

Flathead River Bridge West Bank Parcel

Cultural Resource Inventory Report

Flathead River – 3M NW of Big Fork

BR 82-1(5)5

CN 6850



Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue P.O. Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620

Laura Evilsizer, Archaeologist

October 2023

Project Introduction

MDT plans to replace the Flathead River Bridge (24FH0517) and place a new bridge on a parallel alignment immediately south of the existing bridge. This requires impacting the Sportsman's Bridge Fishing Access site on the East Bank of the Flathead River. MDT is reevaluating this plan and may instead construct a replacement fishing access site on the west bank of the Flathead River. This inventory was conducted as part of the investigation into if the west bank of the Flathead River is a viable option. This prior project plan was discussed in Mitzi Rossillon's 2020 report *"Flathead River Bridge Replacement, 3 miles northwest of Bigfork: A cultural Resource Inventory"*. This project has had several rounds of consultation with SHPO. The undertaking as previously defined received concurrence that it would be an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties (24FH0517). Past SHPO Consultations include:

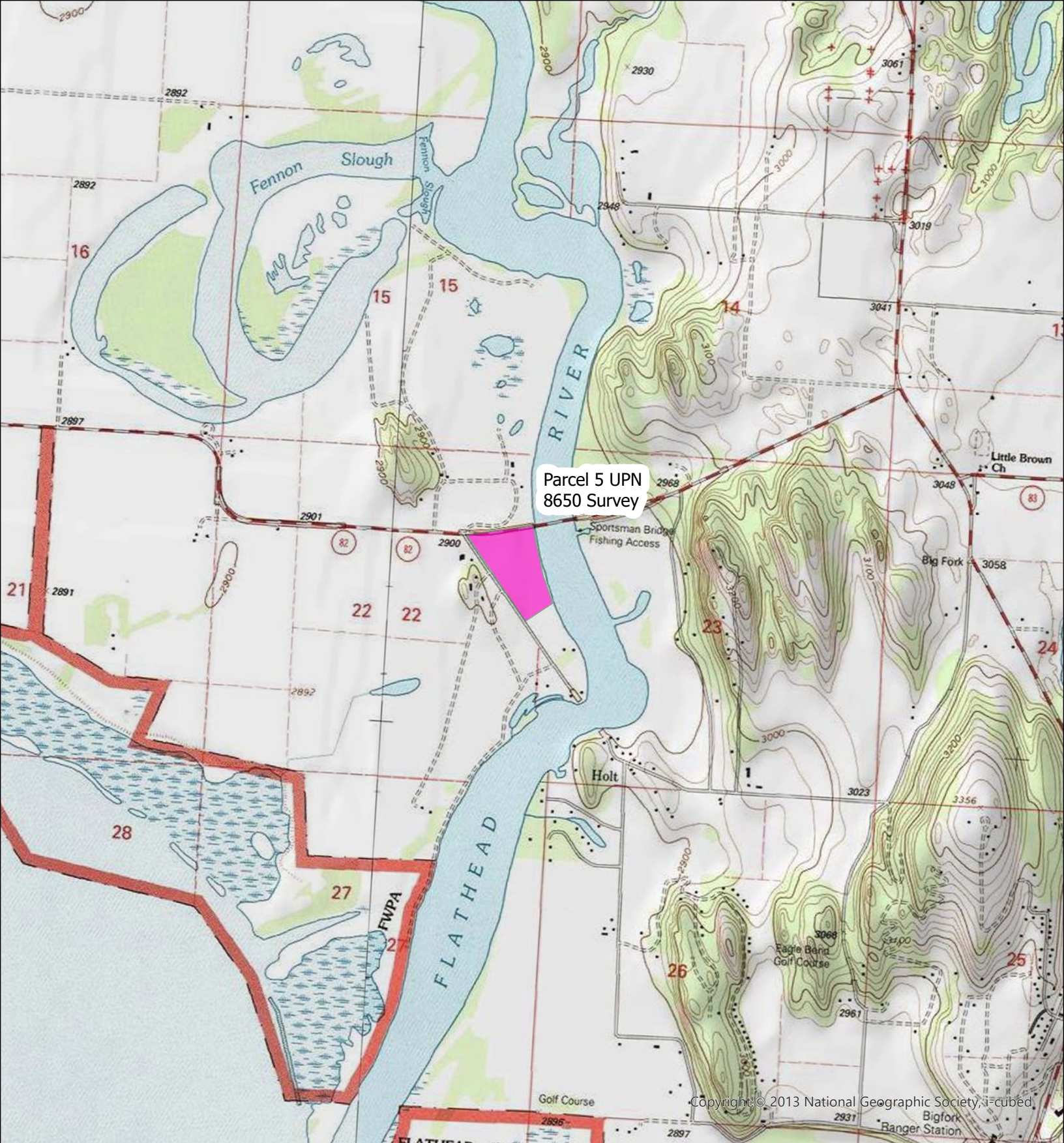
Project Number	Project Name	Agency	Reviewer	Review Action	SHPO Date Out
2020020605	FLATHEAD RIVER 3 MI. NW OF BIGFORK	MDOT	Laura Evilsizer	Adverse Effect 24FH0517=Eligible	2/7/2020
2020012203	FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE, BIGFORK	MDOT	Damon Murdo	File Search/Consultant	1/22/2020
2019112507	FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE - 3 MI NW OF BIGFORK	MDOT	Damon Murdo	File Search/Consultant	11/25/2019
2011080105	FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE- 3 MI NW OF BIGFORK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	MDOT	Josef Warhank	Eligibility Review 24FH0517=Eligible	8/15/2011

