

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Logan Public Shooting Range – Acquisition and Development

FWP-FSEA-PARKS-R8-2026-001

February 26, 2026



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Environmental Assessment

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has prepared this Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) (Title 75, Parts 1-3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA)). The purpose of an EA is to identify, analyze, and disclose the impacts of a proposed state action. This document may disclose impacts that have no required mitigation measures, or over which FWP, more broadly, has no regulatory authority.

Local governments, the federal government, and other state agencies may have authority over different resources and activities under separate regulations. FWP actions will only be approved if the proposed action complies with applicable regulations. FWP has a separate obligation to comply with any federal, state, or local laws and to obtain any other permits, licenses, or approvals required for any part of the proposed action.

This Draft EA was prepared for the following action:

PROJECT NAME: Logan Public Shooting Range	
LOCATION: Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 2 East	COUNTY: Gallatin
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ PRIVATE	
EA PREPARER: Samuel Hoggatt	DATE ISSUED:

I. Compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act

Before a proposed *project* may be approved, environmental review must be conducted to identify and consider potential impacts of the proposed project on the affected human environment (i.e., human population and physical environment affected by the project). The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and its implementing rules and regulations require different levels of environmental review, depending on the proposed project, significance of potential impacts, and the review timeline. § 75-1-201, Montana Code Annotated (“MCA”), and the Administrative Rules of Montana (“ARM”) 12.2.430, General Requirements of the Environmental Review Process.

FWP must prepare an EA when:

- It is considering a “state-proposed project,” which is defined in § 75-1-220(8)(a) as:
 - (i) a project, program, or activity initiated and directly undertaken by a state agency.
 - (ii) ... a project or activity supported through a contract, grant, subsidy, loan, or other form of funding assistance from a state agency, either singly or in combination with one or more other state agencies; or
 - (iii) ... a project or activity authorized by a state agency acting in a land management capacity for a lease, easement, license, or other authorization to act.
- It is not clear without preparation of an EA whether the proposed project is a major one significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. ARM 12.2.430(3)(a));
- FWP has not otherwise implemented the interdisciplinary analysis and public review purposes listed in ARM 12.2.430(2) (a) and (d) through a similar planning and decision-making process (ARM 12.2.430(3)(b));
- Statutory requirements do not allow sufficient time for the FWP to prepare an EIS (ARM 12.2.430(3)(c));
- The project is not specifically excluded from MEPA review according to § 75-1-220(8)(b) or ARM 12.2.430(5); or

- As an alternative to preparing an EIS, prepare an EA whenever the project is one that might normally require an EIS, but effects which might otherwise be deemed significant appear to be mitigable below the level of significance through design, or enforceable controls or stipulations or both imposed by the agency or other government agencies. For an EA to suffice in this instance, the agency must determine that all the impacts of the proposed project have been accurately identified, that they will be mitigated below the level of significance, and that no significant impact is likely to occur. The agency may not consider compensation for purposes of determining that impacts have been mitigated below the level of significance (ARM 12.2.430(4)).

MEPA is procedural; its intent is to ensure that impacts to the environment associated with a proposed project are fully considered and the public is informed of potential impacts resulting from the project.

II. Background and Description of Proposed Project

This section includes a short description of the proposed project including applicable background, the responsible party, the type of proposed action and the anticipated schedule of the proposed project.

Name of Project: Logan Public Shooting Range

FWP is proposing to acquire an approximately 86-acre easement from the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) as a preliminary step in the anticipated development of a formalized public shooting range. FWP submitted an easement application to DNRC on January 16, 2025. The proposed easement would facilitate the development of a formal public shooting range located along the I-90 corridor, approximately two miles south of Logan, Montana. If the easement application is approved, FWP will take additional steps toward development of the official shooting range. An appraisal is being completed to determine the cost of the easement. Cost estimates for development of the shooting range will be prepared once a design consultant is contracted. FWP would leverage federal Pittman-Robertson funding to purchase the proposed easement from DNRC and for development.

Public access to lands for the purpose of recreational shooting is limited in the Gallatin Valley and surrounding areas. In recent years, the property proposed for the easement has become a hub for recreational shooting in the area. Public safety concerns have arisen due to the considerable increase in use, the lack of permanent infrastructure, and the lack of regulation or oversight at the site. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Regarding the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: “When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement” (p. 10). The proposed Logan Public Shooting Range could fill the need for public access to land for recreational shooting in the Gallatin Valley while also addressing safety concerns.

The proposed shooting range would include a rifle range with targets located out to a maximum of 400 yards, separate lanes for pistol and short-range shooting, and an area for shotguns. The range would be designed and developed to separate shooting disciplines for safety purposes, prevent bullets from leaving respective ranges, and locate target areas so that each shooter is pointed in a safe direction.

Currently, a private individual holds a grazing lease on the affected property. However, FWP has reached an agreement with the lessee to compensate the lessee for the loss in grazing. Per discussion with the lessee, FWP would install perimeter fencing to prevent grazing within the proposed shooting range. If short term grazing becomes necessary to manage vegetation, the shooting range could be temporarily closed.

Affected Area / Location of Proposed Project

- Legal Description
 - Latitude/Longitude: 45°52'41"N 111°25'00"W
 - Section, Township, and Range: NW1/4 SE1/4, NE1/4 SE1/4, SE1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4, and SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 2 East
 - Town/City, County, Montana: Logan, Gallatin, Montana
- Location Map



Figure 1. Vicinity Map

III. General Setting of the Affected Environment

The analysis area for direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population resources analyzed by this Draft EA includes the DNRC parcel with a legal description: S36, T02 N, R02 E, ACRES 396.176, S2 & PT OF N2 LESS MS403, the unincorporated community of Logan, and more broadly, Gallatin County. Gallatin County encompasses 2,631 square miles, has a population of 126,409, and contains 17 cities (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Gallatin County Boundaries.

Physical Environment

The DNRC parcel encompasses 396 acres of classified grazing land. It consists of mostly rolling hills and agricultural land that is leased for grazing. There are multiple small drainages throughout the parcel for runoff. Gallatin County features a scenic and diverse landscape with many notable summits. The county is home to the Gallatin Range, Bridger Range, and the Spanish Peaks of the Madison Range. There are 121 named mountains in Gallatin County, the highest of which is Wilson Peak (10,696 ft). Gallatin County contains 2,632 sq. mi of beautiful river valleys and rocky canyons framed by rugged mountain ranges in southwestern Montana. The sprawling Gallatin Valley is flanked by the Bridger Range to the northeast and the Gallatin Range to the south. One of the most geologically unique spots in this region is the headwaters of the Missouri River. The Missouri River features several tributaries, including the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin rivers, all of which converge at the town of Three Forks. The Yellowstone River is a major tributary of the Missouri River and flows only 50 miles from the river's headwaters. Although close in distance, the two rivers are separated by mountains, and the Yellowstone does not converge with the Missouri for another 600 miles.

