

APPENDIX A - LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS REQUIRED

LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS REQUIRED

A.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This EA has been prepared under the provisions of, and in accordance with the NEPA, the CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, and VA's regulations for implementing NEPA (38 CFR Part 26). In addition, the EA has been prepared as prescribed in VA's *NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects* (VA 2010). Federal, state, and local laws and regulations specifically applicable to this Proposed Action are identified, where appropriate, within this EA, and include:

- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (7 USC 136; 16 USC 1531 et seq.).
- Energy Independence Security Act Section 438.
- Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* (24 May 1977).
- Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands* (24 May 1977).
- Executive Order 12898, *Environmental Justice* (11 February 1994).
- Executive Order 13112, *Invasive Species* (8 February 1999).
- Executive Order 13834, *Efficient Federal Operations* (17 May 2018).
- Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201, et seq.)
- Federal Clean Air Act of 1990 (42 USC 7401 et seq., as amended).
- Federal Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) of 1948, as amended (1972, 1977) (33 USC 1251 et seq.); Sections 401 and 404.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; 16 USC 703-712, 3 July 1918; as amended 1936, 1960, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1986, and 1989).
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as amended (25 USC 3001 et seq.).
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (36 CFR Part 800).
- Noise Control Act of 1972, Noise Control.
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Title 12 (Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), Chapter 5 (Resource Protection).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Title 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 8 (Air Quality).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 30 (Water Quality).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 53 (Hazardous Waste).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 54 (Hazardous Waste Management).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Title 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 56 (Underground Storage Tanks Petroleum and Chemical Substances).

- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Title 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 57 (Aboveground Storage Tanks).
- Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Title 17 (Environmental Quality), Chapter 74 (Asbestos Control).
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 75 (Environmental Protection), Chapter 2 (Air Quality).
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 75 (Environmental Protection), Chapter 5 (Water Quality).
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 75 (Environmental Protection), Chapter 10 (Waste and Litter Control), Part 4 (Hazardous Waste Management).
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 75 (Environmental Protection), Chapter 11 (Underground Storage Tanks).
- Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Title 87 (Fish and Wildlife), Chapter 5 (Wildlife Protection).
- Lewis and Clark County Ordinances (LCCO).
- Lewis and Clark County Outdoor Air Quality Regulations.
- Lewis and Clark County Resolution 2019-20.
- Lewis and Clark County Resolution 2019-21.
- Lewis and Clark County Zoning Regulations.
- City Code of Helena, Title 6 (Public Utilities), Chapter 4 (Industrial Wastewater Regulations).

A.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS REQUIRED

In addition to the regulatory framework of NEPA, the CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR Part 26), and VA's *NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects*, the following federal, state, and/or local environmental permits that may be required as part of this Proposed Action include:

- MTDEQ administered MPDES permit for construction activities.
- MTDEQ Air Quality Bureau Asbestos/Demolition Notification.
- MTDEQ Air Quality Bureau permit (stationary source permit) for air emissions from new emergency generators, boilers, and other equipment.
- MTDEQ registration for new emergency generator and/or CUP ASTs and USTs.
- Modification of the existing Fort Harrison VAMC MTDEQ Public Water System permit.

APPENDIX B – AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:45 PM
To: robert_tjomsland@fws.gov; mccoymelissa@epa.gov; NE404Reg@usace.army.mil; rebecka.ayre@usda.gov; snowakowski@mt.gov; asteinmetz@mt.gov; lindsey.krywaruchka2@mt.gov; myoshioka@mt.gov; MVAD@mt.gov; bmaxell@mt.gov; anna.pakenhamstevenson@mt.gov; hrichards@mt.gov; mbostrom2@mt.gov; jwingerter@mt.gov; charles.brereton@mt.gov; pscmedia@mt.gov; planning@lccountymt.gov; jchambers@lccountymt.gov; kmoore@lccountymt.gov; cbrink@helenamt.gov; ryan.j.finnegan.mil@army.mil; deptmtadjutant@gmail.com; Crazymarinevet@outlook.com; goofyguy442@gmail.com; mtadjutant@gmail.com; montanavfw@gmail.com; Ackerman, Kelly
Subject: Scoping Notice for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana
Attachments: Ft. Harrison VAMC Stakeholder NEPA Scoping Notice.pdf

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to undertake Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements for the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The proposed action would correct seismic deficiencies at the medical center and upgrade portions of the facility to better accommodate the medical needs of our nations Veterans.

As part of the decision-making process VA is complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of this process, the VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental and cultural concerns. VA invites you to participate in the NEPA process.

Please see the attached Scoping Notice for information on the proposed project including details on how to submit any comments or input on alternatives and/or issues that your or your organization feel the VA should analyze as part of the EA.

*The VA respectfully requests that you submit any comments/information via email **by May 1, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line “**Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping**”.*

The VA will also solicit input from the public at large through publication of the Notice on March 31st and April 2nd 2023 in the Helena Independent Record newspaper.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Respectfully,

Bruce Mack, PG, CHMM, REA
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs | Construction & Facilities Management (CFM)

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:12 PM
To: pebrown@mt.gov; durellcooper05@gmail.com; btbc@3rivers.net; chairman@chippewa-cree.org; kathryn.mcdonald@cskt.org; aaron.brien@crow-nsn.gov; mblackwolf@ftbelknap.org; fazure@fortpecktribes.net; frontdesk@lstribe.org; ntribalsec@ncheyenne.net; tbatt@sbtribes.com; pattardo@lccountymt.gov; pattardo@lccountymt.gov; tbatt@sbtribes.com; ntribalservice@ncheyenne.net; info@montanamilitarymuseum.org; chere@preservemontana.org; pattardo@lccountymt.gov; pattardo@lccountymt.gov; chere@preservemontana.org; info@montanamilitarymuseum.org; ntribalservice@ncheyenne.net
Subject: Scoping Notice for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana
Attachments: Ft. Harrison VAMC Stakeholder NEPA Scoping Notice.pdf

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Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to undertake Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements for the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The proposed action would correct seismic deficiencies at the medical center and upgrade portions of the facility to better accommodate the medical needs of our nations Veterans.

As part of the decision-making process VA is complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of this process, the VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process

VA will separately initiate formal Section 106 consultation for the undertaking at the appropriate time. The Section 106 consultation process and conclusions will provide the major contribution to the EA's analysis of potential effects to historic and cultural resources.

As previously mentioned, VA will initiate formal Section 106 consultation separately, however at this time should you or your organization wish to provide preliminary information on any properties of historic or cultural significance that you feel may be affected by the proposed undertaking, we invite you to do so.

Please see the Scoping Notice for additional project details and how to submit any initial comments. *The VA respectfully requests that you submit any comments/information via email **by May 1, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping".*

The VA will also solicit input from the public at large through publication of the Notice on March 31st and April 2nd 2023 in the Helena Independent Record newspaper.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Respectfully,

Bruce Mack, PG, CHMM, REA
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs | Construction & Facilities Management (CFM)



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

March 27, 2023

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Scoping Notice for an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements Projects, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The Fort Harrison VAMC is a 34-bed acute care medical-surgical facility that provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services to Veterans living in western Montana. The location of the Fort Harrison VAMC campus is shown on Figures 1 and 2. Figure 3 provides an aerial photograph of the campus.

The Fort Harrison VAMC campus is located within a seismically active area, classified as a “moderate high” seismic zone. A seismic study of the primary facilities of the VAMC found that four buildings at the campus, including the main hospital building (Building 154), Buildings 141, 150, 154A, and the corridor connecting Buildings 141, 150 and 154, do not meet current seismic building code standards. VA is planning the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects (Proposed Action) to correct seismic deficiencies at the VAMC and to remodel the retrofitted facility to accommodate the projected future operational needs of the medical center.

The primary components of the Proposed Action include:

- Constructing a three-story, approximately 82,600-square-foot (SF) addition on the south side of the main hospital building (Building 154). Existing acute inpatient care services and associated functions would be relocated to the new space.
- Structurally retrofitting the administration building (Building 141), dietetics building (Building 150), main hospital building (Building 154) and the outpatient building (Building 154A) to correct seismic building code deficiencies. Retrofitting would include the selective demolition of the interiors of the buildings and the installation of the structural upgrades and new mechanical systems to the building interiors. Following the completion of the upgrades, the building interiors would be redesigned and constructed to meet the current and future anticipated operational needs of the buildings. Approximately 221,800 SF of space would be seismically corrected and renovated.
- Relocating three off-campus, Helena-area leased VA facilities totally approximately 21,600 SF into the renovated space.

- Bracing/securing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing utilities within the connecting corridor between Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A.
- Constructing a new, approximately 15,700 SF, two-story, central utility plant (CUP) located north of Building 154. The new CUP would include upgraded steam boilers and a chilled water plant, and would be properly sized to meet forecasted heating and cooling demands of the expanded facility.
- Constructing an approximately four-story, 660-space parking garage located north of Building 154A. The new parking garage would correct current parking deficiencies at the campus and replace parking spaces lost from the Proposed Action.
- Razing three small, vacant buildings in the northwestern portion of the campus, including a former boiler plant (Building 142), a generator shed (Building 159), and a gas meter house (Building 151).
- Infrastructure upgrades to support the proposed development, including the installation, relocation, and removal of campus utilities and roads, as necessary, based on the final design.

The proposed project locations are mostly paved parking lots, maintained grassy areas, and areas near existing buildings. All of the projects are located entirely within the Fort Harrison VAMC campus on land owned by the Federal Government. Figure 4 illustrates the primary Proposed Action construction areas.

The Proposed Action construction activities would be conducted in phases over a period of approximately 10 years to minimize campus disruption, support continued campus operations, and minimize the need for temporary swing space during construction. VA plans to construct the new CUP and parking garage in the first phase of construction. The second phase of construction would include the construction of the acute inpatient care building addition, followed by the sequential seismic retrofitting and renovation of Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A. VA is currently in the pre-design phase for the Proposed Action projects. No project design details are available at this time.

VA will prepare the Draft EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). The Draft EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts to the environment resulting from the Proposed Action, as well as cumulative impacts with other actions and projects, including the proposed approximately 18,000 SF mental health clinic (Building 173) to be located east of the parking garage. The environmental impacts associated with Building 173 were previously assessed during a 2018 NEPA analysis.

VA recognizes that you or your organization may have relevant comments or information for consideration in the Draft EA. Please submit your comments/information via email by **May 1, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line “Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping”.

Through this notice, VA is also providing the public with information about the undertaking and seeking public comment and input about the undertaking’s effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, (54 USC § 306108), and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties). VA is using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA in lieu of public involvement

requirements in subpart B of the Section 106 regulations per 36 CFR § 800.2(d)(3). This notice does not serve as an invitation to consult under Section 106, it is solely to seek and consider the views of the public. VA will initiate its Section 106 review and send invitations to consulting parties separately.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in the Spring of 2023. VA will announce the start of this review period by publishing a notice of availability (NOA) of the Draft EA in the Helena Independent Record. VA will concurrently notify stakeholders via email and include instructions on how to submit comments. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Lewis & Clark Library and via the VA CFM Environmental Program Office website at <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental>.

For additional information or questions, please contact Bruce Mack, Environmental Engineer at bruce.mack@va.gov with the subject line “Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping”.