MDT is investigating the parcel in T27N R20W Sections 22 and 23. Cadastral lists the address for this property as 2475 MT Highway 82 Somers, MT 59932. The entire parcel (24.77 Acres) was inventoried because specific plans on potential future FWP fishing access site locations have not yet been prepared.

Ecological Setting

The survey area is located only a few miles north of where Flathead River enters Flathead Lake. Flathead River borders the eastern edge of the survey parcel. In the last 20+ years this parcel has been used for grazing, wheat crops, and hay crops.

Project soils are dominated by Swims Silty Clay Loam. These soil types are mostly found on river terraces (Rossillon 2020). The region supports a variety of wildlife important to both precontact and historical inhabitants, including elk, deer, coyote, bear, porcupine, and rabbit. During inventory many deer tracks were seen in the project area. The majority of the parcel is cultivated crops, with vegetation 1-4 inches



Map of Surveyed Area at 1:24,000 Scale



Legend

 Survey Area UPN8650

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

high during inventory. Along the Oldenburg Road (west boundary) and Flathead River (east boundary) there was a variety of other grasses and forbs growing including horsetail and wormwood.

Records Search

On October 18th Jon Axline, MDT historian, conducted a records search of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office Files. MDT Archaeologist, Laura Evilsizer, reviewed site forms and reports within 1 mile of the APE. This required searching: T27N R20W Sections 15, 21, 22, 23, and 27. File Search Results are attached to the end of this report. Data sources also included General Land Office (GLO) maps and discussion with one of the members of the landowner group.