The lower elevations in Gallatin County are predominantly grasslands that feature sagebrush and a mixture of cottonwood and willow along the rivers. Douglas fir and aspen forests are also prevalent throughout the county. Thick forests of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, limber pine, lodgepole pine, and white bark pine typically line the entry to alpine zones in Gallatin County. The exceptional amount of flora in the region contributes to an area with dense wildlife populations in the county. Including Grizzly bears, black bears, coyotes, red foxes, mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, wolverines, wolves, elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats.

Human Population:

Gallatin County has a 2021 estimated human population of 127,880 across an area of 2,631 square miles. Within Gallatin County, 57,305 of the residents live within the city limits of Bozeman covering approximately 19 square miles. The City of Belgrade has a population of 12,509, and the City of Three Forks has 1,986. Gallatin County has seen a growth rate of 1.2% over the last year and is the second largest county by population in Montana. See Table 1 for listed information.

Table 1: Population Race and Percentages of Gallatin County

Race	Percent of Total Population (%)
White	89.8
Native American	0.6
Black	0.4
Hispanic	4.3
Asian	0.6
Other	4.4

Economics:

In Montana, the median household income is \$70,804. In comparison, the median household income for Gallatin County is \$91,158, and the median household income for the unincorporated community of Logan is \$108,479. Gallatin County's poverty rate is 10.6% where the State of Montana's poverty rate is 11.7%.

Land Ownership:

Gallatin County encompasses an area of 2,631 square miles or 1.7 million acres and is comprised of the following: 724,000 acres of federal lands or about 42%, 63,000 acres of State of Montana lands or about 3%, 907,000 acres is privately owned land or about 53%, and the remaining is miscellaneous government-owned lands.

Agriculture:

Gallatin County has 700,500 acres of agricultural land, which is 24% of the county's total land. The average farm size in Gallatin County is 624 acres. Gallatin County produces a variety of crops including hay, wheat, and barley. Cattle, sheep, and horses are also raised as part of agricultural activities.

Timber/Wood Products:

Most of Montana's forested lands (23 million acres) are located within the western part of the state. Nearly four million acres of these forest lands are permanently reserved as either wilderness areas or national parks. Eleven million acres of the remaining forested land is administered by the USFS, with 5.2 million acres of this public estate designated by current forest plans as suitable for timber production. Private forest lands occupy approximately 6 million acres, with 2 million owned and managed by large timber companies. Another four million acres of private forest lands are owned by some 11,000-plus individuals.

Mining:

Large mineral deposits, ranging from talc to gold, are located throughout western Montana. Of these, metallic minerals provide the largest share of Montana's non-fuel mining income, with copper, palladium, and platinum leading the list of important metals (the latter two being mined nowhere else in the United States). Gallatin County, Montana has 558 records of mining claims on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and 69 records of mining mines listed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Recreation:

Outdoor recreation and tourism are major components of Montana's economy, particularly in the mountainous western part of the state. Western Montana is nationally renowned for its high-quality fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, river floating, skiing, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing opportunities. Many of these outdoor activities are made possible by public ownership of large tracts of land and public access provided by land management agencies and private landowners. The proposed DNRC parcel currently provides recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, and other outdoor recreation activities. In recent years, the property proposed for the easement has become a hub for recreational shooting in the area. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Regarding the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: "When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement" (p. 10).

IV. Purpose and Need, Benefits of Proposed Project

The EA must include a description of the purpose and need or benefits of the proposed project. ARM 12.2.432(3)(b). Benefits of the proposed project refer to benefits to the resource, public, department, state, and/or other.

Public access to lands for the purpose of recreational shooting is limited in the Gallatin Valley and surrounding areas. In recent years, the property proposed for the easement has become a hub for recreational shooting in the area. Public safety concerns have arisen due to the considerable increase in use, the lack of permanent infrastructure, and the lack of regulation or oversight at the site. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Regarding the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: “When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement” (p. 10). The proposed Logan Public Shooting Range could fill the need for public access to land for recreational shooting in the Gallatin Valley while also addressing safety concerns.

The primary objectives for the proposed project are:

- To mitigate safety concerns from recreational shooting;
- To improve overall safety for recreational users of the affected site;
- To improve overall safety for nearby landowners;
- To reduce the introduction, spread, and accumulation of shooting-related trash/debris;
- To provide established infrastructure for safe and environmentally responsible recreational shooting; and,
- To encourage (and, as necessary, enforce) responsible recreational shooting practices on the site.

If FWP prepared a cost/benefit analysis before completion of the EA, the EA must contain the cost/benefit analysis or a reference to it. ARM 12.2.432(3)(b).

	Yes*	No
Was a cost/benefit analysis prepared for the proposed project?	☐	☒

* If yes, a copy of the cost/benefit analysis prepared for the proposed project is included in Attachment A to this Draft EA

V. Other Agency Regulatory Responsibilities

FWP must list any federal, state, and/or local agencies that have overlapping or additional jurisdiction, or environmental review responsibility for the proposed project, as well as permits, licenses, and other required authorizations. ARM 12.2.432(3)(c).

A list of other required local, state, and federal approvals, such as permits, certificates, and/or licenses from affected agencies can be found in Table 2. This information is also provided in *Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis*, as applicable, for any related past, present, and known future actions as they relate to the proposed action.

Table 2 provides a summary of state requirements but does not necessarily represent a complete and comprehensive list of all permits, certificates, or approvals needed. Rather, Table 2 lists the primary state agencies with regulatory responsibilities, the applicable regulation(s) and the purpose of the regulation(s). Agency decision-making is governed by state and federal laws, including statutes, rules, and regulations, that

form the legal basis for the conditions the proposed project must meet to obtain necessary permits, certificates, licenses, or other approvals. Further, these laws set forth the conditions under which each agency could deny the necessary approvals.

Table 2: Federal, State, and/or Local Regulatory Responsibilities

Agency	Type of Authorization (permit, license, stipulation, other)	Purpose
DNRC	Easement Approval	Permanent easement to allow FWP to establish formalized shooting range.
FWP	Damages due to current grazing lessee	Collaborate with current grazing lessee for damages due based on shooting range development.
SHPO/THPO	Guidance on effects of ground disturbance	Cultural Review & Cultural Survey
FWP	FWP integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan	Guidance for addressing and managing noxious weeds on FWP-managed properties.
FWP	Shooting Range Management Plan	Guidance for oversight and management of formalized shooting range.
DEQ	Lead Mitigation	Assist FWP in lead mitigation protocol.
EPA	Regulates lead remediation	Assist in lead mitigation protocol.

VI. List of Mitigations, Stipulations

Mitigations, stipulations, and other *enforceable* controls required by FWP, or another agency, may be relied upon to limit potential impacts associated with a proposed **p**Project. Table 3 lists and evaluates enforceable conditions FWP may rely on to limit potential impacts associated with the proposed Project. ARM 12.2.432(3)(g).