Respectfully,

Patrick Read
Acting Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

Figure 1: Fort Harrison VAMC Location Map



Figure 2: Topographic Location Map

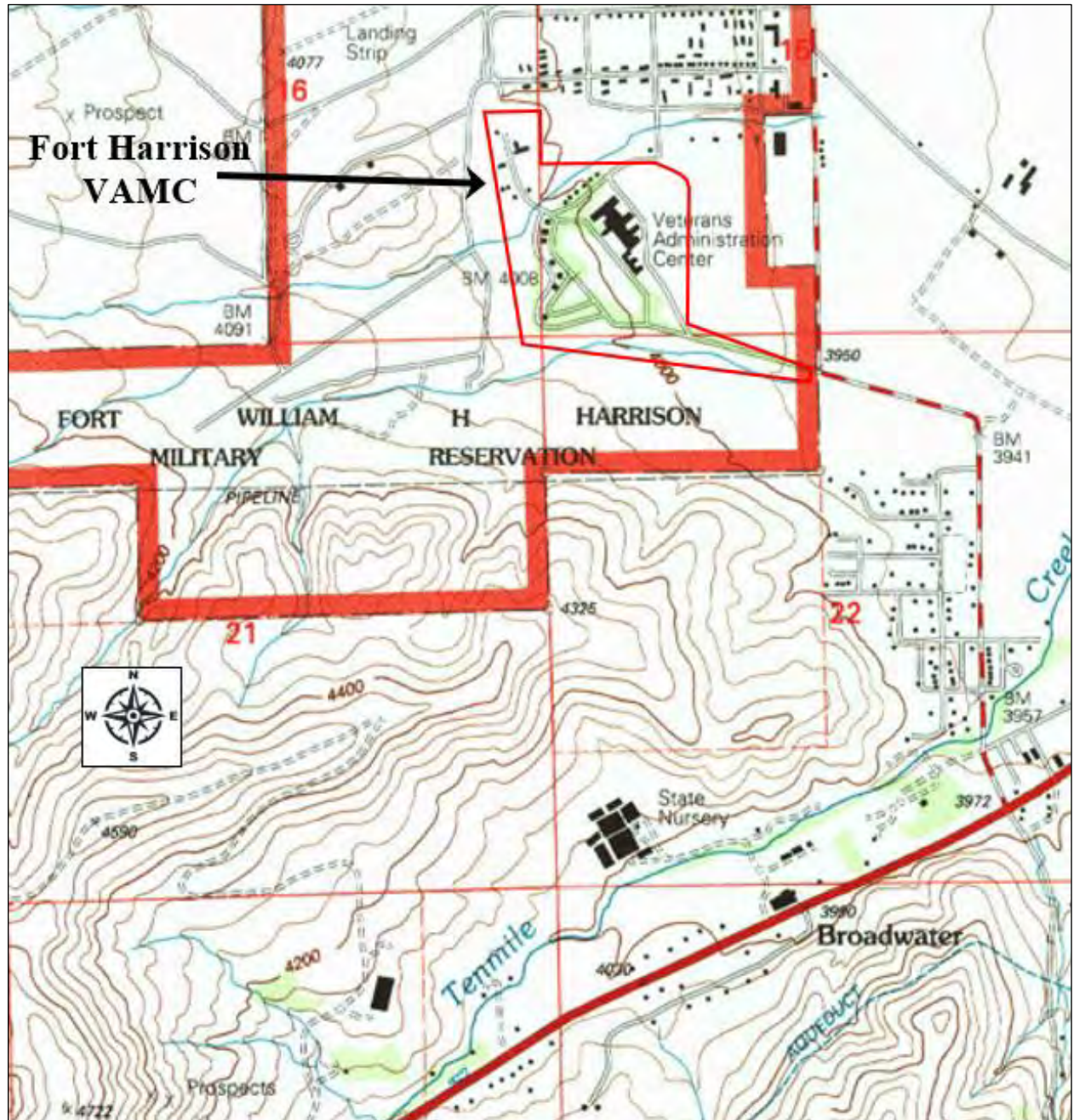
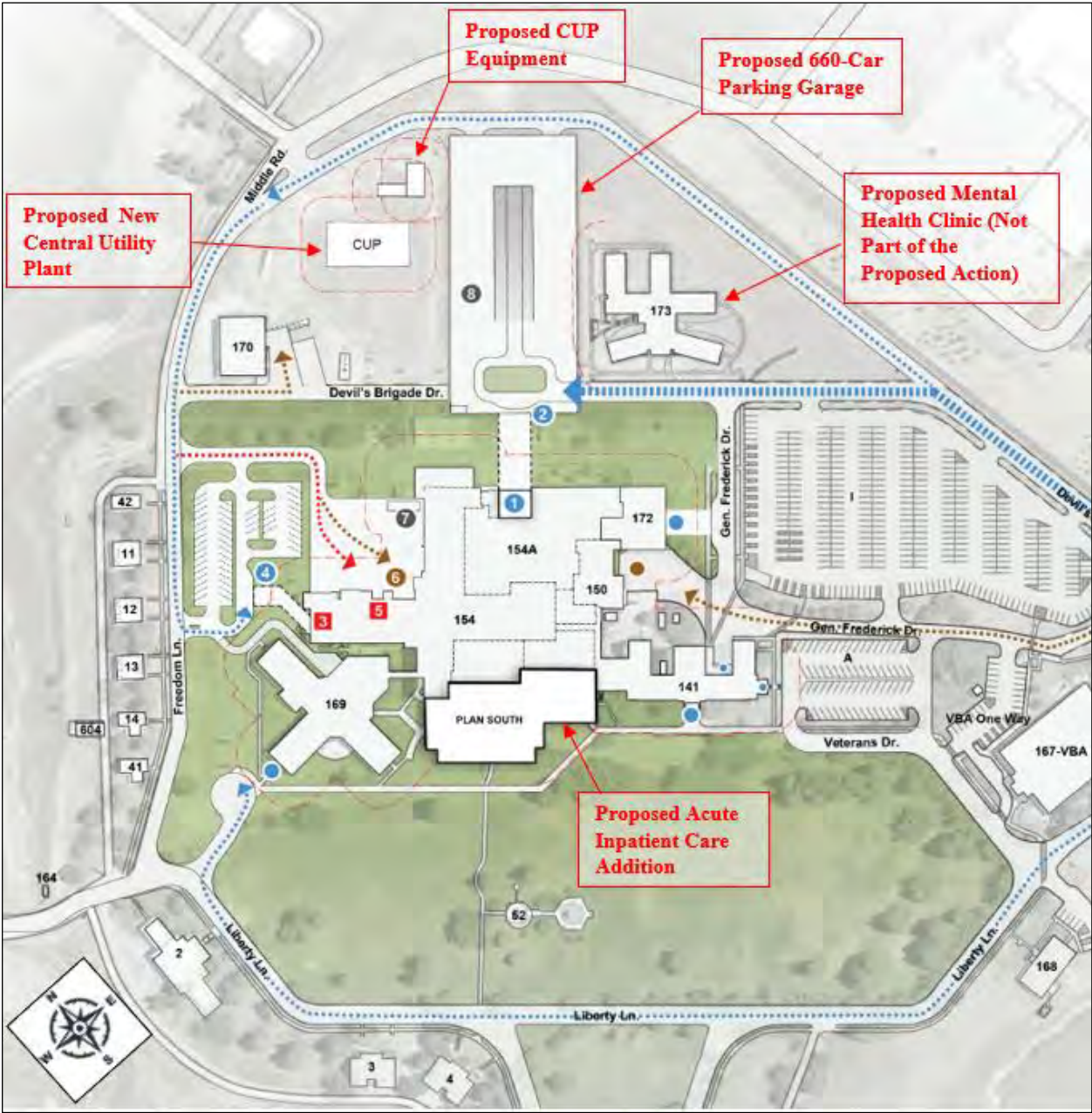


Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of Fort Harrison VAMC Campus



Figure 4: Primary Proposed Action Construction Areas





P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • tel 406.444.5363 • <http://mtnhp.org>

April 4, 2023

Bruce Mack
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction Facilities Management
Washington DC, 20420

Greetings Bruce Mack,

Thank you for your request for Natural Heritage information for the Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements, Fort Harrison. Included with this letter is an Environmental Summary report PDF and a companion Excel workbook summarizing information managed in the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MTNHP) databases for: (1) species occurrences; (2) other observed species without Species Occurrences; (3) other species potentially present based on their range, presence of associated habitats, or predictive distribution model output if available; (4) structured surveys (organized efforts following a protocol capable of detecting one or more species); (5) land cover mapped as ecological systems; (6) wetland and riparian mapping; (7) land management categories; and (8) biological reports associated with plant and animal observations. The PDF report contains introductory materials and limitations associated with the use of each of these data types, a list of additional information resources, data use terms and conditions, and suggested contacts. The Excel workbook contains worksheets for each data type that can be easily sorted to summarize particular information needs. In addition to these materials, we have included a compilation of one page snapshots containing general description, habitat, spatial and temporal distribution, and conservation status information for each species listed in the species occurrence, other observed species, and other potential species sections of the Environmental Summary report. These three field guide compilations are excerpted from the full accounts found on the Montana Field Guide <http://fieldguide.mt.gov> for general reference use and, if desired, as appendices to environmental review documents.

Please keep in mind the following when using and interpreting the enclosed information:

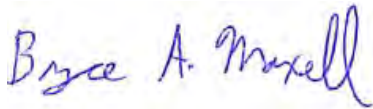
- (1) This information is intended for distribution or use only within your department, agency, or business. Please see the Data Use Terms and Conditions in the Environmental Summary report PDF for additional guidelines.
- (2) Our minimum search area for standard information requests consists of the requested area buffered by an additional mile in order to capture records that may be immediately adjacent to the requested area. Please let us know if a buffer greater than 1 mile would be of use to your efforts.

Visit the Montana Natural Heritage Program at <http://mtnhp.org>

- (3) Additional information on animal, plant, and lichen species and ecological systems in Montana is available on the Montana Field Guide at <http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>
- (4) In addition to the information you receive from us, we encourage you to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies in the area where your project is located (see Environmental Summary report PDF).

I hope the enclosed information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at the phone or email address below if you have any questions, require additional information, or have suggestions for how we could improve our information resources.

Sincerely,



Bryce A. Maxell
Montana Natural Heritage Program
(406) 444-3989
bmaxell@mt.gov



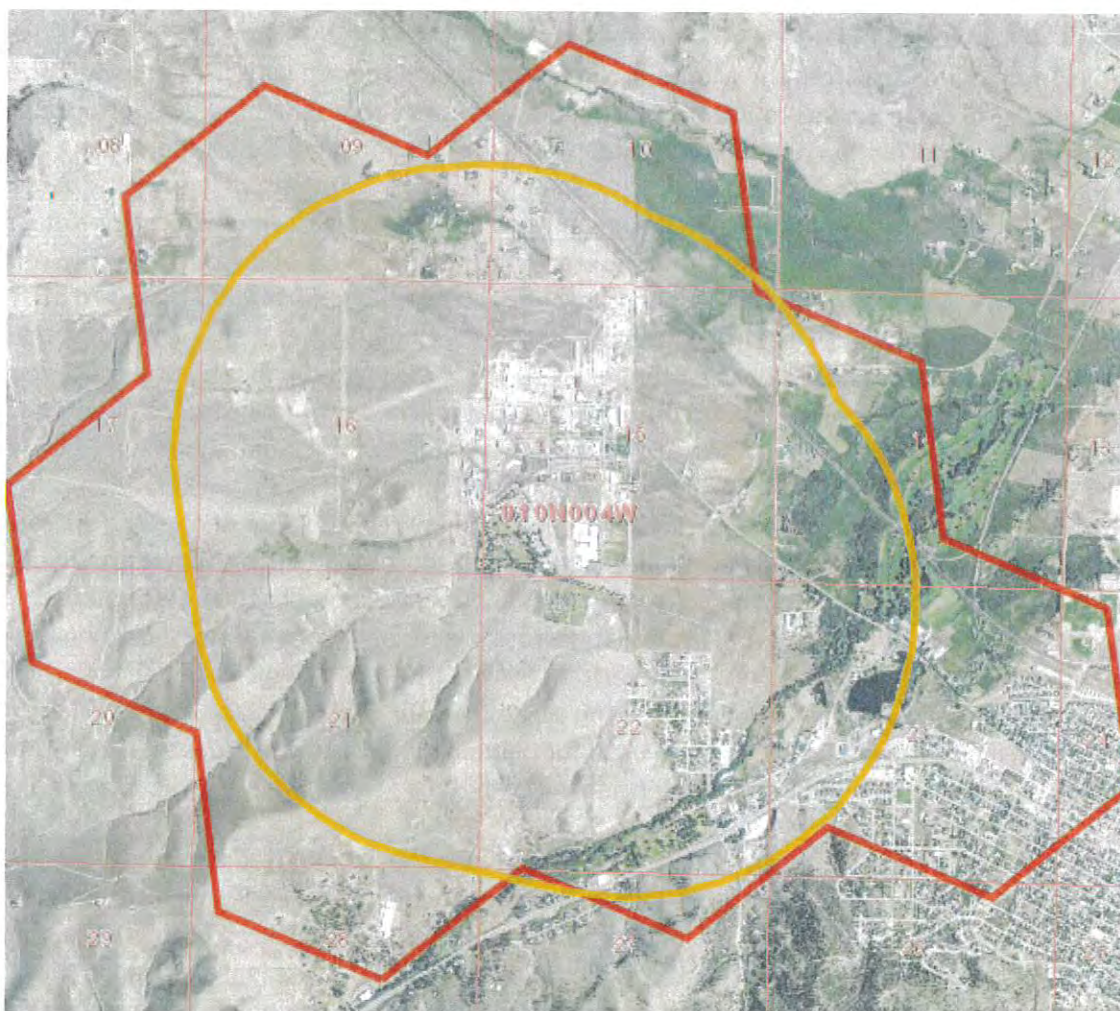
MONTANA Natural Heritage Program

1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-5363
mtnhp.org



Latitude	Longitude
46.59491	-112.05891
46.64353	-112.13905

Summarized by:
23US0010 FtHarrison
(Custom Area of Interest)



Suggested Citation

Montana Natural Heritage Program. Environmental Summary Report.
for Latitude 46.59491 to 46.64353 and Longitude -112.05891 to -112.13905. Retrieved on 4/4/2023.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System. Since 1985, it has served as a neutral and non-regulatory provider of easily accessible information on Montana's species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. The program is part of NatureServe, a network of over 80 similar programs in states, provinces, and nations throughout the Western Hemisphere, working to provide current and comprehensive distribution and status information on species and biological communities.

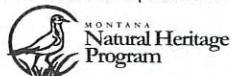


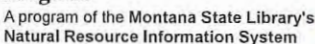
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Introduction to Environmental Summary Report

Environmental Summary Reports from the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) provide information on species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. For information on environmental permits in Montana, please see permitting overviews by the [Montana Department of Environmental Quality](#), the [Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation](#), the [Index of Environmental Permits for Montana](#) and our [Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies](#). The report for your area of interest consists of introductory and related materials in this PDF and an Excel workbook with worksheets summarizing information managed in the MTNHP databases for: (1) species occurrences; (2) other observed species without species occurrences; (3) other species potentially present based on their range, presence of associated habitats, or predictive distribution model output if available; (4) structured surveys that follow a protocol capable of detecting one or more species; (5) land cover mapped as ecological systems; (6) wetland and riparian mapping; (7) land management categories; and (8) biological reports associated with plant and animal observations. If your area of interest corresponds to a statewide polygon layer (e.g., watersheds, counties, or public land survey sections) information summaries in your report will exactly match those boundaries. However, if your report is for a custom area, users should be aware that summaries do not correspond to the exact boundaries of the polygon they have specified, but instead are a summary across a layer of hexagons intersected by the polygon they specified as shown on the report cover. Summarizing by these hexagons which are one square mile in area and approximately one kilometer in length on each side allows for consistent and rapid delivery of summaries based on a uniform grid that has been used for planning efforts across the western United States (e.g., Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - [Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#)).