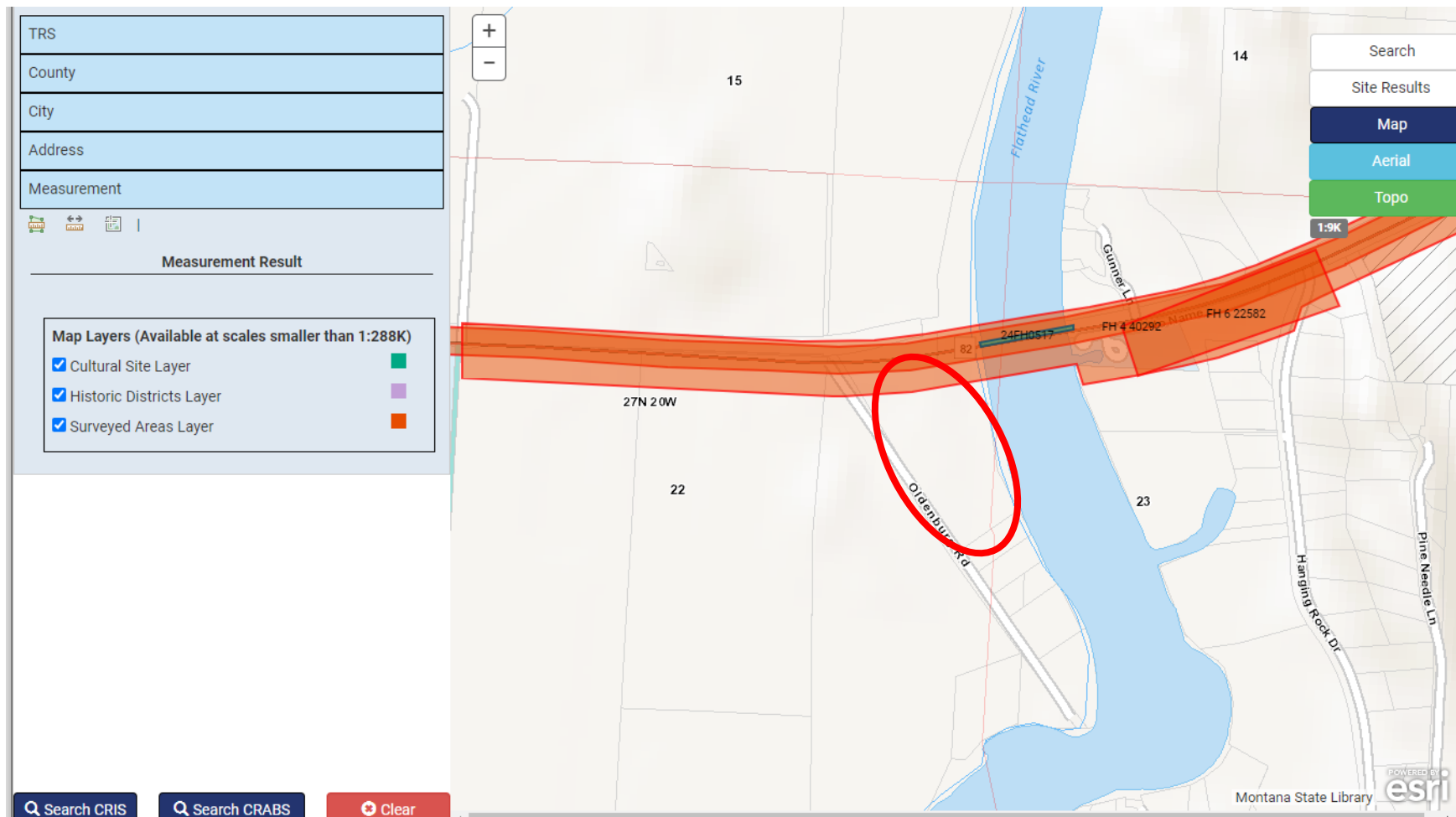
There are five previously recorded cultural resources in the search area: 24FH0011, 24FH0414, 24FH0517, 24FH0920, and 24FH1226. None of these are located within the surveyed parcel as previously mapped. They include three historic homestead/farmsteads, one historic bridge, and one precontact lithic material scatter.

There have been 14 previous cultural inventories in the area. Two of these inventories surveyed the northernmost portion of this parcel, where it is bordered by Highway 82. Both these inventories reported finding no cultural resources in this area.