Table 3: Listing and Evaluation of Enforceable Mitigations Limiting Impacts

<i>Are enforceable controls limiting potential impacts of the proposed action? If not, no further evaluation is needed.</i>			Yes ☒	No ☐
<i>If yes, are these controls being relied upon to limit impacts below the level of significance? If yes, list the enforceable control(s) below</i>			Yes ☒	No ☐
Enforceable Control	Responsible Agency	Authority (Rule, Permit, Stipulation, Other)	Effect of Enforceable Control on Proposed Project	
Permit Issuance	Gallatin County	Approach Permit	To ensure public safety entering/exiting county road.	
Noxious Weeds	FWP	FWP Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan	Limit the potential for noxious weed infestation	

VII. Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed project (Alternative 2), and as required by MEPA, FWP analyzes the "No-Action" alternative (Alternative 1) in this EA. Under the "No Action" alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, no additional proposal-related impacts to the physical environment or human population (human environment) in the

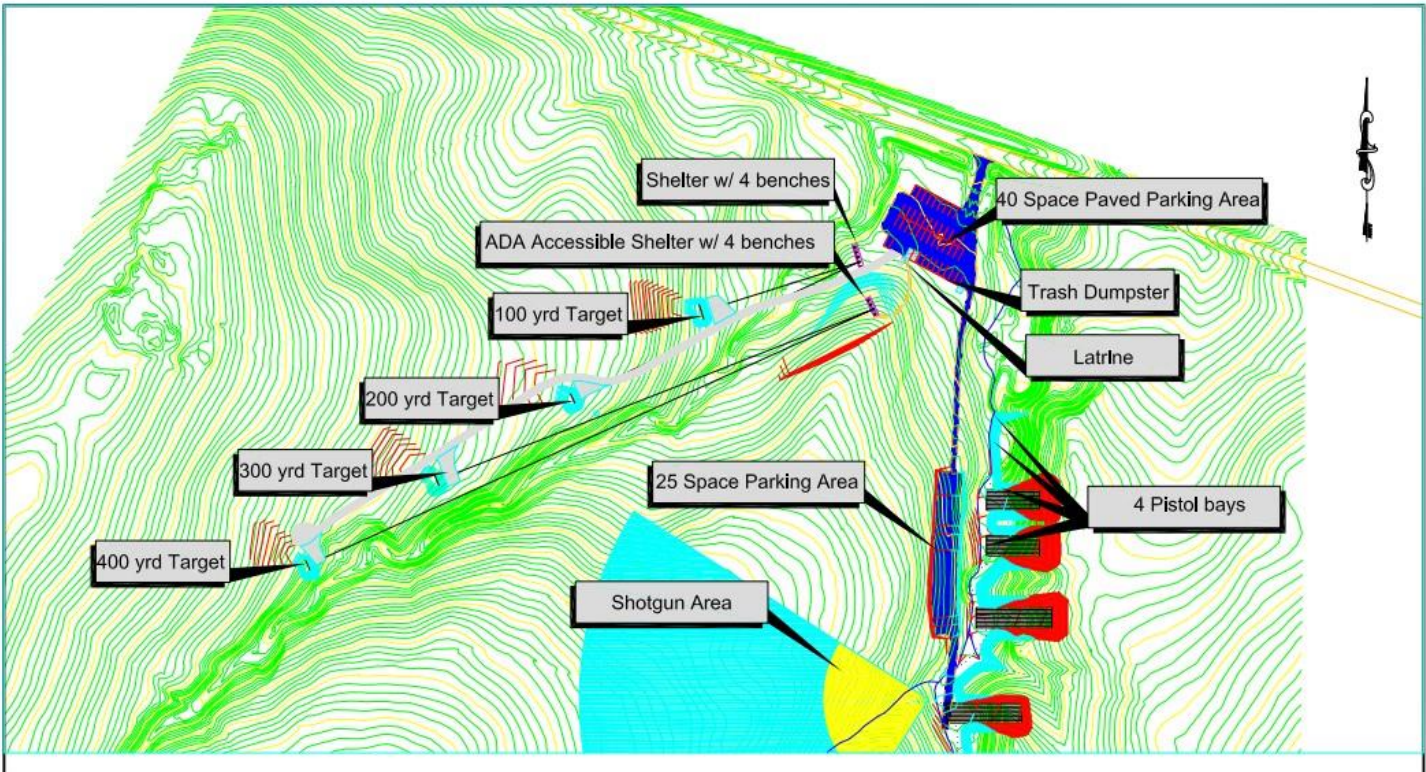
analysis area would occur. The “No Action” alternative forms the baseline from which the potential impacts of the proposed project can be measured.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, no additional proposal-related impacts to the physical environment or human population (human environment) 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.

Alternative 2: Proposed Project

Concept Design for Logan Public Shooting Range



	Yes*	No
Were any additional and reasonable alternatives considered?	☐	☒

	Yes*	No
Were any additional alternatives considered and dismissed for cause?	☐	☒

VIII. Terms Used to Describe Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment and Human Population

The impacts analysis identifies and evaluates **direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts**.

- **Direct impacts** are those that occur at the same time and place as the action that triggers the effect.
- **Secondary impacts** “are further impacts to the human environment that may be stimulated or induced by or otherwise result from a direct impact of the action.” ARM 12.2.429(18).
- **Cumulative impacts** “means the collective impacts on the human environment of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past and present actions related to the proposed action by location or generic type. Related future actions must also be considered when these actions are under concurrent consideration by any state agency through pre-impact statement studies, separate impact statement evaluation, or permit processing procedures.” ARM 12.2.429(7).

Where impacts are expected to occur, the impact analysis estimates the **extent, duration, frequency, and severity** of the impact. The duration of an impact is quantified as follows:

- **Short-Term:** impacts that would not last longer than the proposed project.
- **Long-Term:** impacts that would remain or occur following the proposed project.

The severity of an impact is measured using the following:

- **No Impact:** there would be no change from current conditions.
- **Negligible:** an adverse or beneficial effect would occur but would be at the lowest levels of detection.
- **Minor:** the effect would be noticeable but would be relatively small and would not affect the function or integrity of the resource.
- **Moderate:** the effect would be easily identifiable and would change the function or integrity of the resource.
- **Major:** the effect would irretrievably alter the resource.

Some impacts may require mitigation. As defined in ARM 12.2.429, mitigation means:

- Avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action or parts of a project;
- Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of a project and its implementation;
- Rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; or

- Reducing or eliminating an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of a project or the time period thereafter that an impact continues.

FWP may, as an alternative to preparing an EIS, prepare an EA whenever the action is one that might normally require an EIS, but effects which might otherwise be deemed significant appear to be mitigable below the level of significance through design, or enforceable controls or stipulations, or both, imposed by the agency or other government agencies. For an EA to suffice in this instance, the agency must determine that all the impacts of the proposed action have been accurately identified, that they will be mitigated below the level of significance, and that no significant impact is likely to occur. The agency may not consider compensation for purposes of determining that impacts have been mitigated below the level of significance. ARM 12.2.430(4).