In presenting this information, MTNHP is working towards assisting the user with rapidly assessing the known or potential species and biological communities, land management categories, and biological reports associated with the report area. Users are reminded that this information is likely incomplete and may be inaccurate as surveys to document species are lacking in many areas of the state, species' range polygons often include regions of unsuitable habitat, methods of predicting the presence of species or communities are constantly improving, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities in a report area will always be an important obligation of users of our data. Users are encouraged to only use this environmental summary report as a starting point for more in depth analyses and are encouraged to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies for additional data or management guidelines relevant to your efforts. Please see the Appendix for introductory materials to each section of the report, additional information resources, and a list of relevant agency contacts.**



Latitude	Longitude
46.59491	-112.05891
46.64353	-112.13905

Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 50% Moderate (inductive), 37% Low (inductive)

<div>B - Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC11 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 200 meters in order to approximate the breeding territory size reported for the species in Idaho and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 88% Moderate (Inductive), 12% Low (Inductive)</div>	613
<div>I - Bombus suckleyi (<i>Suckley Cuckoo Bumble Bee</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G2G3 State: S1</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a resident animal of any age. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 1700 meters in order to encompass the home range of the individual as well as adjacent habitat likely to support other individuals and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jun 22, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 88% Moderate (Inductive), 12% Low (Inductive)</div>	1
<div>M - Spotted Bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence (mistnet captures, definitively identified acoustic recordings, and definitively identified roosting individuals) of adults or juveniles. Point observation location is buffered by a distance of 10,000 meters in order to encompass the reported maximum foraging distance for the species in British Columbia. If the locational uncertainty associated with the observation is greater than 10,000 meters, the observation is not valid for creation of a species occurrence. (Last Updated: Dec 22, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 63% Moderate (Inductive), 37% Low (Inductive)</div>	1
<div>B - Veery (<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing home ranges and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 29, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 37% Moderate (Inductive), 63% Low (Inductive)</div>	44
<div>B - Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC17 USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (HLC) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN2 PIF: 2</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to encompass the likely foraging area used by breeding adults around the nest tree and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Mar 22, 2023) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (Inductive), 50% Low (Inductive)</div>	13
<div>M - Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN3</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence (mistnet captures, definitively identified acoustic recordings, or definitively identified roosting individuals) of adults or juveniles. Point observation location is buffered by a distance of 1,600 meters in order to encompass the greater than 1,500 meters foraging distance reported for the species in New Brunswick, Canada and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. When cave locations are involved, point observations are mapped in the center of a one-square mile hexagon to protect the exact location of the cave entrance as per the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act and associated regulations (U.S. Code Title 16 Chapter 63, Code of Federal Regulations Title 43 Subtitle A Part 37). The outer edges of the hexagon are then buffered by a distance of 1,600 meters and otherwise by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. All of the one-square mile hexagons intersecting this buffered area are presented as the Species Occurrence record. (Last Updated: Dec 22, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (Inductive), 87% Low (Inductive)</div>	11
<div>M - Hoary Bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3B BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence (mistnet captures, definitively identified acoustic recordings, and definitively identified roosting individuals) of adults or juveniles during the active season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 3,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the maximum reported foraging distance for the congeneric <i>Lasiurus borealis</i> and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 23, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (Inductive), 87% Low (Inductive)</div>	21
<div>B - Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 150 meters in order to conservatively encompass male territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 28, 2022) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (Inductive), 50% Low (Inductive)</div>	318
<div>B - Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) SSS</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Special Status Species - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 USFWS: BGEPA; MBTA USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) BLM: SENSITIVE PIF: 2</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the breeding territory and area commonly used for re-nesting. Only nesting observations with a locational uncertainty of 1,000 meters or less will be used to delineate a nesting area. (Last Updated: Mar 23, 2023) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (Inductive), 50% Low (Inductive)</div>	279+
<div>B - Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>) SOC</div> <div> View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps </div> <div>Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA; BCC10 FWP SWAP: SGCN3</div> <div> Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 1,000 meters in order to encompass the maximum foraging distance from nests reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 12, 2023) </div> <div>Predicted Models: 12% Moderate (Inductive), 63% Low (Inductive)</div>	2724+

B - Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	SOC	3	10 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 100 meters in order to encompass the maximum territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023) Predicted Models: 12% Moderate (Inductive), 25% Low (Inductive)					
B - Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	SOC	1	3		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species in Alberta and Idaho and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 03, 2023) Predicted Models: 100% Low (Inductive)					
V - Atriplex truncata (Wedge-leaf Saltbush)	SOC	1	+		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 Plant Threat Score: Unknown Delineation Criteria Individual occurrences are generally based upon a discretely mapped area provided by an observer and are not separated by any pre-defined distance. Individual clusters of plants mapped at fine spatial scales (separated by less than approximately 25-50 meters) may be grouped together into one occurrence if they are not separated by distinct areas of habitat or terrain features. Point observations are buffered to encompass any locational uncertainty associated with the observation. (Last Updated: Jan 20, 2023) Predicted Models: 88% Low (Inductive)					
M - Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	SOC	7	1		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2S3 USFWS: LT BLM: THREATENED FWP SWAP: SGCN2-3 Delineation Criteria Species Occurrence polygons represent areas delineated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that encompass both home ranges and potential transitory movements based on verified sightings. Within these areas, the USFWS wants project proponents to consider whether the species may be present when evaluating the potential impacts of a project and to work with the USFWS to develop and implement best management practices to minimize or eliminate project effects on the species. (Last Updated: Mar 22, 2023) Predicted Models: 75% Low (Inductive)					
B - Cassin's Finch (<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>)	SOC	12	8 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA; BCC10 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Delineation Criteria Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the courtship and foraging distance from nesting areas and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 28, 2022) Predicted Models: 75% Low (Inductive)					
V - Cypripedium parviflorum (Small Yellow Lady's-slipper)	PSOC	1	+		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT, LOLO) Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (BRT) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC) Predicted Models: 75% Low (Inductive)					
B - Pinyon Jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)	SOC	2	1 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC17 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Delineation Criteria Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 4,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the home ranges reported for flocks and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023) Predicted Models: 63% Low (Inductive)					
B - Clark's Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>)	SOC	4	12 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (FLAT) FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Delineation Criteria Observations with direct evidence of breeding activity or indirect evidence of breeding activity between early March and mid-July within forested habitats containing Whitebark Pine (<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>), Limber Pine (<i>Pinus flexilis</i>), or Ponderosa Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>). Observations are buffered by a minimum distance of 1,000 meters in order to encompass the spring/summer breeding territory size reported for the species or the locational uncertainty of the observation to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 12, 2023) Predicted Models: 62% Low (Inductive)					
B - Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	SOC	7	1 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 125 meters in order to encompass the breeding home range size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023) Predicted Models: 37% Low (Inductive)					
M - Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>)	SOC	3	3 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Delineation Criteria Areas with recent evidence of activity (i.e. burrow entrances) visible on recent National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial color photographic imagery that are within a distance of 200 meters of definitive observations buffered by the locational uncertainty of less than or equal to 1,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jul 03, 2019) Predicted Models: 37% Low (Inductive)					
B - Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	SOC	3	1	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 1 Delineation Criteria Observations with evidence of breeding activity buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing home ranges and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 04, 2023)					
B - Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	SOC	1	25 +	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Delineation Criteria Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 750 meters in order to encompass the area around the nest known to be defended by adults and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Jan 10, 2023)					

[View in Field Guide](#)

[View Range Maps](#)

Species of Concern - Native Species

Global: **G4** State: **S3B** USFWS: **MBTA; BCC10** BLM: **SENSITIVE**

USFS: **Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)**

Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (FLAT, HLC)

FWP SWAP: **SGCN3** PIF: **1**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 300 meters in order to encompass the maximum breeding territory size reported for the species and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Dec 30, 2022)

[View in Field Guide](#)

Important Animal Habitat - Native Species

Global: **GNR** State: **SNR**

Delineation Criteria Confirmed area of occupancy based on the documented presence of adults or juveniles of any bat species at non-cave natural roost sites (e.g. rock outcrops, trees), below ground human created roost sites (e.g. mines), and above ground human created roost sites (e.g., bridges, buildings). Point observation locations are buffered by a distance of 4,500 meters in order to encompass the 95% confidence interval for nightly foraging distance reported for Townsend's Big-eared Bat (a resident Montana bat Species of Concern) and otherwise by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. (Last Updated: Oct 22, 2019)



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Legend

Model Icons

- Suitable (native range)
- Optimal Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability
- Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons

- Common
- Occasional

Range Icons

- Native / Year-round
- Summer
- Winter
- Migratory
- Non-native
- Historical

Num Obs
Count of obs with
'good precision'
(≤1000m)
* indicates
additional 'poor
precision' obs
(1001m-
10,000m)



Latitude
46.59491
46.64353
Longitude
-112.05891
-112.13905

Native Species

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)

Filtered by:

Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Potential SOC

Other Observed Species

	USFWS Sec7	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
<input type="checkbox"/> B - American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>) SOC		24 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 63% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>) PSOC		39		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 25% Moderate (inductive), 50% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Barrow's Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala islandica</i>) PSOC		10		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 50% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Rufous Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>) PSOC		6		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10 PIF: 3 Predicted Models: 37% Moderate (inductive), 50% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>) SOC		9		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 1 Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 75% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>) SOC		47 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 50% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>) SOC		+		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 38% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Sharp-tailed Grouse (<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>) SOC		1		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: SX, S4 FWP SWAP: SGCN1 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 100% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>) SOC		5		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 100% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) PSOC		1 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4 USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 PIF: 3 Predicted Models: 87% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Thick-billed Longspur (<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i>) SOC		1		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 50% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>) SOC		1		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2B USFWS: MBTA USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, KOOT, LOLO) FWP SWAP: SGCN2 PIF: 1 Predicted Models: 50% Low (inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>) SOC		17		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN2 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 50% Low (inductive)				

<input type="checkbox"/> B - Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	SOC	10 +		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: BGEPA; MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Predicted Models: 37% Low (Inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	SOC	4		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 25% Low (Inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	SOC	1		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 25% Low (Inductive)				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	SOC	+	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Black-backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>)	SOC	1 +	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 1				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Tennessee Warbler (<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>)	PSOC	1	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4B USFWS: MBTA				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Franklin's Gull (<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>)	SOC	7 +	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>)	SOC	3	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN2, SGIN				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	SOC	21	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT, LOLO) FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 1				
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	SOC	7	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Margaritifera falcata (Western Pearlshell)	SOC	1	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN2				



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Legend

Model Icons

- Suitable (native range)
- Optimal Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability
- Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons

- Common
- Occasional

Range Icons

- Native / Year-round
- Summer
- Winter
- Migratory
- Non-native
- Historical

Num Obs

Count of obs with
'good precision'
(≤1000m)
+ indicates
additional 'poor
precision' obs
(1001m-
10,000m)



Latitude
46.59491
Longitude
-112.05891
46.64353 -112.13905

Native Species




























































Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)

Filtered by:

Native Species reports are filtered for Species with MT Status = Species of Concern, Special Status, Important Animal Habitat, Potential SOC

Other Potential Species

	USFWS Sec7	Predicted Model	Range
B - Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>) PSOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10 FWP SWAP: SGIN Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 63% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)			
B - Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: PS: LT; MBTA BLM: THREATENED FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN PIF: 2 Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 63% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)			
V - Potentilla platensis (<i>Platte Cinquefoil</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats CCVI: Highly Vulnerable Predicted Models: 88% Moderate (inductive), 12% Low (inductive)			
V - Dichanthelium acuminatum (<i>Panic Grass</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3 Plant Threat Score: Unknown Predicted Models: 88% Moderate (inductive), 12% Low (inductive)			
M - Western Spotted Skunk (<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>) PSOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: SU FWP SWAP: SGIN Predicted Models: 87% Moderate (inductive), 13% Low (inductive)			
M - North American Porcupine (<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>) PSOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 FWP SWAP: SGIN Predicted Models: 75% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)			
V - Eleocharis rostellata (<i>Beaked Spikerush</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, FLAT, HLC) Plant Threat Score: Unknown CCVI: Less Vulnerable Predicted Models: 62% Moderate (inductive), 38% Low (inductive)			
V - Impatiens aurella (<i>Pale-yellow Jewel-weed</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats Predicted Models: 50% Moderate (inductive), 50% Low (inductive)			
V - Utricularia intermedia (<i>Flatleaf Bladderwort</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 USFWS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT) Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats Predicted Models: 37% Moderate (inductive), 38% Low (inductive)			
V - Erigeron linearis (<i>Linear-leaf Fleabane</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 Plant Threat Score: Low CCVI: Less Vulnerable Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 63% Low (inductive)			
B - Western Screech-Owl (<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>) PSOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S3S4 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3 Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 38% Low (inductive)			
M - Dwarf Shrew (<i>Sorex nanus</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S2S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN2-3 Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (inductive), 87% Low (inductive)			
M - Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) SOC			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: LT; CH BLM: THREATENED FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (inductive), 63% Low (inductive)			

<input type="checkbox"/> M - Western Pygmy Shrew (<i>Sorex eximius</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Predicted Models:  13% Moderate (inductive),  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Carex crawei</i> (<i>Crawe's Sedge</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3 Plant Threat Score: Low Predicted Models:  12% Moderate (inductive),  88% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Sage Thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>)	SOC		 
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Predicted Models:  12% Moderate (inductive),  63% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Draba densifolia</i> (<i>Dense-leaf Draba</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC) Plant Threat Score: Low CCVI: Moderately Vulnerable Predicted Models:  12% Moderate (inductive),  25% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> M - Preble's Shrew (<i>Sorex preblei</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 Predicted Models:  12% Moderate (inductive),  12% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> M - Silver-haired Bat (<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>)	PSOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S4 Predicted Models:  100% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> M - Long-eared Myotis (<i>Myotis evotis</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 Predicted Models:  100% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> M - Long-legged Myotis (<i>Myotis volans</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S3 Predicted Models:  100% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - American Bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	SOC		 
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3 Predicted Models:  75% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Elodea bifoliata</i> (<i>Long-sheath Waterweed</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4G5 State: S2? Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats Predicted Models:  75% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> R - Greater Short-horned Lizard (<i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN Predicted Models:  62% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Common Poorwill (<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>)	PSOC		 
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3 Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Sprague's Pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	SOC		 
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC11; BCC17 BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 1 Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Greater Sage-Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S2 Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN2 PIF: 1 Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>)	PSOC		 
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S4B USFWS: MBTA PIF: 3 Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Primula incana</i> (<i>Mealy Primrose</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) Plant Threat Score: High CCVI: Highly Vulnerable Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Zumatrichia notosa (<i>A Caddisfly</i>)	SOC		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G2G4 State: S3 Predicted Models:  50% Low (inductive)			

V - Epipactis gigantea (Giant Helleborine) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps		USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, LOLO) Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (BRT, KOOT)			
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G4	State: S2S3	Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (FLAT, HLC)				Plant Threat Score: Low	
CCVI: Moderately Vulnerable									
Predicted Models: 50% Low (inductive)									
I - Rhyacophila betteni (A Caddisfly) SSS									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Special Status Species - Native Species		Global: G2G4	State: S3S4						
Predicted Models: 38% Low (inductive)									
B - Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G4	State: S3B	USFWS: MBTA; BCC17	BLM: SENSITIVE	FWP SWAP: SGCN3	PIF: 1		
Predicted Models: 37% Low (inductive)									
V - Adoxa moschatellina (Musk-root) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S3	USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, HLC)				Plant Threat Score: Low	CCVI: Highly Vulnerable
Predicted Models: 37% Low (inductive)									
V - Lobelia kalmii (Kalm's Lobelia) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S3	Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats					
Predicted Models: 37% Low (inductive)									
V - Stellaria crassifolia (Fleshy Stitchwort) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S2	Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats					
Predicted Models: 37% Low (inductive)									
B - Black-necked Stilt (Himantopus mexicanus) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S3B	USFWS: MBTA	FWP SWAP: SGCN3	PIF: 3			
Predicted Models: 25% Low (inductive)									
B - Meesia triquetra (Meesia Moss) SOC									
View in Field Guide		View Predicted Models		View Range Maps					
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S2	USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BRT, KOOT) Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (LOLO)				Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, FLAT)	
Predicted Models: 25% Low (inductive)									
M - Bison (Bos bison) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G4	State: S2	FWP SWAP: SGCN2					
V - Eriogonum caespitosum (Mat Buckwheat) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S2S3	Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats					
V - Polygonum austinae (Austin's Knotweed) PSOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5T4	State: S3S4	USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (HLC)					
A - Western Toad (Anaxyrus boreas) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G4	State: S2	USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO)				BLM: SENSITIVE	FWP SWAP: SGCN2
B - Black-and-white Warbler (Mniotilta varia) PSOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S4B	USFWS: MBTA					
B - Mountain Plover (Charadrius montanus) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G3	State: S2B	USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17	BLM: SENSITIVE	FWP SWAP: SGCN2	PIF: 1		
M - Black-footed Ferret (Mustela nigripes) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G1	State: S1	USFWS: LE; XN	BLM: ENDANGERED	FWP SWAP: SGCN1			
I - Argia alberta (Paiute Dancer) PSOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Potential Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G4	State: S2S3						
I - Polygonia progne (Gray Comma) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S2						
V - Hornungia procumbens (Hutchinsia) SOC								Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide		View Range Maps							
Species of Concern - Native Species		Global: G5	State: S2	Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats				CCVI: Highly Vulnerable	

