



DECISION NOTICE

Bannack State Park Parking Lot ADA Upgrades

FWP-DN-POR-R3-25-011

June 6, 2025

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 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from April 30-May 15, 2025. The Draft EA was posted on FWP's Public Notice webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notices> and 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 did not receive any comments during the public comment period.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

In this proposed project, ADA improvements will be made to the visitor parking lot and entrance area, including moving ADA parking closer to the ADA latrine, reducing the slope of the path to the latrine, and extending the boardwalk. These alterations will improve accessibility for all visitors and help Bannack State Park better conform to the standards established by the ADA. A new interpretive plaza next to the visitor center will also be constructed.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The goal of this project is to improve accessibility and opportunity for all visitors to enjoy Bannack State Park and especially those guests with mobility challenges. This project will specifically implement changes that will improve parking, access to the ADA latrine, and access to the entrance of the park for people with disabilities. The reconfiguration of these elements provides opportunities to make additional improvements to this part of the park that will benefit all users including a larger and more pleasant picnic area, an interpretive plaza, and a more welcoming entrance.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed project to extend the boardwalk, move ADA parking, and improve the grade to the parking lot latrine would not occur. Therefore, no additional impacts to the physical environment or human population in the analysis area would occur. The “No Action” alternative forms the baseline from which the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be measured. If the proposed project does not occur, the existing handicapped parking and ramp to the latrine will continue to fall short of current ADA standards and visitors to the park with mobility issues may struggle to access those facilities.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative. Under the proposed project, FWP will redesign the visitor’s parking lot and entrance to better conform to ADA standards and improve the area for all users. As part of the proposed project, FWP will reduce the slope to the latrine in the parking lot, move ADA parking closer to the ADA latrine, extend the wooden boardwalk closer to ADA parking, and create an interpretive plaza at the entrance to the park. The project will not cause any significant negative impacts to the physical or human environment. It will have a long term and positive impact by improving accessibility for all visitors to Bannack State Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND FWP RESPONSE

No public comments were received during the public comment period.

DECISION

ADOPT DRAFT EA AS FINAL EA

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 not indicated. FWP hereby adopts the Draft EA as final and approves the Alternative 2, the proposed action.

With this DN, FWP hereby adopts the Final EA, with modifications, and approves the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Kelly Proffitt

Kelly Proffitt
Region 3 Supervisor