proposed ADA-accessible concrete parking/camping pad.**

### **3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:**

The BTSC Range is located approximately 3 miles south of Butte, Montana, on the corner of Basin Creek Road and Gun Club Road; Lat. 45.933303, Long. -112. 50530; on the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 2 North, Range 7 West.

**4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

*(a)(i) Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*

*(ii) May not limit the number of members;*

*(iii) May charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*

*(iv) Shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*

*(b) Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

### **5. Need for the Action(s):**

Adding a new ADA accessible concrete parking/camping pad on the East side of the handicap bathroom will provide additional and improved ADA access from both the road and the existing sidewalk and adjacent to the handicap bathroom. The pad will be large enough to park a camper or ADA accessible vehicle. The new concrete pad will be much safer than the existing gravel area, providing better stability for disabled shooter's assistive equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc. The pad will also provide safe and simple access to the sidewalks, handicap bathroom, and shooting lanes for both shooters with disabilities as well as for the general public.

The main clubhouse was built in 1938, and the current electrical wiring has become outdated and unsafe, causing concerns fire or other damage to the building and its users. Furthermore, the existing wiring has overloaded multiple times during registered shoots and leagues due to increased electrical usage. New, updated wiring in the building would allow safe usage of multiple outlets, both on the interior and exterior of the clubhouse, in addition to providing more options crew and shooters to charge mobile and other electronic devices. With updated wiring, the club could also use portable AC units without overloading and tripping breakers, creating a more enjoyable shooting experience for guests and crew in the hot summer periods. Finally, eliminating recurring tripped breakers will reduce the potential of clubhouse damage or damage to other equipment, such as outdoor lighting, computers, copy machines, guests' RVs and campers, and any other existing electrical equipment.

### **6. Objectives for the Action(s):**

The objective of the BTC's proposed project is to improve ADA accessibility and overall safety of the trap

club by creating a new ADA-accessible parking/camping pad alongside improved access into the handicap restrooms, in addition to updating outdated electrical wiring in the main clubhouse.

**7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:**

The proposed project would involve less than 1 acre of the 39-acre BTSC range.

**8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):**

The BTC range is located on 39 acres of private land owned in fee title by the Butte Trap Club. The range is not located within a floodplain and there are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The BTC range offers shooting opportunities for shotgun.

**9. Description of Project:**

The BTC proposed project involves: 1) installing a new ADA-accessible concrete pad adjacent to the existing handicap restrooms, and 2) updating/replacing old electrical wiring in the main clubhouse. The estimated budget includes:

Concrete labor and materials	\$4,500
Electrical labor and materials	\$10,000
<u>Grant administration</u>	<u>\$150</u>
Total Project Budget	\$14,650
<b>Total Funding Requested from FWP</b>	<b>\$7,325</b>

**10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:**

None

**Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit Date</u>	<u>Filed/#</u>
N/A		

**Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$7,325.00

**11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:**

The BTSC range is located on 39 acres of private land deeded to the BTSC. This is a non-profit, private shooting club with an annual membership fee of \$30 for individuals, \$30 for families, and no day use fee for guests and members. The BTSC range hosts around six events each year. Approximately four organizations utilize the range, including: 4-H, Boy Scouts, the Montana Tech Engineering Club, Montana Women's Telephonic shooting league, and the Montana Mining Association. Other numerous organizations have also utilized the club in the past, including Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for hunter's safety courses.

**12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:**

Because the BTSC is a non-profit, private shooting club for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range development proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

**13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:**



**14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:**

Timothy Cassidy, 4 Bittersweet Drive, Butte, MT 59701, (406) 498-7210.

**15. Other Pertinent Information:**

The BTSC is a non-profit, private shooting club. The closest shooting range providing similar shooting opportunities is located approximately 23 miles from the BTSC range in Opportunity, Montana.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: January 14, 2023.

**PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES**

**Alternative A**, the **Proposed Alternative**, and **Alternative B**, the **No Action Alternative**, were considered.

**Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project), to 1) improve the BTC range by installing an ADA-accessible concrete parking/camping pad to the east of the existing handicap restrooms, and 2) update/replace outdated electrical wiring in the main clubhouse. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.

**Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** would result from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money being denied, in which case the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The No Action Alternative would have no significant negative or potentially negative environmental consequences. The range would continue on with present conditions, and land use would remain the same. The **No Action Alternative** could leave unresolved some key safety improvements to the range, namely the uneven surfaces creating vehicle and ADA accessibility issues near the handicap restrooms, and the unsafe conditions (including potential fire hazards) created by outdated wiring and breakers in the main clubhouse.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the No Action Alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental consequences; however, the **No Action Alternative** would leave unresolved potential accessibility and safety issues.

There are beneficial consequences that would result from accepting the **Proposed Alternative**. The proposed changes would improve the range's overall accessibility and safety for members and guests of BTC. Improved accessibility to the handicap restrooms and additional ADA-accessible parking/camping options will provide a safer and more pleasant experience for all range users, especially those in need of ADA accommodations. The proposed changes to the main clubhouse's electrical wiring would improve the range's overall safety, in addition to modernizing their offerings for folks relying on mobile devices and computers on site.

The **No Action Alternative** would have no significant negative environmental consequences; the range would continue on with present conditions, and land use would remain the same. Potential negative consequences for the No Action Alternative include less-than-ideal safety standards for the range's existing facilities, especially with regards to ADA accessibility and fire safety protocols within the main clubhouse.

**Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:**

Only the Proposed Alternative and the No Action Alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent.

**List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations):**

None

**PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determine the extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

**Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.**

<b>Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Can Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comments Below</b>
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				<b>X</b>		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				<b>X</b>		<b>2</b>
3. Introduction of new species into an area				<b>X</b>		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				<b>X</b>		<b>4</b>
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				<b>X</b>		<b>5</b>
6. Existing water right or reservation				<b>X</b>		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				<b>X</b>		<b>7</b>
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				<b>X</b>		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				<b>X</b>		<b>9</b>
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				<b>X</b>		
11. Aesthetics				<b>X</b>		<b>11</b>

**2. & 5.** There are no delineated wetlands and no natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat would be affected. Any resident or transient wildlife may temporarily leave the immediate area during construction activities.

**4.** The proposed project will only apply to areas already disturbed/established as roads and

pathways. Due to prior land use, native vegetation has been disturbed in the area of the proposed project. This project will not change the overall abundance and diversity of plant species within the area.

7. The proposed project will cause limited displacement of soils, but the developments will not substantially affect geological features or establish new erosion patterns. Soil disruption for this site is localized to areas already established as roads and pathways.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

11. The property is already used as a shooting range, so the proposed project will have no additional impact on the aesthetics of the property.

**Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.**

<b>Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Can Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comments Below</b>
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				<b>X</b>		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				<b>X</b>		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				<b>X</b>		
4. Agricultural production				<b>X</b>		<b>4</b>
5. Human health			<b>X</b>			<b>5</b>
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				<b>X</b>		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities			<b>X</b>			<b>7</b>
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				<b>X</b>		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				<b>X</b>		
10. Demands for government services				<b>X</b>		

11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		
---	--	--	--	---	--	--

4. Even though the BTSC range is adjacent to agricultural land used for grazing and hay production, the range is not in agricultural production. The proposed project will have no affect on agricultural production.
5. The proposed project will improve the safety of the BTC range.
7. The proposed developments will increase the safety and accessibility of shooting opportunities within the community.

#### **PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the projects reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range or altered areas that, together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the Proposed Alternative.

The Butte Trap and Skeet Club’s Proposed Alternative, to improve the ADA accessibility and safety of its facilities, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the Proposed Alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

#### **PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

**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?**

Individually, the proposed actions have minor impacts. However, it was determined that there are no significant or potentially significant cumulatively impacts. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project, and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

**Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:**

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

#### **PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION**

**Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:**



- Timothy Cassidy, 4 Bittersweet Drive, Butte, MT 59701, (406) 498-7210.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

**EA prepared by:**

Amanda Darling, Hamilton, MT 59840

**Date Completed:**

June 4, 2023

**Describe public involvement, if any:**

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site announcing the public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.