<input type="checkbox"/> B - Varied Thrush (<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	  
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Northern Hawk Owl (<i>Surnia ulula</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	  
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Euphryas gillettii (<i>Gillette's Checkerspot</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3 State: S2			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Great Gray Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	     
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN PIF: 3			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Pacific Wren (<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	    
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Limenitis arthemis (<i>Red-spotted Admiral</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - Senecio eremophilus (<i>Desert Groundsel</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	  
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S1S2 Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Alder Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	   
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGCN3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Argia vivida (<i>Vivid Dancer</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S5			
<input type="checkbox"/> M - Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	SOC	 Not Assessed	     
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, BRT, KOOT, LOLO) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Boreal Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	     
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4 USFWS: MBTA FWP SWAP: SGIN PIF: 3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Colias gigantea (<i>Giant Sulphur</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Libellula saturata (<i>Flame Skimmer</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S4			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Somatochlora minor (<i>Ocellated Emerald</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S4			
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Forster's Tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	     
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Aeshna juncea (<i>Sedge Darner</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S5			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Aeshna sitchensis (<i>Zigzag Darner</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Leucorrhinia borealis (<i>Boreal Whiteface</i>)	SOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S1			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Sympetrum madidum (<i>Red-veined Meadowhawk</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Aeshna constricta (<i>Lance-tipped Darner</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S1S3			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Aeshna eremita (<i>Lake Darner</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S4			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - Argia emma (<i>Emma's Dancer</i>)	PSOC	Not Assessed	 
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S5			

<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Enallagma clausum</i> (Alkali Bluet) PSOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S4		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Rhionaeschna californica</i> (California Darter) PSOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S5		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i> (Blue-eyed Darter) PSOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S4		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Somatochlora hudsonica</i> (Hudsonian Emerald) PSOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2S4		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Somatochlora semicircularis</i> (Mountain Emerald) PSOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Potential Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3S5		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Botrychium ascendens</i> (Upward-lobed Moonwort) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (KOOT) CCVI: Less Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> (Wavy Moonwort) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G4 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, KOOT, LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (HLC) CCVI: Less Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Botrychium paradoxum</i> (Peculiar Moonwort) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G3G4 State: S3 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, KOOT) Sensitive - Suspected in Forests (LOLO) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (CG, FLAT, HLC) BLM: SENSITIVE CCVI: Moderately Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Botrychium simplex</i> (Least Moonwort) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 CCVI: Less Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Braya humilis</i> (Low Braya) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (HLC) Plant Threat Score: Unknown CCVI: Highly Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Ranunculus pedatifidus</i> (Northern Buttercup) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3 USFS: Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (HLC) Plant Threat Score: Unknown		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i> (Tufted Club-rush) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S2 USFS: Sensitive - Known in Forests (BD, KOOT) Species of Conservation Concern in Forests (FLAT) Plant Threat Score: No Known Threats CCVI: Moderately Vulnerable		
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Clark's Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>) SOC	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide View Range Maps Species of Concern - Native Species Global: G5 State: S3B USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11 FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 3		

Structured Surveys

Summarized by: **23US0010 FtHarrison** (*Custom Area of Interest*)

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) records information on the locations where more than 80 different types of well-defined repeatable survey protocols capable of detecting an animal species or suite of animal species have been conducted by state, federal, tribal, university, or private consulting biologists. Examples of structured survey protocols tracked by MTNHP include: visual encounter and dip net surveys for pond breeding amphibians, point counts for birds, call playback surveys for selected bird species, visual surveys of migrating raptors, kick net stream reach surveys for macroinvertebrates, visual encounter cover object surveys for terrestrial mollusks, bat acoustic or mist net surveys, pitfall and/or snap trap surveys for small terrestrial mammals, track or camera trap surveys for large mammals, and trap surveys for turtles. Whenever possible, photographs of survey locations are stored in MTNHP databases.

MTNHP does not typically manage information on structured surveys for plants; surveys for invasive species may be a future exception.

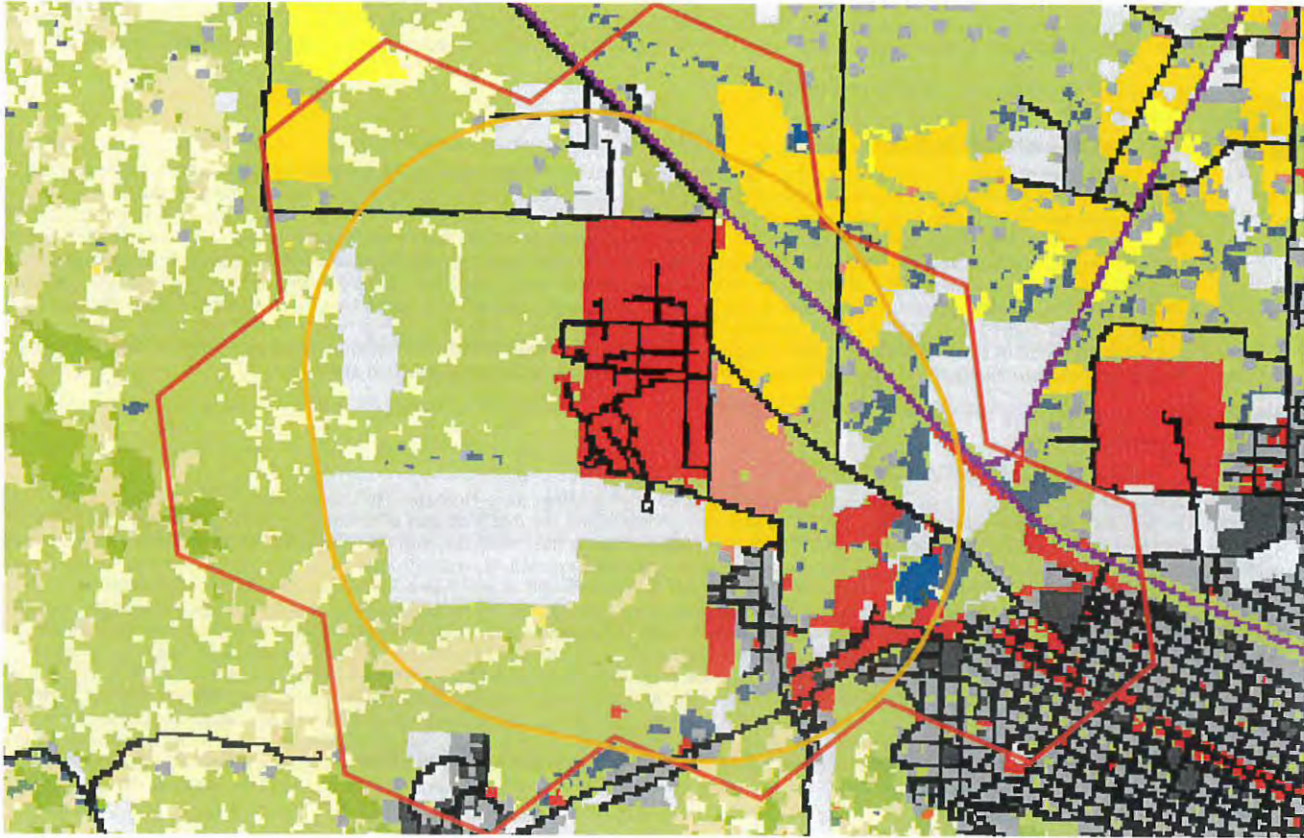
Within the report area you have requested, structured surveys are summarized by the number of each type of structured survey protocol that has been conducted, the number of species detections/observations resulting from these surveys, and the most recent year a survey has been conducted.

B-Colonial-nesting Waterbirds (<i>Colonial-nesting Waterbird Surveys</i>)	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2011
B-Long-billed Curlew (<i>Long-billed Curlew, Road-based, Point Count</i>)	Survey Count: 26	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2017
E-Eurasian Water-milfoil Rake (<i>Rake tows/pulls for Eurasian Water-milfoil</i>)	Survey Count: 46	Obs Count: 96	Recent Survey: 2021
E-Invasive Mussel Plankton Tow (<i>Plankton tows for veligers of Invasive Mussels</i>)	Survey Count: 18	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2021
E-Kicknet (<i>Kicknet Collection Survey for Invasive Mussels and Snails</i>)	Survey Count: 19	Obs Count: 12	Recent Survey: 2021
E-Noxious Weed, Road-based (<i>Noxious Weed Road-based Visual Surveys</i>)	Survey Count: 3	Obs Count: 3	Recent Survey: 2003
E-Visual Aquatic Invasives (<i>Visual Encounter Surveys for Aquatic Invasives on Shorelines or Underwater</i>)	Survey Count: 9	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2021
F-Fish Trapping/Netting (<i>Fish Trapping or Netting Surveys</i>)	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count: 11	Recent Survey: 2004
M-Bat Acoustic (<i>Bat Acoustic Survey</i>)	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count: 1	Recent Survey: 1994
M-Bat Mistnet (<i>Bat Mistnet Survey</i>)	Survey Count: 1	Obs Count: 1	Recent Survey: 2005



Land Cover

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)



Grassland Systems Montane Grassland

45% (2,313
Acres)

Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland

This grassland system of the northern Rocky Mountains is found at lower montane to foothill elevations in mountains and valleys throughout Montana. These grasslands are floristically similar to Big Sagebrush Steppe but are defined by shorter summers, colder winters, and young soils derived from recent glacial and alluvial material. They are found at elevations from 548 - 1,650 meters (1,800-5,413 feet). In the lower montane zone, they range from small meadows to large open parks surrounded by conifers; below the lower treeline, they occur as extensive foothill and valley grasslands. Soils are relatively deep, fine-textured, often with coarse fragments, and non-saline. Microphytic crust may be present in high-quality occurrences. This system is typified by cool-season perennial bunch grasses and forbs (>25%) cover, with a sparse shrub cover (<10%). Rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*) is dominant in the northwestern portion of the state and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) is dominant or co-dominant throughout the range of the system. Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) occurs as a co-dominant throughout the range as well, especially on xeric sites. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is consistently present, often with appreciable coverage (>10%) in lower elevation occurrences in western Montana and virtually always present, with relatively high coverages (>25%), on the edge of the Northwestern Great Plains region. Species diversity ranges from a high of more than 50 per 400 square meter plot on mesic sites to 15 (or fewer) on xeric and disturbed sites. Most occurrences have at least 25 vascular species present. Farmland conversion, noxious species invasion, fire suppression, heavy grazing and oil and gas development are major threats to this system.



Human Land Use Developed

14% (716
Acres)

Developed, Open Space

Vegetation (primarily grasses) planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. This category often includes highway and railway rights of way and graveled rural roads.

No Image

Human Land Use Developed

Commercial / Industrial

8% (431
Acres)

Businesses, industrial parks, hospitals, airports; utilities in commercial/industrial areas.

No Image

Human Land Use Developed

Other Roads

7% (379
Acres)

County, city and or rural roads generally open to motor vehicles.



Human Land Use Agriculture

Cultivated Crops

6% (302 Acres)

These areas used for the production of crops, such as corn, soybeans, small grains, sunflowers, vegetables, and cotton, typically on an annual cycle. Agricultural plant cover is variable depending on season and type of farming. Other areas include more stable land cover of orchards and vineyards.



Human Land Use Developed

Low Intensity Residential

4% (218 Acres)

Includes areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20-50% of total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units in rural and suburban areas. Paved roadways may be classified into this category.



Shrubland, Steppe and Savanna Systems Sagebrush Steppe

Big Sagebrush Steppe

4% (210 Acres)

This widespread ecological system occurs throughout much of central Montana, and north and east onto the western fringe of the Great Plains. In central Montana, where this system occurs on both glaciated and non-glaciated landscapes, it differs slightly, with more summer rain than winter precipitation and more precipitation annually. Throughout its distribution, soils are typically deep and non-saline, often with a microphytic crust. This shrub-steppe is dominated by perennial grasses and forbs with greater than 25% cover. Overall shrub cover is less than 10 percent. In Montana and Wyoming, stands are more mesic, with more biomass of grass, and have less shrub diversity than stands farther to the west, and 50 to 90% of the occurrences are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush with western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*). Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) are indicators of disturbance, but cheatgrass typically not as abundant as in the Intermountain West, possibly due to a colder climate. The natural fire regime of this ecological system maintains a patchy distribution of shrubs, preserving the steppe character. Shrubs may increase following heavy grazing and/or with fire suppression. In central and eastern Montana, complexes of prairie dog towns are common in this ecological system.



Shrubland, Steppe and Savanna Systems Sagebrush Steppe

Montane Sagebrush Steppe

3% (132 Acres)

This system dominates the montane and subalpine landscape of southwestern Montana from valley bottoms to subalpine ridges and is found as far north as Glacier National Park. It can also be seen in the island mountain ranges of the north-central and south-central portions of the state. It primarily occurs on deep-soiled to stony flats, ridges, nearly flat ridgetops, and mountain slopes. In general, this system occurs in areas of gentle topography, fine soils, subsurface moisture or mesic conditions, within zones of higher precipitation and areas of snow accumulation. It occurs on all slopes and aspects, variable substrates and all soil types. The shrub component of this system is generally dominated by mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*). Other co-dominant shrubs include silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana* ssp. *viscidula*), subalpine big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *spiciformis*), three tip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita* ssp. *tripartita*) and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*). Little sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula* ssp. *arbuscula*) shrublands are only found in southwestern Montana on sites with a perched water table. Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) sites may be included within this system if occurrences are at montane elevations, and are associated with montane graminoids such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), spike fescue (*Leucopoa kingii*), or poverty oatgrass (*Danthonia intermedia*). In areas where sage has been eliminated by human activities like burning, disking or poisoning, other shrubs may be dominant, especially rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*). Because of the mesic site conditions, most occurrences support a diverse herbaceous undergrowth of grasses and forbs. Shrub canopy cover is extremely variable, ranging from 10 percent to as high as 40 or 50 percent.