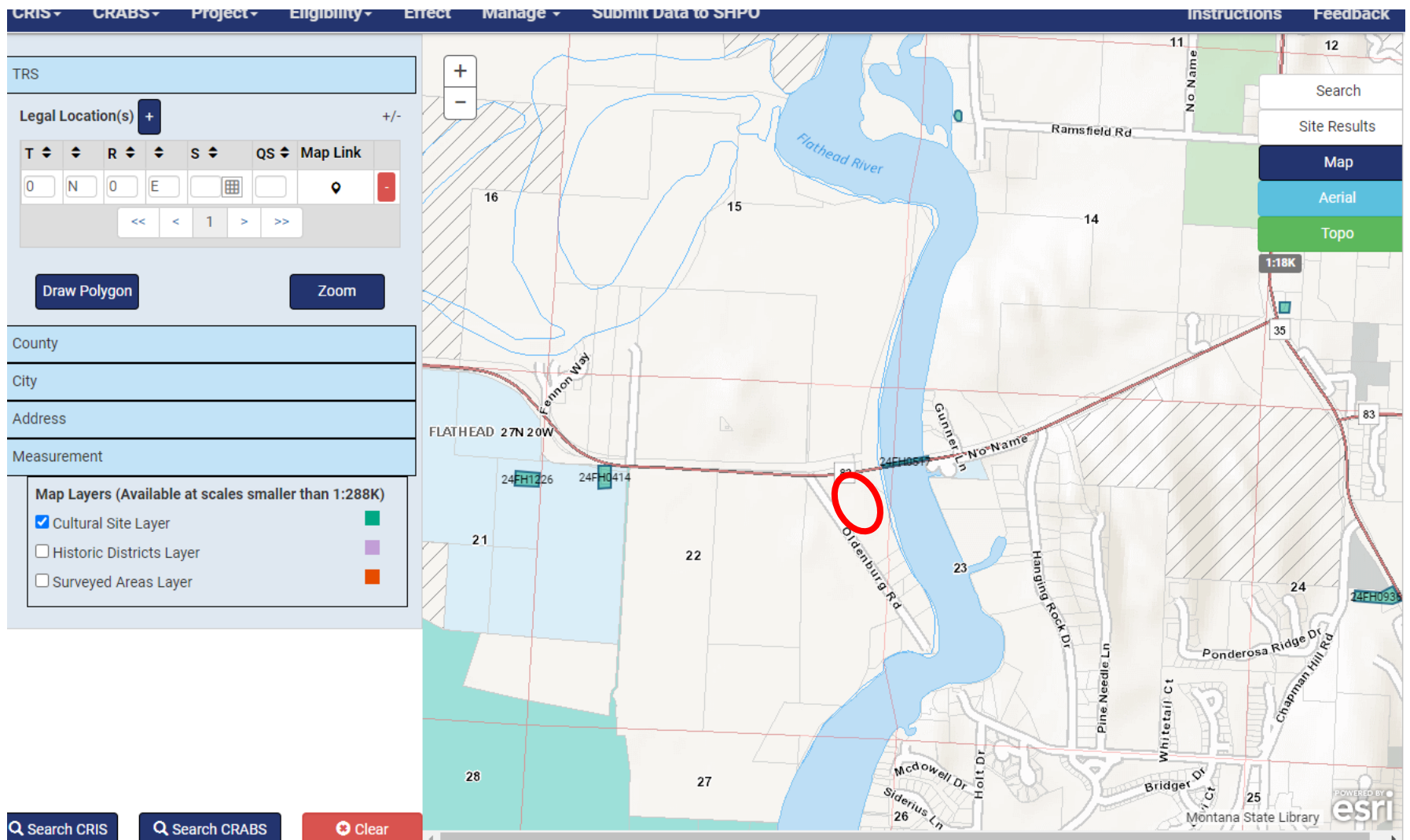
Author	Date	Title	Inventoried area of the surveyed parcel
Janene Caywood	2011	RESULTS OF A RECORD SEARCH AND FIELD REVIEW OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S FLATHEAD RIVER - 3 MILES NW OF BIGFORK PROJECT (BR 82-1(5)5 CONTROL NO. 6850, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA	Visual examination only of northernmost 200ft
Mitzi Rossilon	2020	FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, 3 MILES NORTHWEST OF BIGFORK: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.	Pedestrian inventory of northernmost 250ft

The property owners were called prior to the survey and they did not disclose any information about potential cultural resources on their property. Cadastral lists several "Other Buildings/Improvements" for this parcel:

- "AAP5 Pole Frame Building, 4 sides open, metal" built in 1968
- "AAW2 Swine Finishing Barn" built in 1977
- "AAP3 Pole Frame Buildings, 1 side open, metal" built in 1977
- "AAP3 Pole Frame Building, 1 side open, metal" built in 1975
- "AAI1 Implement Shed, Frame" built in 1981
 - This implement shed may be the non-historic shed found during survey and discussed later in the report.
- "AAW3 Swine Confinement Barn" built in 1977



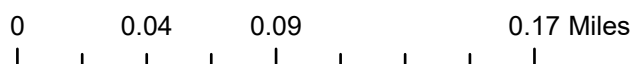
Previous sites and surveys within ¼ mile of the project area, shown on MTSHPD's database map. Red shows generalized survey area.