A list of any mitigation strategies including, but not limited to, design, enforceable controls or stipulations, or both, as applicable to the proposed project is included in **Section VI** above.

IX. Determining the Significance of Impacts

If the EA identifies impacts associated with the proposed action FWP must determine the significance of the impacts. This determination forms the basis for FWP's decision as to whether it is necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement. FWP considered the criteria identified in **Table 4** below to determine the significance of each impact on the quality of the physical and human environment. ARM 12.2.431.

The significance determination is made by giving weight to these criteria in their totality. For example, impacts identified as moderate or major in severity may not be significant if the duration is short-term. However, moderate or major impacts of short-term duration may be significant if the quantity and quality of the resource is limited and/or the resource is unique or fragile. Further, moderate or major impacts to a resource may not be significant if the quantity of that resource is high or the quality of the resource is not unique or fragile.

Table 4: Determining the Significance of Impacts

Criteria Used to Determine Significance	
1	The severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the occurrence of the impact "Severity" describes the density of the potential impact, while "extent" describes the area where the impact will likely occur, e.g., a project may propagate ten noxious weeds on a surface area of 1 square foot. Here, the impact may be high in severity, but over a low extent. In contrast, if ten noxious weeds were distributed over ten acres, there may be low severity over a larger extent. "Duration" describes the time period during which an impact may occur, while "frequency" describes how often the impact may occur, e.g., an operation that uses lights to mine at night may have frequent lighting impacts during one season (duration).
2	The probability that the impact will occur if the proposed project occurs; or conversely, reasonable assurance in keeping with the potential severity of an impact that the impact will not occur
3	Growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, including the relationship or contribution of the impact to cumulative impacts
4	The quantity and quality of each environmental resource or value that would be affected, including the uniqueness and fragility of those resources and values
5	The importance to the state and to society of each environmental resource or value that would be affected

6	Any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed project that would commit FWP to future actions with significant impacts or a decision in principle about such future actions
7	Potential conflict with local, state, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans

X. Cumulative Impacts Analysis

For the purposes of MEPA, "cumulative impact" means the collective impacts on the human environment of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past and present actions related to the proposed action by location or generic type. Related future actions must also be considered when such actions are under concurrent consideration by any state agency through pre-impact statement studies, separate impact statement evaluation, or permit processing procedures. ARM 12.2.429(7).

"Action" means a project, program or activity directly undertaken by the agency; a project or activity supported through a contract, grant, subsidy, loan or other form of funding assistance from the agency, either singly or in combination with one or more other state agencies; or a project or activity involving the issuance of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or permission to act by the agency, either singly or in combination with other state agencies. ARM 12.2.429(1).

Under the "No Action" alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, no cumulative impacts to the affected human environment would occur. The "No Action" alternative forms the baseline from which the potential impacts of the proposed project are measured. For the purposes of the proposed project, the cumulative impacts analysis applies to all resources analyzed under Alternative 2, Proposed Project. See section XII.A and XII.B of this Draft EA.

The proposed project would improve access to lands for the purpose of recreational shooting, which is currently limited in the affected region. Federal and state agencies have closed nearby areas of public land to recreational shooting. There are three private shooting ranges in the Gallatin Valley at or near capacity that charge a variety of fees. Thus, the public is left with limited options. Therefore, the affected property has become a primary hub for recreational shooters in the region. The influx of recreational shooters, a lack of permanent infrastructure, and a lack of enforcement led to major safety concerns at the ad-hoc shooting range. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Specific to the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: "When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement" (p. 10). The proposed Logan Public Shooting Range could fill the need for public access to land for recreational shooting in the Gallatin Valley while also addressing safety concerns. A formalized shooting range with properly set up facilities will provide a safer environment for recreational shooters. This proposed project will also allow for better enforcement from DNRC and FWP. A formalized shooting range will lead to less litter and give the area increased aesthetic appeal. No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed project; however, cumulative impacts would occur.

The information below identifies past, present, and future actions (i.e., activities to be considered by the cumulative impacts analysis) related to the proposed action by location or generic type. Actions considered in these analyses were identified by FWP and other subject matter experts. Past and present actions are accounted for as part of the existing, or "baseline," environmental conditions. MEPA is forward-looking, with analyses focused on the potential impacts of the proposed action with consideration for any past, present, or future related actions.

Related Past, Present, and Future State Actions:

Past, Present, and Future Related MEPA Review

The following list identifies environmental review conducted to assess potential impacts to the affected human environment from past, present, and known future related projects or actions. Past and present actions are accounted for as part of the existing, or “baseline,” environmental conditions of the affected human environment prior to approval and implementation of the proposed project, and any known future related project(s). FWP is unaware of any future related actions that would cumulatively impact the affected human environment with consideration for the proposed project and/or any of the past and present actions listed below:

- [LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY/ALL PAST, PRESENT, AND KNOWN FUTURE *RELATED* MEPA/NEPA REVIEW AND ANY CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION HERE]

MEPA DIRECTORY: FOR FURTHER INSIGHTS REFERENCE EXAMPLE SEA’S LOCATED IN THE MEPA DIRECTORY. LOG IN AT [HTTPS://APPS.FWP.MT.GOV/](https://apps.fwp.mt.gov/) AND CLICK FORMS & POLICIES/MEPA/GUIDANCE AND POLICY/EXAMPLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS/STANDARD EA/...

As noted, none of the project-specific environmental review documents cited above identified the potential for significant adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, to the affected human environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS-level MEPA review was not required, and each project was approved through EA-level MEPA review. With consideration for potential impacts from the proposed project, FWP determined that no significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed project. For additional information see the resource-specific impacts analyses contained in the section of the Draft EA titled “Evaluation and Summary of Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment and Human Population,” for the proposed action and any alternatives to the proposed action.

Permits, Leases, Licenses, and other Authorizations

- Grazing lease with Craig DeBoer – C-T Red Angus. A Notice of Settlement of Damages form has been established with C-T Red Angus to compensate for the loss of grazing acreage.
- There may be requirements from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency associated with lead remediation.

Memorandums of Understanding and other Formal Agreements

- Proposed Recreation Easement between FWP and DNRC for public shooting range.

Guiding Documents

Further, several guided documents inform, have informed, and will continue to inform actions such as the proposed action. These guiding documents outline strategies and considerations for taking management action and addressing any potential impacts from such management actions. These guiding documents, and affected regulatory entities, include the following:

Again, the guiding documents identified above outline strategies and considerations for taking management action to address potential adverse impacts from such management actions and thereby ensure the proposed project is conducted in a consistent manner with limiting the potential for adverse cumulative impacts. Therefore, no significant

adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed project. For additional information see the resource-specific impacts analysis contained in sections XII.A and XII.B of this Draft EA.