Wetland and Riparian Systems Floodplain and Riparian

Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland

2% (114 Acres)

This ecological system is found throughout the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau regions. In Montana, sites occur at elevations of 609-1,219 meters (2,000-4,000 feet) west of the Continental Divide. East of the Continental Divide, this system ranges up to 1,676 meters (5,500 feet). It generally comprises a mosaic of multiple communities that are tree-dominated with a diverse shrub component. It is dependent on a natural hydrologic regime with annual to episodic flooding, so it is usually found within the flood zone of rivers, on islands, sand or cobble bars, and along streambanks. It can form large, wide occurrences on mid-channel islands in larger rivers, or narrow bands on small, rocky canyon tributaries and well-drained benches. It is also typically found in backwater channels and other perennially wet but less scoured sites, such as floodplains, swales and irrigation ditches. In some locations, occurrences extend into moderately high intermountain basins where the adjacent vegetation is sage steppe. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) is the key indicator species. Other dominant trees may include boxelder maple (*Acer negundo*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), or Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Dominant shrubs include Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), thimbleleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), river birch (*Betula occidentalis*), redbud dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), hawthorne (*Crataegus* species), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), willows (*Salix* species), rose (*Rosa* species), silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), or snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* species).



Recently Disturbed or Modified Introduced Vegetation

Introduced Upland Vegetation - Annual and Biennial Forbland

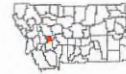
2% (95 Acres)

Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced annual and biennial forbs. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Typical species that dominate these areas are knapweed, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, pepperweed, and yellow sweetclover.

Additional Limited Land Cover

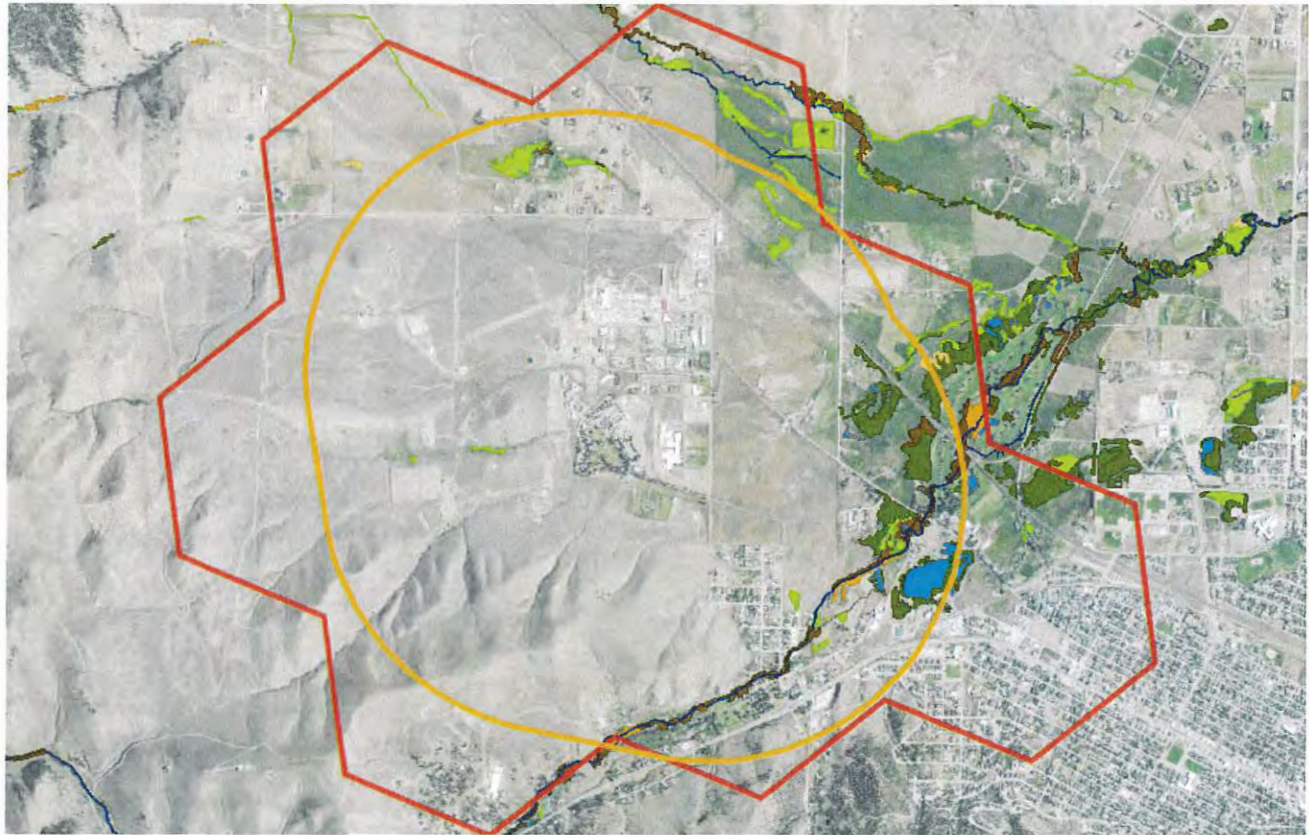
- 1% (55 Acres) **High Intensity Residential**
- 1% (52 Acres) **Railroad**
- 1% (28 Acres) **Major Roads**
- <1% (25 Acres) **Rocky Mountain Montane-Foothill Deciduous Shrubland**
- <1% (18 Acres) **Open Water**
- <1% (17 Acres) **Pasture/Hay**
- <1% (3 Acres) **Low Sagebrush Shrubland**
- <1% (2 Acres) **Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow**
- <1% (2 Acres) **Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland and Savanna**
- <1% (2 Acres) **Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Mesic Meadow**

<1% (1 Acres) ■ Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland



Wetland and Riparian

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)




Wetland and Riparian Mapping

[Explain](#)

P - Palustrine

UB - Unconsolidated Bottom			P - Palustrine, UB - Unconsolidated Bottom Wetlands where mud, silt or similar fine particles cover at least 25% of the bottom, and where vegetation cover is less than 30%.
G - Intermittently Exposed	<1 Acres		
x - Excavated	<1 Acres	PUBGx	
AB - Aquatic Bed			P - Palustrine, AB - Aquatic Bed Wetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water surface for most of the growing season.
F - Semipermanently Flooded	1 Acres		
b - Beaver	<1 Acres	PABFb	
h - Diked/Impounded	<1 Acres	PABFh	
x - Excavated	1 Acres	PABFx	
G - Intermittently Exposed	21 Acres		
h - Diked/Impounded	19 Acres	PABGh	
x - Excavated	2 Acres	PABGx	
EM - Emergent			P - Palustrine, EM - Emergent Wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season.
A - Temporarily Flooded	38 Acres		
(no modifier)	36 Acres	PEMA	
h - Diked/Impounded	2 Acres	PEMAh	
x - Excavated	<1 Acres	PEMAx	
C - Seasonally Flooded	9 Acres		
(no modifier)	4 Acres	PEMC	
x - Excavated	5 Acres	PEMCx	
F - Semipermanently Flooded	3 Acres		
(no modifier)	3 Acres	PEMF	
SS - Scrub-Shrub			P - Palustrine, SS - Scrub-Shrub Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. Woody vegetation includes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.
A - Temporarily Flooded	20 Acres		
(no modifier)	20 Acres	PSSA	
C - Seasonally Flooded	46 Acres		
(no modifier)	46 Acres	PSSC	
FO - Forested			P - Palustrine, FO - Forested Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.
A - Temporarily Flooded	12 Acres		




R - Riverine (Rivers)**3 - Upper Perennial**

 UB - Unconsolidated Bottom			R - Riverine (Rivers), 3 - Upper Perennial, UB - Unconsolidated Bottom
G - Intermittently Exposed	7 Acres		<i>Stream channels where the substrate is at least 25% mud, silt or other fine particles.</i>
(no modifier)	7 Acres	R3UBG	


4 - Intermittent

 SB - Stream Bed			R - Riverine (Rivers), 4 - Intermittent, SB - Stream Bed
A - Temporarily Flooded	<1 Acres		<i>Active channel that contains periodic water flow.</i>
x - Excavated	<1 Acres	R4SBAx	
C - Seasonally Flooded	1 Acres		
x - Excavated	1 Acres	R4SBCx	

Rp - Riparian**1 - Lotic**

 SS - Scrub-Shrub			Rp - Riparian, 1 - Lotic, SS - Scrub-Shrub
(no modifier)	9 Acres	Rp1SS	<i>This type of riparian area is dominated by woody vegetation that is less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. Woody vegetation includes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.</i>
 FO - Forested			Rp - Riparian, 1 - Lotic, FO - Forested
(no modifier)	33 Acres	Rp1FO	<i>This riparian class has woody vegetation that is greater than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.</i>
 EM - Emergent			Rp - Riparian, 1 - Lotic, EM - Emergent
(no modifier)	4 Acres	Rp1EM	<i>Riparian areas that have erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation during most of the growing season.</i>

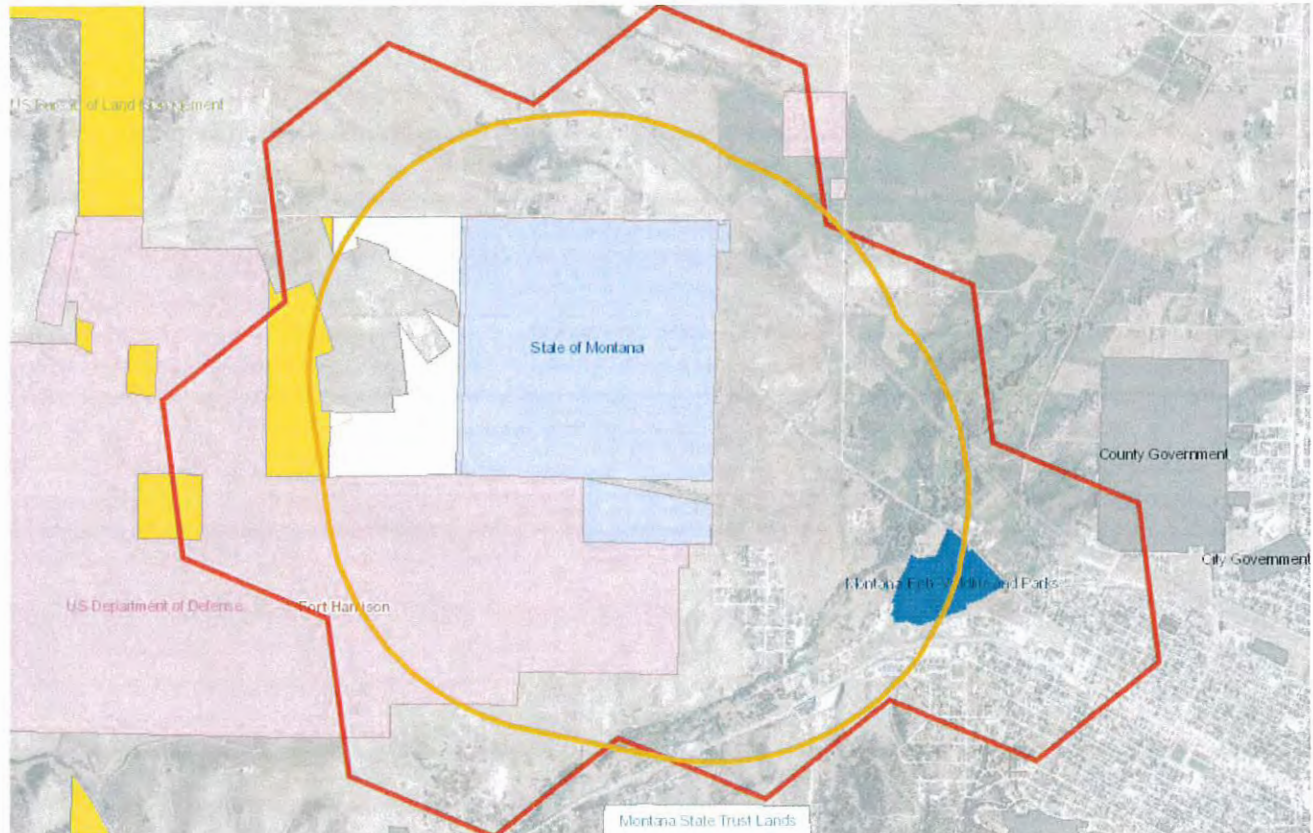
2 - Lentic

 FO - Forested			Rp - Riparian, 2 - Lentic, FO - Forested
(no modifier)	1 Acres	Rp2FO	<i>This riparian class has woody vegetation that is greater than 6 meters (20 feet) tall.</i>



Land Management

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)



Land Management Summary

[Explain](#)

	Ownership	Tribal	Easements	Other Boundaries (possible overlap)
Public Lands	2,072 Acres (41%)			
Federal	1,093 Acres (21%)			
US Bureau of Land Management	122 Acres (2%)			
BLM Owned	122 Acres (2%)			
US Department of Defense	971 Acres (19%)			
USDOD Owned	971 Acres (19%)			
USDOD Military Reserve				1,964 Acres
Fort Harrison				1,964 Acres
State	956 Acres (19%)			
Montana State Trust Lands	179 Acres (4%)			
MT State Trust Owned	179 Acres (4%)			
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	60 Acres (1%)			
MTFWP Owned	60 Acres (1%)			
MTFWP State Parks				60 Acres
Spring Meadow Lake State Park				60 Acres
State of Montana	717 Acres (14%)			
State of Montana Owned	717 Acres (14%)			
Local	23 Acres (<1%)			
Local Government	23 Acres (<1%)			
Local Government Owned	23 Acres (<1%)			
Private Lands or Unknown Ownership	3,042 Acres (59%)			



MONTANA
Natural Heritage
Program

A program of the Montana State Library's
Natural Resource Information System



Latitude	Longitude
46.59491	-112.05891
46.64353	-112.13905

Biological Reports

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (*Custom Area of Interest*)

Within the report area you have requested, citations for all reports and publications associated with plant or animal observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTHP) databases are listed and, where possible, links to the documents are included.