Previously recorded sites in surrounding area, shown on MTSHPO's database map. Red shows generalized survey area.



Map of Surveyed Area showing 24FH0517 modified site boundary and Non-historic structure



Legend




-  24FH0517
-  Survey Area UPN8650
-  Cultural Points



Photo 1: View Southwest of surveyed parcel



Photo 2: View North from the Southwest corner of the parcel, Oldenburg Road, which borders the west edge of the parcel visible on left.



Photo 3: View south taken at the northern edge of the parcel, Flathead river which borders the eastern edge of the parcel visible on the left.



Photo 4: View South Southwest of a gently sloping portion of parcel abutting the river.



Photo 5: View Northeast from interior of the parcel.

Results

24FH0517

One possibly historic scatter of concrete and rebar was found, along the river's edge immediately south of the Sportsman's Bridge (24FH0517). An updated site form and GIS site boundary was prepared to include this historic material scatter into the existing site form. This construction debris was related to the construction or maintenance of this historic eligible bridge.



Photo 6: View to the northeast, concrete material in foreground, bridge in background.

Non-Historic Shed

One shed, with wood framing and corrugated metal walls and roof was observed on the parcel along the riverbank. This shed is estimated to have been built in the 1980s based on construction materials and techniques. It may be the “AAI1 Implement Shed, Frame” built in 1981 referenced on Montana Cadastral. There is a utility line running from the shed to the west that was constructed at approximately the same time as the shed. Because this shed is not 45 years old or older, it was not documented on a site form or assigned a Smithsonian number.



Photo 7: View to the east of non-historic shed



Photo 8: View to the northeast of shed.



Photo 9: View to the southeast of the shed interior.

Summary

One parcel of land, immediately southwest of the Sportsman's Bridge (24FH0517) was inventoried to consider construction or relocation of a fishing access site. One concentrated pile of concrete and rebar was found that is most likely associated with 24FH0517. Additionally, one non-historic shed was found. No other historic properties or cultural materials were observed within this land parcel.

References

- Cadastral

Montana Cadastral, Montana State Library. <https://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral> Accessed October 2023.

- General Land Office (GLO)

Bureau of Land Management. <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx> Accessed 10/20/2023

- Rossillon, Mitzi

2020 *"Flathead River Bridge Replacement, 3 miles northwest of Bigfork: A cultural Resource Inventory"*.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE Montana Cultural Resource Database

CRABS Township, Range, Section Results

Report Date: 10/20/2023

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

MCCORMICK MARY E.

2/1/1987 CULTURAL RESOURCE LITERATURE SEARCH FLATHEAD LAKE

CRABS Document Number: LA 6 4390 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 27

MCCORMICK MARY E.

2/1/1987 CULTURAL RESOURCE LITERATURE SEARCH FLATHEAD LAKE

CRABS Document Number: LA 6 4390 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

DEAVER SHERRI

5/15/1989 RE-EXAMINATION OF 18 CULTURAL RESOURCES ADJACENT TO FLATHEAD LAKE, LAKE AND FLATHEAD COUNTIES, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: LA 6 4396 Agency Document Number: 00

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 27

DEAVER SHERRI

5/15/1989 RE-EXAMINATION OF 18 CULTURAL RESOURCES ADJACENT TO FLATHEAD LAKE, LAKE AND FLATHEAD COUNTIES, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: LA 6 4396 Agency Document Number: 00

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 22

MCLEAN GARY A.

5/20/1989 FLATHEAD WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 3244 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 27

DAVIS LESLIE B.

6/13/1989 EAGLE BEND GOLFING COMMUNITY PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 3245 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 23

AABERG STEPHEN A.

5/14/1986 CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT SPORTSMAN BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 3236 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

DECCO DALE L.