XI. Alternative 1: No Action. Evaluation and Summary of Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment and Human Population

Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, no additional proposal-related impacts to the physical or human environment 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.

XII. Alternative 2: Proposed Project. Evaluation and Summary of Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment and Human Population

A. Evaluation and Summary of Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial, Avian, and Aquatic Life and Habitats

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed Logan Shooting Range site is predominantly Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland which is surrounded by Cultivated Cropland. These grasslands are like Big Sagebrush Steppe but are defined by shorter summers, colder winters, and young soils derived from recent glacial and alluvial material. Several species of fish have been documented in the Gallatin River, which is approximately one mile from the site, including Rainbow and Brown Trout, Mountain Whitefish, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. Over 50 different avian species, three reptile species, and seven mammal species have been observed in the vicinity. Most of the proposed easement has previously been used for periodic grazing and as a pioneered shooting range.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life and habitats would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development activities. Heavy equipment operation may adversely impact some wildlife species. These activities may result in the temporary displacement of terrestrial and avian species as this work would be outside of the typical activity that occurs on the property. Any direct impacts to terrestrial, avian life, and habitats associated with development of the property would be short-term, minor, and not significantly adverse.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. If the property were to be acquired and developed as a public shooting range, FWP would anticipate some secondary impacts to terrestrial, avian life, and habitats. As part of the development process, FWP would propose keeping as much undisturbed ground as possible and transitioning most existing cropland to native vegetation. The most significant change would be an anticipated increase in site visitation. Under current ownership, the public has access to the land for recreation purposes. DNRC recently restricted recreational shooting, limiting its use as a pioneered shooting range. The development of this site would provide directional shooting and guided visitation use.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative): The subject property is situated approximately 1 mile south of the Gallatin River. There is Emergent and Scrub-Shrub wetlands that have temporarily flooded or seasonally flood. Within the proposed easement, there are two intermittent streams. One intermittent stream is located near the middle of the property and flows in a north easterly direction and the other is located on the east side of the property and flows to the north.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Construction or development work is anticipated to occur during summer months and would not take place during times of active flow in the intermittent streams. There is no current direct source of water to these intermittent streams, so they remain dry for long periods of time.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. FWP would design the shooting range to avoid contaminating the intermittent streams.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

3. Geology

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The area around Logan, Montana, features a geological landscape dominated by Proterozoic sedimentary rocks. These rocks, dating back to the Proterozoic era, are found in the Rocky Mountains and extend toward the west. Logan, Montana consists of yellowish-gray and grayish-red argillaceous limestone and shale breccia. Dolomitic shale, siltstone, and silty dolomite also exist at lower depths.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to geology would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. There are no unique geologic features located within the proposed easement boundaries. Development on the property may cause short term, minor, non-significant adverse impacts to localized geology.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to geology would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. There are no known unique geologic features exist within the proposed easement boundaries. Beyond the potential for adverse direct impacts, as identified above, no additional impacts to geology would be expected.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. No important or unique geologic features exist within the footprint of the proposed acquisition. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

4. Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The dominant soil series in the proposed easement is the Logan series, characterized as very deep, poorly drained, and slowly permeable. These soils are typically found on flood plains, low lake terraces, and stream terraces, formed from alluvium and lake sediments, primarily derived from quartzite, sandstone, and limestone gneiss. Soils in the Logan area consist mainly of Ryell silt loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (4A), Kalsted sandy loam with 4 to 8 percent slopes (35C), and ChinookKalsted sandy loams with 8 to 15 percent slopes (438D). The limitation of Kalsted soils is lime content. Both Kalsted and Chinook soils are susceptible to soil and water erosion.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to soil quality, stability, and moisture would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. This area has been heavily used as a pioneered shooting range. Minor vegetation would be removed from the shooting lanes for fire mitigation, and dirt that is removed would be re-used for building safety berms behind targets. Minor earthwork such as surface leveling would also take place. Heavier equipment would be used to compact and build up berms around necessary areas. Visitors to the site can access any area by non-motorized use.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to soil quality, stability, and moisture would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. After site development, natural occurring plants and vegetation would help with soil quality and stability. Areas of visitor use would be armored and stabilized to prevent unintended degradation.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis

5. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The existing vegetation cover is primarily valley grassland and foothill grassland. This area has primarily been utilized for cultivated crops or cattle grazing.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to vegetation cover, quantity, and quality would be expected because of the proposed acquisition. Minor scraper work to clear vegetation in the shooting lanes would take place for fire mitigation. Soil that is removed for leveling and infrastructure would be placed in areas that need to be built up for safety mitigations. Shooting lanes will remain vegetation free due to fire hazard. Weed and vegetation treatment would be necessary after initial construction. Areas that were disturbed would be allowed to revegetate naturally and seeded if deemed necessary. Reseeding will be completed using DNRC recommended seed mix.

Secondary Impacts:

Secondary impacts may be expected to vegetation cover, quantity, and quality because of the proposed development. Existing vegetation would be removed and replaced with gravel and other materials that are not subject to fire in the shooting lanes and wherever shooting activities are taking place. Areas that are not directly tied to shooting activities will remain natural and left to regenerate. If necessary, replanting may occur in areas that were disturbed by construction.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts to vegetation cover, quantity, and quality would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

6. Aesthetics

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed property is comprised of rolling hills with cultivated cropland and prairie grass. Located directly to the north is Interstate 90 and a county frontage road. The county landfill is located directly adjacent to the east. There has been shooting remnants and garbage located on the property as the property is used as an informal shooting range.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to aesthetics would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Construction activities associated with the development of the property would result in adverse direct impacts due to increased levels of noise, odors, fugitive dust, the presence of equipment, and construction materials. However, these impacts would be temporary and minor. The development of infrastructure will have long term, direct impacts to the aesthetics. Noise pollution from recreational shooting is not expected to change. Therefore, there would not be any direct impacts from noise.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant, adverse secondary impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. This area is consistently being used as a pioneered shooting range with debris and garbage being left behind. Development of the site could improve the overall aesthetics by keeping the area organized and clean.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts to aesthetics would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development.

7. Air Quality

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed property is within the Upper Missouri River Valley airshed. As part of a valley system, this area can experience winter temperature inversions, which may trap pollutants near the ground. Air quality may be affected by vehicular traffic in the area.

Direct Impacts: The proposed action would not result in significant adverse direct climate change impacts. During the development phase, short-term direct impacts are expected due to airborne dust and dirt from the use of heavy equipment.

Secondary Impacts: The proposed action would not result in significant adverse secondary climate change impacts. Any impacts of the proposed action would be consistent with current impacts (i.e., the no action alternative).

Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action would not result in significant adverse cumulative climate change impacts. Any impacts of the proposed action would be consistent with current impacts (i.e., the no action alternative).

8. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

According to the Montana Natural Heritage Program database, seven species of concern have been identified within the area of interest. This list includes two plants species (annual indian paintbrush and annual muhly) and five bird species (long-billed curlew, bald eagle, veery, great blue heron, and golden eagle). These species have been identified nearby, but not specifically in the area of interest.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Species of concern have been identified nearby, but not specifically within the area of interest. During the construction phase, if any species of concern are encountered, they will be avoided. High human visitation and consistent use of firearms in the vicinity has been occurring in this area for many years.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. FWP anticipates that the acquisition and development of the property would lead to increased visitation to the site. The increased amount of visitation is unpredictable. Given the history of recreational shooting and visitation to this site, it is unlikely that development and better management of the site would have any significant long-term impacts.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

Significant historical and archaeological findings have been found in surrounding areas of Logan, Montana. In alignment with the Montana Antiquities Act and related regulations, FWP would complete a cultural resource assessment prior to any development. Where indicated, cultural resource inventories including pedestrian survey and/or subsurface testing will occur through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. The process for cultural resource inventory and consultation is outlined in Administrative Rules 12.8.501-12.8.510. FWP also consults with all Tribal Historic Preservation Offices affiliated with each park in accordance with FWP's tribal consultation guidelines. The cultural resource inventory and consultation with the SHPO and relevant Tribal Historic Preservation Offices will determine whether cultural resource monitoring is required during implementation.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to historical and archaeological sites would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. In alignment with the Montana Antiquities Act and related regulations (12.8.501-12.8.510), all undertakings on state lands are assessed by a qualified archaeologist for their potential to affect cultural resources. The process for this assessment may include a cultural resource inventory and evaluation of cultural resources within or near the project area, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). FWP also consults with all Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) affiliated with each affected property in accordance with FWP's Tribal Consultation Guidelines. If cultural resources within or near the project area are recorded that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, they will be protected from adverse effects through adjustments to the project design or cancellation of the project if no design alternatives are available. If cultural resources are unexpectedly discovered during project implementation, FWP will cease implementation, and contact FWP's Heritage Program and/or SHPO and affected THPOs for further evaluation. Before any development work would begin, a cultural survey of the areas where developments have been proposed would be completed to ensure that the developments would not disturb historical or archaeological artifacts.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to historic and archaeological sites would be expected because of the proposed project. In alignment with the Montana Antiquities Act and related regulations (12.8.501- 31 Project ID: FWP-SEA-POR-R4-24-001 12.8.510), all undertakings on state lands are assessed by a qualified archaeologist or historian for their potential to affect cultural resources. The process for this assessment may include a cultural resource inventory and evaluation of cultural resources within or near the project area, in consultation with the SHPO. FWP also consults with all THPOs affiliated with each affected property in accordance with FWP's Tribal Consultation Guidelines. If cultural resources within or near the project area are recorded that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, they will be protected from adverse effects through adjustments to the project design or cancellation of the project if no design alternatives are available. If cultural resources are unexpectedly discovered during project implementation, FWP will cease implementation, and contact FWP's Heritage Program and/or SHPO and affected THPOs for further evaluation.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

10. Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, Air, and Energy

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed easement is not permanently inhabited by humans and only occasionally grazed by cattle. There is no irrigation system for this area as grazing land is irrigated by natural precipitation.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, and energy would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Equipment and vehicles used for development would use fuel to complete the project. However, the length of construction would be relatively short. Through the analyses of potential direct impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution; soil quality, stability, and moisture; vegetation cover, quantity, and quality; and air quality; some adverse impacts to the environmental resources of water, land, and air may occur because of the proposed development.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, and energy would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. As identified previously through the analyses of potential secondary impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution; soil quality, stability, and moisture; vegetation cover, quantity, and quality; and air quality; some adverse and some beneficial secondary impacts to the environmental resources of water, land, and air may occur because of the proposed project. However, as noted previously, any such secondary impacts would be short-term, negligible to minor, and adequately mitigated. This site will not require electrical hookups or have power to its infrastructure. Pit toilets or portable toilets will be utilized so there will not be a demand for a water source at the site.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

B. Evaluation and Summary of Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Human Environment

1. Social Structures and Mores

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed easement is within Gallatin County, about 27 miles west of Bozeman, Montana. This land is owned and managed by DNRC and has been used for grazing and recreational use. For many years this area has been used as a pioneered shooting range by the public. Recent closures on public land for

recreational shooting by other public agencies has placed a high demand on this area. Multiple working groups have tried to define an area where the public can shoot recreationally on public land for many years in this region, and the location of the proposed easement has been widely recognized to be the most feasible location for a new developed public shooting range. At the same time, some members of the public have safety concerns. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Specific to the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: “When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement” (p. 10). The proposed Logan Public Shooting Range could fill the need for public access to land for recreational shooting in the Gallatin Valley while also addressing safety concerns.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to social structures and mores would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The acquisition of the property itself would potentially impact social structures and mores due to the differences in FWP’s management practices as compared to DNRC. Previous use for target shooting had been unstructured. Recently, DNRC restricted recreational shooting in the area. If FWP acquires an easement, the property would be developed into an official recreational shooting range open to the public. Direct impacts from the proposed acquisition and development of an official shooting range on social structures and mores would be variable depending on the individual. The direct impacts would range between short- and long-term and negligible to moderate.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to pre-project social structures and mores would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Visitation to the site would likely continue to increase throughout the future. Increasing visitation to the proposed site may decrease recreational shooting at other informal shooting sites in the area. This site could provide a place that families come together to learn to shoot and teach others. There is potential for firearm safety classes and other education.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

See Section III, General Setting of the Affected Environment, for more detailed information related to the affected existing environment.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to cultural uniqueness and diversity would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The proposed easement on the property itself could potentially impact cultural uniqueness and diversity. Securing a recreational easement would allow

continued access to public land for the purpose of recreational shooting. Providing a safe public shooting range here would keep this public land open for users.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to cultural uniqueness and diversity would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. No secondary impacts to the pre-project cultural uniqueness and diversity of the affected area would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

3. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

Existing Environment (No Action Alternative):

Gallatin County and the surrounding area offers great access to public land and recreational opportunity. However, access to public land for recreational shooting is extremely limited. Over the last five years, most surrounding public land has been closed to recreational target shooting. Multiple working groups have tried to identify an area for an official public shooting range, and the location of the proposed easement has been widely recognized to be the most feasible location for a new developed public shooting range.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts would occur to access and quality of recreational and wilderness activities would be expected because of the proposed easement acquisition. FWP would close public access to the proposed easement during development but would work to close the site for the least amount of time possible. FWP would seek to develop the property outside of anticipated periods of heavy use, such as hunting season.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts would occur to access and quality of recreational and wilderness activities would be expected because of the proposed easement acquisition. Development of the site would provide a cleaner, more established recreational shooting range for the public. The development would also foster a safer experience for visitors to the site. This would be a beneficial impact because of the higher quality experience and features that development would provide.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

4. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed easement is part of a 396-acre parcel owned by DNRC. In 2024, Gallatin County identified the property as Exempt Grazing Land. DNRC does not pay property taxes on State Trust Lands to any entity.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to access to Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue would be expected because of the proposed easement and development. DNRC does not pay property tax on the parcel and that would not change because of the proposed easement and development.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to access to Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue would be expected because of the proposed easement and development. DNRC does not pay property tax on the parcel and that would not change because of the proposed easement and development.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

5. Industrial, Commercial, and Agricultural Activities and Production

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

Intermittent cattle grazing does occur on the proposed acquisition. According to current grazing lessee, cattle are present 1-2 times per year for short periods of time. There is also a cultivated parcel located to the south of the proposed easement boundary. Red Tiger Drilling is located approximately one mile to the west of the proposed easement, and the county landfill borders the property to the east.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to access to Industrial, Commercial, and Agricultural Activities and Production would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The department has negotiated a settlement of damages with the grazing lessee for the loss of grazing due to the proposed easement. The lessee has the option to graze for short periods if needed for fuel mitigation. There would be minor, long-term impacts due to the loss of grazing. Although, the lessee only grazed cattle 1-2 times per year. Development would move parking off the frontage road and into a parking lot. This would be a long-term and beneficial impact. It's possible there would be impacts during the construction and development stage of the proposed project. The transportation of equipment and materials may impact traffic on the frontage road. These impacts will be negligible and short-term.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to access to Industrial, Commercial, and Agricultural Activities and Production would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

6. Human Health and Safety

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed location is currently being used as a pioneered shooting range by the public. Without a formalized shooting range, users can shoot in any direction at any distance. At any given time, there are multiple users onsite shooting in different directions without safety mitigations in place. On July 1, 2025, DNRC granted a petition to close land adjacent to the proposed project to recreational shooting. DNRC also decided to keep the area proposed for the Logan Public Shooting Range open to recreational shooting subject to seasonal closures and other restrictions. Specific to the proposed easement for the Logan Public Shooting Range, DNRC stated: "When/if the Easement Application is approved by the Land Board, this Decision would doubtless need to yield to the parameters of any such easement" (p. 10). The proposed Logan Public Shooting Range could fill the need for public access to land for recreational shooting in the Gallatin Valley while also addressing safety concerns. There are currently no mitigations in place for lead collection or garbage disposal.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to access to Human Health and Safety would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Minor and temporary impacts to human health and safety are possible during the development of the proposed project due to project operations and increased construction traffic. FWP would temporarily close the site to the public to alleviate potential adverse effects.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to access to Human Health and Safety would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The shooting range, including designated shooting lanes and backstops, would be designed to improve safety for the public. Additionally, FWP would implement rules and restrictions following best management practices for shooting range safety. The proposed design and operations plan would provide for periodic lead testing and remediation. This would ensure proper management of lead levels to prevent public exposure. Therefore, any impact would be beneficial.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The majority of Gallatin County's workforce is employed in four industries: retail trade, accommodation and food service, construction, health care and social assistance. The average annual salary in Gallatin County is \$52,000 and the median household income is around \$87,000.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to access to quantity and distribution of employment would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The development phase could potentially bring employment from local contractors or development firms. These impacts would be short-term and negligible.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to access to quantity and distribution of employment would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. There may be the potential for contracted services after development is complete such as trash removal, target maintenance, and cleaning of facilities. These impacts could be long-term but negligible.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

8. Density and Distribution of Human Population and Housing

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The proposed property is located directly south of Interstate 90, southeast of Logan, MT. There are a few homes located near the project site, but it is mainly surrounded by public land.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to the density and distribution of human population and housing in the affected area would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The development of the property itself would not result in significant direct adverse impacts to the density and distribution of human population and housing in the affected area. The property is not currently inhabited and would not be in the future due to current ownership.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to the density and distribution of human population and housing in the affected area would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. The acquisition and development of the property would not likely result in the immigration or emigration of long-term residents to or from the affected area. There is no plan to have permanent staff or residency on the proposed development.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

9. Demands for Government Services

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

The DNRC land south of 2 Dog Road and east of Buffalo Jump Road is patrolled on a roaming basis by FWP game wardens and county law enforcement. This is due to heavy recreational use and potential conflict.

Direct Impacts:

No significant adverse direct impacts to the demand for government services in the affected area would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. Continued patrols and observation

of the proposed property would remain the same. An increase in visitation from regional FWP maintenance staff would also likely occur. Routine maintenance and occasional projects will likely be performed by FWP staff. FWP will have a development plan for routine maintenance which will better describe the agency's roll in operations.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant adverse secondary impacts to the demand for government services in the affected area would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. If a large increase in visitation to the site was to occur, there may be more of a demand for law enforcement presence at heavy use times.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

10. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Existing Environment/Baseline Conditions (No Action Alternative):

See Section III, General Setting of the Affected Environment (statewide), for more detailed information related to the affected existing environment.

Direct Impacts:

No direct impacts to locally adopted environmental plans and goals would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development.

Secondary Impacts:

No significant, adverse secondary impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. At this time, FWP is unaware of any other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that may be impacted by the proposed acquisition and development.

Cumulative Impacts:

No significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected because of the proposed acquisition and development. For a more detailed discussion of potential cumulative impacts see Section X, Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

XIII. Private Property Impact Analysis (Takings)

The 54th Montana Legislature enacted the Private Property Assessment Act, now found at § 2-10-101. The intent was to establish an orderly and consistent process by which state agencies evaluate their proposed projects under the "Takings Clauses" of the United States and Montana Constitutions. The Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution provides: "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." Similarly, Article II, Section 29 of the Montana Constitution provides: "Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation..."

The Private Property Assessment Act applies to proposed agency projects pertaining to land or water management or to some other environmental matter that, if adopted and enforced without due process of law and just compensation, would

constitute a deprivation of private property in violation of the United States or Montana Constitutions.

The Montana State Attorney General's Office has developed guidelines for use by state agencies to assess the impact of a proposed agency project on private property. The assessment process includes a careful review of all issues identified in the Attorney General's guidance document (Montana Department of Justice 1997). If the use of the guidelines and checklist indicates that a proposed agency project has taking or damaging implications, the agency must prepare an impact assessment in accordance with Section 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act. The Private Property Assessment Checklist can be found in Table 4.