The MTHP plans to include reports associated with terrestrial and aquatic communities in the future as allowed for by staff resources. If you know of reports or publications associated with species or biological communities within the report area that are not shown in this report, please let us know: mthp@mt.gov

- Cheek, W.K. 1995. **Population and biomass estimation of turtles at Spring Meadow State Park, Helena, Montana.** Undergraduate Honors Thesis. Carroll College, Helena, MT. 29 p.
- Faunawest Wildlife Consultants. 1998. Status of the black-tailed and white-tailed prairie dog in Montana. Prepared for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



Legend

Model Icons

- Suitable (native range)
- Optimal Suitability
- Moderate Suitability
- Low Suitability
- Suitable (introduced range)

Habitat Icons

- Common
- Occasional

Range Icons

- Non-native

Num Obs
Count of obs with
'good precision'
(≤1000m)
+ indicates
additional 'poor
precision' obs
(1001m-
10,000m)



Latitude 46.59491
Longitude -112.05891
46.64353 -112.13905

Invasive and Pest Species

Summarized by: 23US0010 FtHarrison (Custom Area of Interest)

	# Obs	Predicted Model	Range
Aquatic Invasive Species			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (Yellowflag Iris) N2A/AIS			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 12% Moderate (inductive), 63% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> (Eurasian Water-milfoil) N2A/AIS			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 50% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Nymphaea odorata</i> (American Water-lily) AIS			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species Global: G5 State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 50% Suitable (introduced range) (deductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Faxonius virilis</i> (Vine Crayfish) AIS	3	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide			
Aquatic Invasive Species - Native/Non-native Species - (depends on location or taxa) Global: G5 State: S5			
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i> (New Zealand Mudsnaill) AIS	5	Not Assessed	
View in Field Guide			
Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species Global: G5 State: SNA			
Noxious Weeds: Priority 1A			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> (Dyer's Woad) N1A			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 50% Optimal (inductive), 50% Moderate (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> (Yellow Starthistle) N1A			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 25% Optimal (inductive), 50% Moderate (inductive), 12% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> (Medusahead) N1A			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: G4G5 State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 87% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. australis (European Common Reed) N1A			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1A - Non-native Species Global: G5T5 State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 63% Low (inductive)			
Noxious Weeds: Priority 1B			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Polygonum x bohemicum</i> (Bohemian Knotweed) N1B			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: GNA State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 37% Optimal (inductive), 12% Moderate (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (Purple Loosestrife) N1B	3		
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: G5 State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 25% Optimal (inductive), 50% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> (Japanese Knotweed) N1B			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: GNRTNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 12% Optimal (inductive), 38% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Echium vulgare</i> (Blueweed) N1B			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 88% Low (inductive)			
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> (Scotch Broom) N1B			
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps			
Noxious Weed: Priority 1B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA			
Predicted Models: 63% Low (inductive)			

Noxious Weeds: Priority 2A

V - <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> (Common Buckthorn) N2A		2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 50% Optimal (inductive), <div></div> 37% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 12% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Ventenata dubia</i> (Ventenata) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 100% Moderate (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> (Perennial Pepperweed) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 25% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 75% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Hieracium praealtum</i> (Kingdevil Hawkweed) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 25% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 38% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Ranunculus acris</i> (Tall Buttercup) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: G5	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 13% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 50% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> (Meadow Hawkweed) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 13% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 38% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (Yellowflag Iris) N2A/AIS			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 12% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 63% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> (Orange Hawkweed) N2A			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 75% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> (Eurasian Water-milfoil) N2A/AIS			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2A - Aquatic Invasive Species - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 50% Low (inductive)</div>				
Noxious Weeds: Priority 2B				
V - <i>Lepidium draba</i> (Whitetop) N2B		2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 63% Optimal (inductive), <div></div> 37% Moderate (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> (Dalmatian Toadflax) N2B		3	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: G5	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 13% Optimal (inductive), <div></div> 87% Moderate (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Centaurea stoebe</i> (Spotted Knapweed) N2B		6	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 100% Moderate (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> (Diffuse Knapweed) N2B			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 88% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 12% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> (Common Hound's-tongue) N2B			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 75% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 25% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Euphorbia virgata</i> (Leafy Spurge) N2B		2	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 63% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 37% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (Field Bindweed) N2B			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 38% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 62% Low (inductive)</div>				
V - <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> (Common Tansy) N2B			<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div></div>
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps				
Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species		Global: GNR	State: SNA	
Predicted Models: <div><div></div> 37% Moderate (inductive), <div></div> 38% Low (inductive)</div>				

<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Cirsium arvense</i> (Canada Thistle) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: G5 State: SNA Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 75% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Berteroa incana</i> (Hoary False-allysum) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (inductive), 75% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Acroptilon repens</i> (Russian Knapweed) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 100% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> (Yellow Toadflax) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 88% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Potentilla recta</i> (Sulphur Cinquefoil) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 88% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> (Oxeye Daisy) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 75% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> (Salt Cedar) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 63% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> (Common St. John's-wort) N2B		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Noxious Weed: Priority 2B - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 38% Low (inductive)		
Regulated Weeds: Priority 3		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Bromus tectorum</i> (Cheatgrass) R3		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Regulated Weed: Priority 3 - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 50% Moderate (inductive), 50% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> V - <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> (Russian Olive) R3		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Regulated Weed: Priority 3 - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 13% Moderate (inductive), 63% Low (inductive)		
Biocontrol Species		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Ooberea erythrocephala</i> (Red-headed Leafy Spurge Stem Borer) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 50% Optimal (inductive), 50% Moderate (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Aphthona lacertosa</i> (Brown-legged Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 100% Moderate (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Mecinus janthiniformis</i> (Dalmatian Toadflax Stem-boring Weevil) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 75% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Aphthona nigricutis</i> (Black Dot Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 62% Moderate (inductive), 25% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Cyphocleonus achates</i> (Knapweed Root Weevil) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 25% Moderate (inductive), 63% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Mecinus janthinus</i> (Yellow Toadflax Stem-boring Weevil) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide View Predicted Models View Range Maps Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA Predicted Models: 37% Low (inductive)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I - <i>Agapeta zoegana</i> (Sulphur Knapweed Moth) BIOCNTL		N
View in Field Guide Biocontrol Species - Non-native Species Global: GNR State: SNA		

Introduction to Montana Natural Heritage Program



P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • phone 406.444.5363 • mtnhp.org

INTRODUCTION

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is Montana's source for reliable and objective information on Montana's native species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern. MTNHP was created by the Montana legislature in 1983 as part of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at the Montana State Library (MSL). MTNHP is "a program of information acquisition, storage, and retrieval for data relating to the flora, fauna, and biological community types of Montana" (MCA 90-15-102). MTNHP's activities are guided by statute as well as through ongoing interaction with, and feedback from, principal data source agencies such as Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana University System, the US Forest Service, and the US Bureau of Land Management. Since the first staff was hired in 1985, the Program has logged a long record of success, and developed into a highly respected, service-oriented program. MTNHP is widely recognized as one of the most advanced and effective of over 80 natural heritage programs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

VISION

Our vision is that public agencies, the private sector, the education sector, and the general public will trust and rely upon MTNHP as the source for information and expertise on Montana's species and habitats, especially those of conservation concern. We strive to provide easy access to our information in order for users to save time and money, speed environmental reviews, and inform decision making.

CORE VALUES

- We endeavor to be a single statewide source of accurate and up-to-date information on Montana's plants, animals, and aquatic and terrestrial biological communities.
- We actively listen to our data users and work responsively to meet their information and training needs.
- We strive to provide neutral, trusted, timely, and equitable service to all of our information users.
- We make every effort to be transparent to our data users in setting work priorities and providing data products.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information requests made to the Montana Natural Heritage Program are considered library records and are protected from disclosure by the Montana Library Records Confidentiality Act (MCA 22-1-11).

INFORMATION MANAGED

Information managed at the Montana Natural Heritage Program is botanical, zoological, and ecological information that describes the distribution (e.g., observations, structured surveys, range polygons, predicted habitat suitability models), conservation status (e.g., global and state conservation status ranks, including threats), and other supporting information (e.g., accounts and references) on the biology and ecology of species and biological communities.

Data Use Terms and Conditions


- Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) products and services are based on biological data and the objective interpretation of those data by professional scientists. MTNHP does not advocate any particular philosophy of natural resource protection, management, development, or public policy.
- MTNHP has no natural resource management or regulatory authority. Products, statements, and services from MTNHP are intended to inform parties as to the state of scientific knowledge about certain natural resources, and to further develop that knowledge. The information is not intended as natural resource management guidelines or prescriptions or a determination of environmental impacts. MTNHP recommends consultation with appropriate state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies and authorities in the area where your project is located.
- Information on the status and spatial distribution of biological resources produced by MTNHP are intended to inform parties of the state-wide status, known occurrence, or the likelihood of the presence of those resources. **These products are not intended to substitute for field-collected data, nor are they intended to be the sole basis for natural resource management decisions.**
- MTNHP does not portray its data as exhaustive or comprehensive inventories of rare species or biological communities. **Field verification of the absence or presence of sensitive species and biological communities will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**
- MTNHP responds equally to all requests for products and services, regardless of the purpose or identity of the requester.
- Because MTNHP constantly updates and revises its databases with new data and information, products will become outdated over time. Interested parties are encouraged to obtain the most current information possible from MTNHP, rather than using older products. We add, review, update, and delete records on a daily basis. Consequently, we strongly advise that you update your MTNHP data sets at a minimum of every four months for most applications of our information.
- MTNHP data require a certain degree of biological expertise for proper analysis, interpretation, and application. Our staff is available to advise you on questions regarding the interpretation or appropriate use of the data that we provide. See [Contact Information for MTNHP Staff](#)
- The information provided to you by MTNHP may include sensitive data that if publicly released might jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or biological communities. This information is intended for distribution or use only within your department, agency, or business. Subcontractors may have access to the data during the course of any given project, but should not be given a copy for their use on subsequent, unrelated work.
- MTNHP data are made freely available. Duplication of hard-copy or digital MTNHP products with the intent to sell is prohibited without written consent by MTNHP. Should you be asked by individuals outside your organization for the type of data that we provide, please refer them to MTNHP.
- MTNHP and appropriate staff members should be appropriately acknowledged as an information source in any third-party product involving MTNHP data, reports, papers, publications, or in maps that incorporate MTNHP graphic elements.
- Sources of our data include museum specimens, published and unpublished scientific literature, field surveys by state and federal agencies and private contractors, and reports from knowledgeable individuals. MTNHP actively solicits and encourages additions, corrections and updates, new observations or collections, and comments on any of the data we provide.
- MTNHP staff and contractors do not enter or cross privately-owned lands without express permission from the landowner. However, the program cannot guarantee that information provided to us by others was obtained under adherence to this policy.

Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies

As required by Montana statute (MCA 90-15), the Montana Natural Heritage Program works with state, federal, tribal, nongovernmental organizations, and private partners to ensure that the latest animal and plant distribution and status information is incorporated into our databases so that it can be used to inform a variety of permitting and planning processes and management decisions. We encourage you to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies in the area where your project is located and review the permitting overviews by the [Montana Department of Environmental Quality](#), the [Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation](#) and the [Index of Environmental Permits for Montana](#) for guidelines relevant to your efforts. In particular, we encourage you to contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for the latest data and management information regarding hunted and high-profile management species and to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Information Planning and Consultation \(IPAC\) website](#) regarding U.S. Endangered Species Act listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species.

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of relevant agency contacts and links below:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Fish Species	Zachary Shattuck zshattuck@mt.gov (406) 444-1231 or Eric Roberts eroberts@mt.gov (406) 444-5334
American Bison Black-footed Ferret Black-tailed Prairie Dog Bald Eagle Golden Eagle Common Loon Least Tern Piping Plover Whooping Crane	Kristian Smucker KSmucker@mt.gov (406) 444-5209
Grizzly Bear Greater Sage Grouse Trumpeter Swan Big Game Upland Game Birds Furbearers	Brian Wakeling Brian.Wakeling@mt.gov (406) 444-3940
Managed Terrestrial Game and Nongame Animal Data	Smith Wells – MFWP Data Analyst smith.wells@mt.gov (406) 444-3759
Fisheries Data	Ryan Alger – MFWP Data Analyst ryan.alger@mt.gov (406) 444-5365
Wildlife and Fisheries Scientific Collector's Permits	https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/commercialwildlifeandscientificpermits/scientific Kammi McClain for Wildlife Kammi.McClain@mt.gov (406) 444-2612 Kim Wedde for Fisheries kim.wedde@mt.gov (406) 444-5594
Fish and Wildlife Recommendations for Subdivision Development	Charlie Sperry CSperry@mt.gov (406) 444-3888 See https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/living-with-wildlife/subdivision-recommendations
Regional Contacts 	<div> Region 1 (Kalispell) (406) 752-5501 fwprg12@mt.gov Region 2 (Missoula) (406) 542-5500 fwprg22@mt.gov Region 3 (Bozeman) (406) 577-7900 fwprg3@mt.gov Region 4 (Great Falls) (406) 454-5840 fwprg42@mt.gov Region 5 (Billings) (406) 247-2940 fwprg52@mt.gov Region 6 (Glasgow) (406) 228-3700 fwprg62@mt.gov Region 7 (Miles City) (406) 234-0900 fwprg72@mt.gov </div>

Montana Department of Agriculture

General Contact Information: <https://agr.mt.gov/About/Office-Locations/Office-Locations-and-Field-Offices>

Noxious Weeds: <https://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds>

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Permitting and Operator Assistance for all Environmental Permits: <https://deg.mt.gov/Permitting>

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Overview of, and contacts for, licenses and permits for state lands, water, and forested lands:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits>

Stream Permitting (310 permits) and an overview of various water and stream related permits (e.g., Stream Protection Act 124, Federal Clean Water Act 404, Federal Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10, Short-term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity 318 Authorization, etc.).