6/1/1989 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY: SOMERS - EAST PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 3198 Agency Document Number: F82-1(2)0

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 22

DECCO DALE L.

6/1/1989 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY: SOMERS - EAST PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 3198 Agency Document Number: F82-1(2)0

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 23

DECCO DALE L.

6/1/1989 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY: SOMERS - EAST PROJECT

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 3198 Agency Document Number: F82-1(2)0

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

MURRAY AUDREY L., ET AL.

9/1/1976 SHORELINE SURVEYS, SELECTED MONTANA RESERVOIRS

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 6 10800 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 27

MURRAY AUDREY L., ET AL.

9/1/1976 SHORELINE SURVEYS, SELECTED MONTANA RESERVOIRS

CRABS Document Number: ZZ 6 10800 Agency Document Number:



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE Montana Cultural Resource Database

CRABS Township, Range, Section Results

Report Date: 10/20/2023

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

LEWIS RHODA O.

10/5/1995 FLATHEAD LAKE R-O-W 95NWM001

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 17418 Agency Document Number: 95NWM001

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 27

WALKER-KUNTZ PATRICK J.

4/19/1999 KERR NORTH SHORE EROSION CONTROL PROJECT (FOR LEGACY CONSULTING SERVICES, BUTTE, MT)

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 22247 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 23

TAYLOR DEE C.

6/30/1978 SPORTSMAN'S BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 22582 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

SCOTT SARA A.

1/1/2010 HERITAGE RESOURCE INVENTORY OF A PROPOSED PARKING AREA ON THE NORTH SHORE OF FLATHEAD LAKE, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 31272 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 22

CAYWOOD JANENE M.

7/20/2011 RESULTS OF A RECORD SEARCH AND FIELD REVIEW OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S FLATHEAD RIVER - 3 MILES NW OF BIGFORK PROJECT (BR 82-1(5)5 CONTROL NO. 6850, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA)

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 32944 Agency Document Number: BR 82-1(5)5 CONTROL NO. 6850

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 23

CAYWOOD JANENE M.

7/20/2011 RESULTS OF A RECORD SEARCH AND FIELD REVIEW OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S FLATHEAD RIVER - 3 MILES NW OF BIGFORK PROJECT (BR 82-1(5)5 CONTROL NO. 6850, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA)

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 32944 Agency Document Number: BR 82-1(5)5 CONTROL NO. 6850

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 21

SCHWAB DAVID, LOGA FIXICO & DEVER GRAHAM

1/1/2015 MT FWP NORTH SHORE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

CRABS Document Number: FH 6 38274 Agency Document Number:

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 22

ROSSILON MITZI

1/28/2020 FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, 3 MILES NORTHWEST OF BIGFORK: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 40292 Agency Document Number: BR 82-1(5)5

Township: 27 N Range: 20 W Section: 23

ROSSILON MITZI

1/28/2020 FLATHEAD RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, 3 MILES NORTHWEST OF BIGFORK: A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.

CRABS Document Number: FH 4 40292 Agency Document Number: BR 82-1(5)5



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Cultural Resource Information Systems

CRIS Township, Range, Section Report

Report Date:10/20/2023

Site #	Twp	Rng	Sec	Qs	Site Type 1	Site Type 2	Time Period	Owner	NR Status
24FH0011	27N	20W	21	Comb	Precontact Lithic Material Concentration	Precontact Firehearths or Roasting Pits, FCR	No Indication of Time	No Data	Unresolved
24FH0414	27N	20W	22	NW	Historic Homestead/Farmstead		Historic Period	Private	Undetermined*
24FH0517	27N	20W	22	NE	Historic Vehicular/Foot Bridge		Historic More Than One Decade	MDOT Other	Eligible
24FH0517	27N	20W	23	NW	Historic Vehicular/Foot Bridge		Historic More Than One Decade	MDOT Other	Eligible
24FH0920	27N	20W	27	SE	Historic Homestead/Farmstead		Historic More Than One Decade	USFWS	Unresolved
24FH1226	27N	20W	21	NE	Historic Homestead/Farmstead		1910-1919	Private	Eligible