Table 4: Private Property Assessment Act (Taking and Damaging Assessment)

PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST			
Does the Proposed Action Have Takings Implications under the PPAA?	Question #	Yes	No
Does the project pertain to land or water management or environmental regulations affecting private property or water rights?	1	☐	☒
Does the action result in either a permanent or an indefinite physical occupation of private property?	2	☐	☒
Does the action deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of the property?	3	☐	☒
Does the action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or to grant an easement? (If answer is NO, skip questions 4a and 4b and continue with question 6.)	4	☐	☒
Is there a reasonable, specific connection between the government requirement and legitimate state interest?	4a	☐	☐
Is the government requirement roughly proportional to the impact of the proposed use of the property?	4b	☐	☐
Does the action deny a fundamental attribute of ownership?	5	☐	☒
Does the action have a severe impact of the value of the property?	6	☐	☒
Does the action damage the property by causing some physical disturbance with respect to the property in excess of that sustained by the public general? (If the answer is NO, skip questions 7a-7c.)	7	☐	☒
Is the impact of government action direct, peculiar, and significant?	7a	☐	☐
Has the government action resulted in the property becoming practically inaccessible, waterlogged, or flooded?	7b	☐	☐
Has the government action diminished property values by more than 30% and necessitated the physical taking of adjacent property or property across a public way from the property in question?	7c	☐	☐
Does the proposed action result in taking or damaging implications?		☐	☒
Taking or damaging implications exist if YES is checked in response to Question 1 and also to any one or more of the following questions: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 7c; or if NO is checked in response to question 4a or 4b.			
If taking or damaging implications exist, the agency must comply with MCA § 2-10-105 of the PPAA, to include the preparation of a taking or damaging impact assessment. Normally, the preparation of an impact assessment will require consultation with agency legal staff.			
Alternatives: The analysis under the Private Property Assessment Act, §§ 2-10-101-112, MCA, indicates no impact. FWP does not plan to impose conditions that would restrict the regulated person's use of private property to constitute a taking.			

XIV. Public Participation

Scoping

Scoping provides an opportunity for public and agency involvement during the early planning stages of the analysis. The intent of the scoping process is to gather comments, concerns, and ideas from those who have an interest in or who may be affected by the *Proposed Action*. Several strategies were used to inform the public about and solicit comments on the *Proposed Action*. These strategies included:

- Press release was sent to 14,401 people and organizations including more than 200 media outlets across Montana covering television, radio, online, and print; Fish and Wildlife Commissioners; Parks and Recreation Board members; legislators; regional Citizen Advisory Council members; FWP staff; and members of the public subscribed to topics including public comment opportunities and recreation news.
- FWP has met with local clubs and businesses to discuss the scope of the project
- Scoping Notice was sent to interested parties and adjacent landowners (See appendix “I” for a summary of scoping notice comments)

Scoping also includes efforts to engage internal and affected external agencies. For the proposed project, these scoping efforts included queries to the following agency websites/databases/personnel:

- Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Montana Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC)
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- County Jurisdiction
- USGS National Hydrography Data
- Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Montana Cadastral Data
- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Data
- US Department of the Interior
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service

Public Review of Environmental Assessments

The level of analysis in an EA will vary with the complexity and seriousness of environmental issues associated with a proposed action. The level of public interest will also vary. FWP is responsible for adjusting public review to match these factors (ARM 12.2.433(1)). For the proposed project, FWP determined the following public notice strategy will provide an appropriate level of public review:

- An EA is a public document and may be inspected upon request. Any person may obtain a copy of an EA by making a request to FWP.
- Public notice will be posted on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website at: <https://fwp.mt.gov/public-notices>.
- Public notice will be posted on the Montana Environmental Quality Council’s or EQC MEPA website at: <https://leg.mt.gov/mepa/search/>.

- As applicable, copies will be distributed to neighboring landowners to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project and opportunity for review and comment on the proposed action.
- FWP maintains a mailing list of persons interested in a particular action or type of action. FWP will notify all interested persons and distribute copies of the EA to those persons for review and comment (ARM 12.2.433(3)).

Public notice announces availability of the Draft EA for public review, summarizes the proposed project, identifies the time-period available for public comment, and provides direction for submitting comments.

- **Duration of Public Comment Period:** The public comment period begins on the date of publication of legal notice in area newspapers (see above). Written or e-mailed comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Mountain Time, on the last day of the public comment period for the proposed action, as listed below:

Length of Public Comment Period: 30 days

Public Comment Period Begins: February 26, 2026

Public Comment Period Ends: March 28, 2026

Comments must be addressed to the FWP contact listed below.

- **Where to Mail or Email Comments on the Draft EA:**

Name: SAMUEL HOGGATT

Email: Samuel.hoggatt@mt.gov

Mailing Address: ATTN: Samuel Hoggatt

1420 E. 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59601

XV. Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis

NO further analysis is needed for the proposed action	☒
FWP must conduct EIS level review for the proposed action	☐

XVI. EA Preparation and Review

	Name	Title
EA prepared by:	Samuel Hoggatt	Program Manager
EA reviewed by:	Renee Lemon	Division Administrator

Appendix I

FWP conducted a public scoping notice between March 24, 2025 and April 23, 2025 related to the proposed easement and development of a public shooting range near Logan, MT. Within the time frame, FWP received 104 public comments. Below is a summary of the public comments received.

Summary of Public Comments on the Logan Shooting Range Proposal

Topic	Information
Public Safety	Supporters believe a formal range will reduce unsafe shooting practices on public lands, minimize the risk of stray bullets, and help prevent accidents. Some believe that a new range will not solve issues of stray bullets or unsafe behavior, and may even draw more shooters to the area, increasing risks. Residents near the proposed site express strong concerns about increased noise pollution, citing impacts on quality of life and mental health. Comments also mention fire danger from shooting activities, especially with Tannerite or during dry conditions.
Accessibility	Many supporters cite the lack of public shooting ranges in the Gallatin Valley and the need for a safe, regulated environment for recreational shooting, hunting practice, and firearm education. There is frustration over private ranges being at capacity or requiring memberships, making a public option desirable. Rapid growth in the Bozeman area is increasing pressure on existing facilities and public lands, making additional infrastructure necessary.
Community & Education	Some comments highlight the benefits for families, youth, and new shooters, including opportunities for hunter safety courses and community events.
Environmental	Several comments note that a formal range could help reduce litter and environmental damage caused by informal shooting areas.
Land Use	Some comments express concerns related to loss of grazing land and potential for fires caused by shooting activities. Some believe it is unfair for state land to be used for a range that may primarily benefit a subset of the population, or that it gives an advantage over privately funded ranges.
Maintenance	Some comments raise questions about continued littering and want assurances of regular cleanup, enforcement, and maintenance.
Funding & Management	Some comments relate to the use of state funds and public land for a shooting range, suggesting private funding or partnerships with existing clubs. There is skepticism about FWP's ability to manage the facility effectively and sustainably.

Conclusion

The majority of public comments are supportive of the Logan Shooting Range proposal, emphasizing the need for a safe, accessible, and well-managed facility in the growing Gallatin Valley. However, there is substantial opposition and concern, particularly from nearby residents and land users, focused on noise, safety, environmental impacts, and

questions of funding and management. Many supporters and opponents alike stress the importance of strong oversight, regular maintenance, and community involvement to ensure the range is a benefit rather than a burden.