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/the-310-law>

Flood and Fire Resources: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/flood-and-fire>

Bureau of Land Management

Montana Field Office Contacts:	Billings	(406) 896-5013
	Butte	(406) 533-7600
	Dillon	(406) 683-8000
	Glasgow	(406) 228-3750
	Havre	(406) 262-2820
	Lewistown	(406) 538-1900
	Malta	(406) 654-5100
	Miles City	(406) 233-2800
	Missoula	(406) 329-3914

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Montana Regulatory Office for federal permits related to construction in water and wetlands

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Montana/> (406) 441-1375

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental information, notices, permitting, and contacts <https://www.epa.gov/mt>

Gateway to state resource locators <https://www.envcap.org/srl/index.php>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

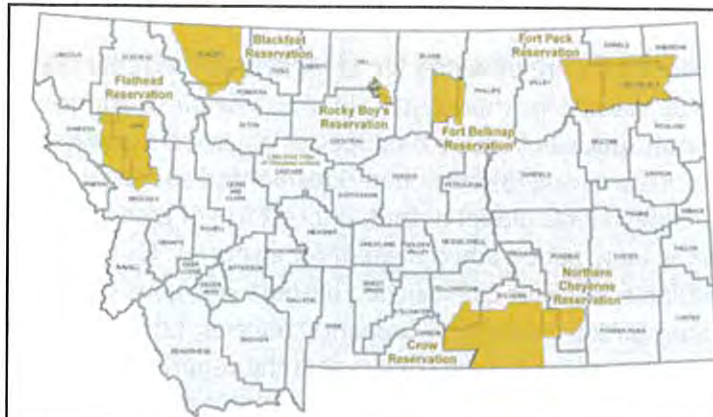
Information Planning and Conservation (IPAC) website: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

Montana Ecological Services Field Office: <https://www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/> (406) 449-5225

United States Forest Service

Regional Office – Missoula, Montana Contacts			
Wildlife Program Leader	Tammy Fletcher	tammy.fletcher2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3086
Wildlife Ecologist	Cara Staab	cara.staab@usda.gov	(406) 329-3677
Fish Program Leader	Scott Spaulding	scott.spaulding@usda.gov	(406) 329-3287
Fish Ecologist	Cameron Thomas	cameron.thomas@usda.gov	(406) 329-3087
TES Program	Lydia Allen	lydia.allen@usda.gov	(406) 329-3558
Interagency Grizzly Bear Coordinator	Scott Jackson	scott.jackson@usda.gov	(406) 329-3664
Acting Regional Botanist	Amanda Hendrix	amanda.hendrix@usda.gov	(651) 447-3016
Regional Vegetation Ecologist	Mary Manning	marry.manning@usda.gov	(406) 329-3304
Invasive Species Program Manager	Michelle Cox	michelle.cox2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3669

Tribal Nations



[Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes – Fort Belknap Reservation](#)

[Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes – Fort Peck Reservation](#)

[Blackfeet Tribe - Blackfoot Reservation](#)

[Chippewa Creek Tribe - Rocky Boy's Reservation](#)

[Crow Tribe – Crow Reservation](#)

[Little Shell Chippewa Tribe](#)

[Northern Cheyenne Tribe – Northern Cheyenne Reservation](#)

[Salish & Kootenai Tribes - Flathead Reservation](#)

Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers in Surrounding States and Provinces

[Alberta Conservation Information Management System](#)

[British Columbia Conservation Data Centre](#)

[Idaho Natural Heritage Program](#)

[North Dakota Natural Heritage Program](#)

[Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre](#)

[South Dakota Natural Heritage Program](#)

[Wyoming Natural Diversity Database](#)

Invasive Species Management Contacts and Information

Aquatic Invasive Species

[Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Aquatic Invasive Species staff](#)

[Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program](#)

[Montana Invasive Species Council \(MISC\)](#)

[Upper Columbia Conservation Commission \(UC3\)](#)

Noxious Weeds

[Montana Weed Control Association Contacts Webpage](#)

[Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project](#)

[Montana Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weeds](#)

[Montana Weed Control Association](#)

[Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - Noxious Weeds](#)

[Montana State University Integrated Pest Management Extension](#)

[Integrated Noxious Weed Management after Wildfires](#)

[Fire Management and Invasive Plants](#)

Introduction to Native Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: (1) Species Occurrences (SO) for plant and animal Species of Concern, Special Status Species (SSS), Important Animal Habitat (IAH) and some Potential Plant Species of Concern; (2) other observed non Species of Concern or Species of Concern without suitable documentation to create Species Occurrence polygons; and (3) other non-documented species that are potentially present based on their range, predicted suitable habitat model output, or presence of associated habitats. Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of [Species Occurrences](#) and associated delineation criteria for construction of these polygons that have long been used for considerations of documented Species of Concern in environmental reviews; (2) the number of observations of each species; (3) the geographic range polygons for each species that the report area overlaps; (4) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (5) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the [Montana Field Guide](#); and (6) a variety of conservation status ranks and links to species accounts in the [Montana Field Guide](#). Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers below or are defined on our [Species Status Codes](#) page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document native and introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are restricted by budgets, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**

If you are aware of observation datasets that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov. If you have animal observations that you would like to contribute, you can submit them to our [Animal Observation Entry Tool](#). You can also submit plant and animal observations via Excel spreadsheets posted at <https://mtnhp.org/observations.asp> or via the [Montana Natural Heritage Observations project in iNaturalist](#).

Observations

The MTNHP manages information on several million animal and plant observations that have been reported by professional biologists and private citizens from across Montana. The majority of these observations are submitted in digital format from standardized databases associated with research or monitoring efforts and spreadsheets of incidental observations submitted by professional biologists and amateur naturalists. At a minimum, accepted observation records must contain a credible species identification (i.e. appropriate geographic range, date, and habitat and, if species are difficult to identify, a photograph and/or notes on key identifying features), a date or date range, observer name, locational information (ideally with latitude and longitude in decimal degrees), notes on numbers observed, and species behavior or habitat use (e.g., is the observation likely associated with reproduction). Bird records are also required to have information associated with date-appropriate breeding or overwintering status of the species observed. MTNHP reviews observation records to ensure that they are mapped correctly, occur within date ranges when the species is known to be present or detectable, occur within the known seasonal geographic range of the species, and occur in appropriate habitats. MTNHP also assigns each record a locational uncertainty value in meters to indicate the spatial precision associated with the record's mapped coordinates. Only records with locational uncertainty values of 10,000 meters or less are included in environmental summary reports and number summaries are only provided for records with locational uncertainty values of 1,000 meters or less.

Species Occurrences

The MTNHP evaluates plant and animal observation records for species of higher conservation concern to determine whether they are worthy of inclusion in the [Species Occurrence](#) (SO) layer for use in environmental reviews; observations not worthy of inclusion in this layer include long distance dispersal events, migrants observed away from key migratory stopover habitats, and winter observations. An SO is a polygon depicting what is known about a species occupancy from direct observation with a defined level of locational uncertainty and any inference that can be made about adjacent habitat use from the latest peer-reviewed science. If an observation can be associated with a map feature that can be tracked (e.g., a wetland boundary for a wetland associated plant) then this polygon feature is used to represent the SO. Areas that can be inferred as probable occupied habitat based on direct observation of a species location and what is known about the foraging area or home range size of the species may be incorporated into the SO. Species Occurrences generally belong to one of the following categories:

Plant Species Occurrences

A documented location of a specimen collection or observed plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and their spatial proximity likely allows them to interbreed). Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Plant SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Potential Species of Concern.

Animal Species Occurrences

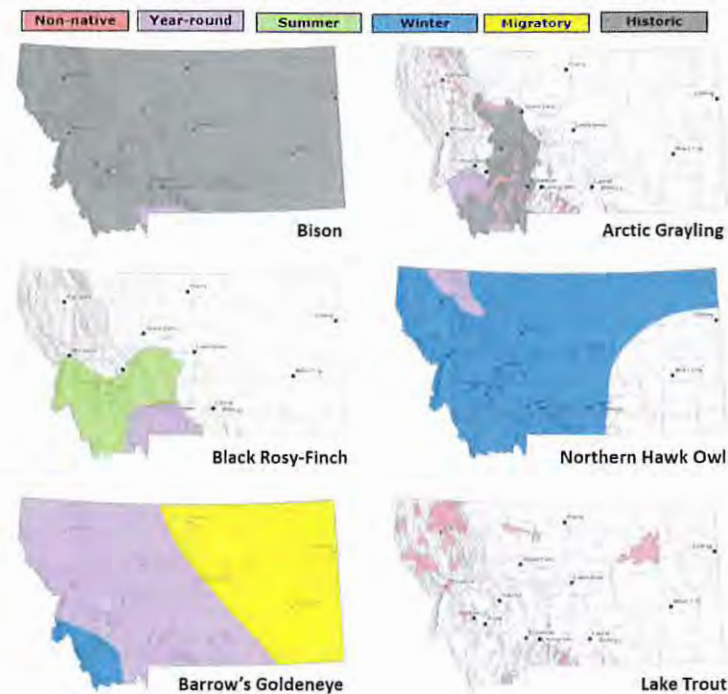
The location of a verified observation or specimen record typically known or assumed to represent a breeding population or a portion of a breeding population. Animal SO's are generally: (1) buffers of terrestrial point observations based on documented species' home range sizes; (2) buffers of stream segments to encompass occupied streams and immediate adjacent riparian habitats; (3) polygonal features encompassing known or likely breeding populations (e.g., a wetland for some amphibians or a forested portion of a mountain range for some wide ranging carnivores); or (4) combinations of the above. Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Species Occurrence polygons may encompass some unsuitable habitat in some instances in order to avoid heavy data processing associated with clipping out habitats that are readily assessed as unsuitable by the data user (e.g., a point buffer of a terrestrial species may overlap into a portion of a lake that is obviously inappropriate habitat for the species). Animal SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Special Status Species (e.g., Bald Eagle).

Other Occurrence Polygons

These include significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as Important Animal Habitats like bird rookeries and bat roosts, and peatlands or other wetland and riparian communities that support diverse plant and animal communities.

Geographic Range Polygons

Geographic range polygons are still under development for most plant and invertebrate species. Native year-round, summer, winter, migratory and historic geographic range polygons as well as polygons for introduced



populations have been defined for most vertebrate animal species for which there are enough observations, surveys, and knowledge of appropriate seasonal habitat use to define them (see examples to left). These native or introduced range polygons bound the extent of known or likely occupied habitats for non-migratory and relative sedentary species and the regular extent of known or likely occupied habitats for migratory and long-distance dispersing species; polygons may include unsuitable intervening habitats. For most species, a single polygon can represent the year-round or seasonal range, but breeding ranges of some colonial nesting water birds and some introduced species are represented more patchily when supported by data. Some ranges are mapped more broadly than actual distributions in order to be visible on statewide maps (e.g., fish).

Predicted Suitable Habitat Models

Predicted habitat suitability models have been created for plant and animal Species of Concern and are undergoing development for non-Species of Concern. For species for which models have been completed, the environmental summary report includes simple rule-based associations with streams for aquatic species and seasonal habitats for game species as well as mathematically complex Maximum Entropy models (Phillips et al. 2006, Ecological Modeling 190:231-259) constructed from a variety of statewide biotic and abiotic layers and presence only data for individual species for most terrestrial species. For the Maximum Entropy models, we reclassified 90 x 90-meter continuous model output into suitability classes (unsuitable, low, moderate, and optimal) then aggregated that into the one square mile hexagons used in the environmental summary report; this is the finest spatial scale we suggest using this information in management decisions and survey planning. Full model write ups for individual species that discuss model goals, inputs, outputs, and evaluation in much greater detail are posted on the MTNHP's [Predicted Suitable Habitat Models](#) webpage. Evaluations of predictive accuracy and specific limitations are included with the metadata for models of individual species. **Model outputs should not be used in place of on-the-ground surveys for species. Instead model outputs should be used in conjunction with habitat evaluations to determine the need for on-the-ground surveys for species.** We suggest that the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of commonly associated habitats to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning.

Associated Habitats

Within the boundary of the intersected hexagons, we provide the approximate percentage of commonly or occasionally associated habitat for vertebrate animal species that regularly breed, overwinter, or migrate through the state; a detailed list of commonly and occasionally associated habitats is provided in individual species accounts in the [Montana Field Guide](#). We assigned common or occasional use of each of the ecological

systems mapped in Montana by: (1) using personal knowledge and reviewing literature that summarizes the breeding, overwintering, or migratory habitat requirements of each species; (2) evaluating structural characteristics and distribution of each ecological system relative to the species' range and habitat requirements; (3) examining the observation records for each species in the state-wide point observation database associated with each ecological system; and (4) calculating the percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system to get a measure of numbers of observations versus availability of habitat. Species that breed in Montana were only evaluated for breeding habitat use, species that only overwinter in Montana were only evaluated for overwintering habitat use, and species that only migrate through Montana were only evaluated for migratory habitat use. In general, species were listed as associated with an ecological system if structural characteristics of used habitat documented in the literature were present in the ecological system or large numbers of point observations were associated with the ecological system. However, species were not listed as associated with an ecological system if there was no support in the literature for use of structural characteristics in an ecological system, even if point observations were associated with that system. Common versus occasional association with an ecological system was assigned based on the degree to which the structural characteristics of an ecological system matched the preferred structural habitat characteristics for each species as represented in the scientific literature. The percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system was also used to guide assignment of common versus occasional association.

We suggest that the percentage of commonly associated habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat from predictive models to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning. Users of this information should be aware that land cover mapping accuracy is particularly problematic when the systems occur as small patches or where the land cover types have been altered over the past decade. Thus, particular caution should be used when using the associations in assessments of smaller areas (e.g., evaluations of public land survey sections).

Introduction to Land Cover

Land Use/Land Cover is one of 15 [Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure](#) framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The layer records all Montana natural vegetation, land cover and land use, classified from satellite and aerial imagery, mapped at a scale of 1:100,000, and interpreted with supporting ground-level data. The baseline map is adapted from the Northwest ReGAP (NWGAP) project land cover classification, which used 30m resolution multi-spectral Landsat imagery acquired between 1999 and 2001. Vegetation classes were drawn from the Ecological System Classification developed by NatureServe (Comer et al. 2003). The land cover classes were developed by Anderson et al. (1976). The NWGAP effort encompasses 12 map zones. Montana overlaps seven of these zones. The two NWGAP teams responsible for the initial land cover mapping effort in Montana were Sanborn and NWGAP at the University of Idaho. Both Sanborn and NWGAP employed a similar modeling approach in which Classification and Regression Tree (CART) models were applied to Landsat ETM+ scenes. The Spatial Analysis Lab within the Montana Natural Heritage Program was responsible for developing a seamless Montana land cover map with a consistent statewide legend from these two separate products. Additionally, the Montana land cover layer incorporates several other land cover and land use products (e.g., MSDI Structures and Transportation themes and the Montana Department of Revenue Final Land Unit classification) and reclassifications based on plot-level data and the latest NAIP imagery to improve accuracy and enhance the usability of the theme. Updates are done as partner support and funding allow, or when other MSDI datasets can be incorporated. Recent updates include fire perimeters and agricultural land use (annually), energy developments such as wind, oil and gas installations (2014), roads, structures and other impervious surfaces (various years): and local updates/improvements to specific ecological systems (e.g., central Montana grassland and sagebrush ecosystems). Current and previous versions of the Land Use/Land Cover layer with full metadata are available for download at the Montana State Library's [Geographic Information Clearinghouse](#)

Within the report area you have requested, land cover is summarized by acres of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Ecological Systems.

Literature Cited

- Anderson, J.R. E.E. Hardy, J.T. Roach, and R.E. Witmer. 1976. A land use and land cover classification system for use with remote sensor data. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 964.
- Comer, P., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Evans, S. Gawler, C. Josse, G. Kittel, S. Menard, M. Pyne, M. Reid, K. Schulz, K. Snow, and J. Teague. 2003. Ecological systems of the United States: A working classification of U.S. terrestrial systems. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.

Introduction to Wetland and Riparian

Within the report area you have requested, wetland and riparian mapping is summarized by acres of each classification present. Summaries are only provided for modern MTNHP wetland and riparian mapping and not for outdated (NWI Legacy) or incomplete (NWI Scalable) mapping efforts; [described here](#). MTNHP has made all three of these datasets and associated metadata available for separate download on the Montana [Wetland and Riparian Framework](#) web page.

Wetland and Riparian mapping is one of 15 [Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure](#) framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The wetland and riparian framework layer consists of spatial data representing the extent, type, and approximate location of wetlands, riparian areas, and deep water habitats in Montana.

Wetland and riparian mapping is completed through photointerpretation of 1-m resolution color infrared aerial imagery acquired from 2005 or later. A coding convention using letters and numbers is assigned to each mapped wetland. These letters and numbers describe the broad landscape context of the wetland, its vegetation type, its water regime, and the kind of alterations that may have occurred. Ancillary data layers such as topographic maps, digital elevation models, soils data, and other aerial imagery sources are also used to improve mapping accuracy. Wetland mapping follows the federal Wetland Mapping Standard and classifies wetlands according to the Cowardin classification system of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (Cowardin et al. 1979, FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee 2013). Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands differently than the NWI. Similar coding, based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conventions, is applied to riparian areas (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). These are mapped areas where vegetation composition and growth is influenced by nearby water bodies, but where soils, plant communities, and hydrology do not display true wetland characteristics. **These data are intended for use at a scale of 1:12,000 or smaller. Mapped wetland and riparian areas do not represent precise boundaries and digital wetland data cannot substitute for an on-site determination of jurisdictional wetlands.**

See a detailed overview, with examples, of both [wetland and riparian classification systems and associated codes](#)

Literature Cited

- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79/31. Washington, D.C. 103pp.
- Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2013. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. FGDC-STD-004-2013. Second Edition. Wetlands Subcommittee, Federal Geographic Data Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. 2009. A system for mapping riparian areas in the western United States. Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Branch of Resource and Mapping Support, Arlington, Virginia.

Introduction to Land Management

Within the report area you have requested, land management information is summarized by acres of federal, state, and local government lands, tribal reservation boundaries, private conservation lands, and federal, state, local, and private conservation easements. Acreage for "Owned", "Tribal", or "Easement" categories represents non-overlapping areas that may be totaled. However, "Other Boundaries" represents managed areas such as National Forest boundaries containing private inholdings and other mixed ownership which may cause boundaries to overlap (e.g. a wilderness area within a forest). Therefore, acreages may not total in a straight-forward manner.

Because information on land stewardship is critical to effective land management, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) began compiling ownership and management data in 1997. The goal of the Montana Land Management Database is to manage a single, statewide digital data set that incorporates information from both public and private entities. The database assembles information on public lands, private conservation lands, and conservation easements held by state and federal agencies and land trusts and is updated on a regular basis. Since 2011, the Information Management group in the Montana State Library's Digital Library Division has led the Montana Land Management Database in partnership with the MTNHP.

Public and private conservation land polygons are attributed with the name of the entity that owns it. The data are derived from the statewide [Montana Cadastral Parcel layer](#). Conservation easement data shows land parcels on which a public agency or qualified land trust has placed a conservation easement in cooperation with the land owner. The dataset contains no information about ownership or status of the mineral estate. For questions about the dataset or to report errors, please contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-5363 or mtnhp@mt.gov. You can download various components of the Land Management Database and view associated metadata at the Montana State Library's [GIS Data List](#) at the following links:

[Public Lands](#)

[Conservation Easements](#)

[Private Conservation Lands](#)

[Managed Areas](#)

Map features in the Montana Land Management Database or summaries provided in this report are not intended as a legal depiction of public or private surface land ownership boundaries and should not be used in place of a survey conducted by a licensed land surveyor. Similarly, map features do not imply public access to any lands. The Montana Natural Heritage Program makes no representations or warranties whatsoever with respect to the accuracy or completeness of this data and assumes no responsibility for the suitability of the data for a particular purpose. The Montana Natural Heritage Program will not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of errors displayed here. Consumers of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the viability of the information for their purposes.

Introduction to Invasive and Pest Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: Aquatic Invasive Species, Noxious Weeds, Agricultural Pests, Forest Pests, and Biocontrol species that have been documented or potentially occur there based on the predicted suitability of habitat. Definitions for each of these invasive and pest species categories can be found on our [Species Status Codes](#) page.

Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of observations of each species; (2) the geographic range polygons for each species, if developed, that the report area overlaps; (3) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (4) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the [Montana Field Guide](#); and (5) links to species accounts in the [Montana Field Guide](#). Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers under the Introduction to Native Species above or are defined on our [Species Status Codes](#) page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what invasive and pest species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are limited, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. **Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species will always be an important obligation of users of our data.**

If you are aware of observation or survey datasets for invasive or pest species that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Coordinator bmaxell@mt.gov Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov. If you have observations that you would like to contribute, you can submit animal observations using our online data entry system at mtnhp.org/AddObs or via Excel spreadsheets posted at mtnhp.org/observations.asp

Additional Information Resources

[MTNHP Staff Contact Information](#)

[Montana Field Guide](#)

[MTNHP Species of Concern Report - Animals and Plants](#)

[MTNHP Species Status Codes - Explanation](#)

[MTNHP Predicted Suitable Habitat Models](#) (for select Animals and Plants)

[MTNHP Request Information page](#)

[Montana Cadastral](#)

[Montana Code Annotated](#)

[Montana Fisheries Information System](#)

[Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Subdivision Recommendations](#)

[Montana GIS Data Layers](#)

[Montana GIS Data Bundler](#)

[Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Project Submittal Site](#)

[Montana Ground Water Information Center](#)

[Montana Index of Environmental Permits, 21st Edition \(2018\)](#)

[Montana Environmental Policy Act \(MEPA\)](#)

[Montana Environmental Policy Act Analysis Resource List](#)

[Laws, Treaties, Regulations, and Agreements on Animals and Plants](#)

[Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure Layers](#)

[Montana State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance](#)

[Montana Stream Permitting: a guide for conservation district supervisors and others](#)

[Montana Water Information System](#)

[Montana Web Map Services](#)

[National Environmental Policy Act](#)

[Penalties for Misuse of Fish and Wildlife Location Data](#) (MCA 87-6-222)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation](#) (Section 7 Consultation)

[Web Soil Survey Tool](#)

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Wingerter, Jim <jwingerter@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:56 PM
To: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Cc: Wingerter, Jim <jwingerter@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Subject scoping. The Montana Department does not have any comments at this time.



Jim Wingerter

Great Falls District Administrator
Montana Department of Transportation
200 Smelter Avenue
P.O. Box 1359
Great Falls, MT 59403
Office: 406-454-5897
Cell: 406-461-4663

jwingerter@mt.gov



From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Bilodeau, Joseph; Marasco, David F.(CFM); Rivera Hernandez, Jose L.
Cc: Rob Clark
Subject: Communications RE the proposed Ft Harrison project from the Lewis and Clark County Public Works Director

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ALCON

Wanted to pass on the below input from the County Public Works Director.

Call if questions.

Best Regards

Bruce

Bruce Mack, PG, CHMM, REA
Environmental Engineer | Central Region Office
Department of Veterans Affairs | Construction and Facilities Management (CFM)
1425 Tri-State Parkway | Suite 140 | Gurnee, IL 60031
224-817-2374 | Email: bruce.mack@va.gov

From: Jenny Chambers <JCHAMBERS@lccountymt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 12:38 PM
To: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Cc: Dan Karlin <DKARLIN@lccountymt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Lewis and Clark County Public Works provides the following comments for your consideration:

1. During construction, there will be an increase in traffic from the construction crews comprised of standard vehicular traffic and heavier truck traffic for deliveries and equipment. This will harm William's street as it approaches the entrance gate to the VA campus.

Additional maintenance will likely be needed, resulting in more fuel consumption and oil products used for asphalt production and chipseal placement. Repair, restoration, or improvements are needed after project completion to address increased traffic and large hauling. Please consider a road mitigation and impact plan.

2. Post-construction, the additional square footage of the facility will undoubtedly lead to increased long-term traffic. This will harm William's Street as it approaches the entrance gate to the VA campus. Additional maintenance will likely be needed, resulting in more fuel consumption and oil products used for asphalt production and chipseal placement. Repair, restoration, or improvements are needed after project completion to address increased traffic and large hauling. Please consider a road mitigation and impact plan.
3. We support this important project to expand the capabilities of the Veterans Administration to serve the needs of Montana veterans. Please consider public outreach plan and community involvement for logistics, and community impacts, etc. If the county gets complaints or inquiries, please pass along contacts for this project as things progress.

-Jenny Chambers

Jenny Chambers
Public Works Department Director
Lewis and Clark County | 3402 Cooney Drive | Helena, MT 59602
Office phone: (406)-447-8036
Work cell: (406) 594-0188
jchambers@lccountymt.gov

From: Jenny Chambers <JCHAMBERS@lccountymt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Dan Karlin <DKARLIN@lccountymt.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Scoping Notice for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana

FYI

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 1:44:36 PM
To: robert_tjomsland@fws.gov <robert_tjomsland@fws.gov>; mccoy.melissa@epa.gov <mccoy.melissa@epa.gov>; NE404Reg@usace.army.mil <NE404Reg@usace.army.mil>; rebecka.ayre@usda.gov <rebecka.ayre@usda.gov>; snowakowski@mt.gov <snowakowski@mt.gov>; asteinmetz@mt.gov <asteinmetz@mt.gov>; lindsey.krywaruchka2@mt.gov <lindsey.krywaruchka2@mt.gov>; myoshioka@mt.gov <myoshioka@mt.gov>; MVAD@mt.gov <MVAD@mt.gov>; bmaxell@mt.gov

<bmaxell@mt.gov>; anna.pakenhamstevenson@mt.gov <anna.pakenhamstevenson@mt.gov>;
hrichards@mt.gov <hrichards@mt.gov>; mbostrom2@mt.gov <mbostrom2@mt.gov>; jwingerter@mt.gov
<jwingerter@mt.gov>; charles.brereton@mt.gov <charles.brereton@mt.gov>; pscmmedia@mt.gov
<pscmmedia@mt.gov>; County_Planning_Mail <County_Planning_Mail@lccountymt.gov>; Jenny Chambers
<JCHAMBERS@lccountymt.gov>; Kathy Moore <kmoore@lccountymt.gov>; Christopher Brink
<CBRINK@helenamt.gov>; ryan.j.finnegan.mil@army.mil <ryan.j.finnegan.mil@army.mil>;
deptmtadjutant@gmail.com <deptmtadjutant@gmail.com>; Crazymarinevet@outlook.com
<Crazymarinevet@outlook.com>; goofyguy442@gmail.com <goofyguy442@gmail.com>;
mtadjutant@gmail.com <mtadjutant@gmail.com>; montanavfw@gmail.com <montanavfw@gmail.com>;
Ackerman, Kelly <Kelly.Ackerman@mt.gov>

Subject: Scoping Notice for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, 3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to undertake Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements for the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The proposed action would correct seismic deficiencies at the medical center and upgrade portions of the facility to better accommodate the medical needs of our nations Veterans.

As part of the decision-making process VA is complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of this process, the VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental and cultural concerns. VA invites you to participate in the NEPA process.

Please see the attached Scoping Notice for information on the proposed project including details on how to submit any comments or input on alternatives and/or issues that your or your organization feel the VA should analyze as part of the EA.

The VA respectfully requests that you submit any comments/information via email by May 1, 2023 to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping".

The VA will also solicit input from the public at large through publication of the Notice on March 31st and April 2nd 2023 in the Helena Independent Record newspaper.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Respectfully,

Bruce Mack, PG, CHMM, REA
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs | Construction & Facilities Management (CFM)

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 1:15 PM
To: robert_tjomsland@fws.gov; mccoymelissa@epa.gov; NE404Reg@usace.army.mil; rebecka.ayre@usda.gov; Sonja.nowakowski@mt.gov; asteinmetz@mt.gov; lindsey.krywaruchka2@mt.gov; myoshioka@mt.gov; MVAD@mt.gov; bmaxell@mt.gov; anna.pakenhamstevenson@mt.gov; hrichards@mt.gov; mbostrom2@mt.gov; jwingerter@mt.gov; charles.brereton@mt.gov; pscmedia@mt.gov; planning@lccountymt.gov; jchambers@lccountymt.gov; kmoore@lccountymt.gov; cbrink@helenamt.gov; ryan.j.finnegan.mil@army.mil; deptmtadjutant@gmail.com; Crazymarinevet@outlook.com; goofyguy442@gmail.com; mtadjutant@gmail.com; wcollins@helenamt.gov; edean@helenamt.gov; efeaver@helenamt.gov; slogan@helenamt.gov; mreed@helenamt.gov; jmccormick@lccountymt.gov; trolfe@lccountymt.gov; ahunthausen@lccountymt.gov; Anna.Fiedler@mt.gov; charles.brereton@mt.gov
Subject: Notice of Availability Draft NEPA Environmental Assessment, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana
Attachments: Fort_Harrison_VAMC_Seismic_Upgrade_and_Specialty_Care_Improvements_Projects_Notice of Availability 16_Nov.pdf

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to undertake Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements to the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The proposed improvements would correct seismic deficiencies at the medical center and upgrade portions of the facility to better accommodate the medical needs of our nations Veterans.

As part of the decision-making process and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), VA has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements Projects proposed for the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center.

As part of the NEPA process, the VA seeks public comments on the Draft of the Environmental Assessment.

Please see the attached Notice of Availability of the Draft NEPA Environmental Assessment for public comment including details on where the document can be viewed and how to submit any comments to that document that you or your organization feel are relevant to the Environmental Assessment of the proposed actions.

*The VA respectfully requests that you submit any comments via email **by November 16, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line **"Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade Draft EA"**.*

The VA will also solicit input from the public at large through publication of the Notice on Tuesday October 17th and Saturday October 21st in the Helena Independent Record newspaper.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Respectfully,

Bruce Mack, PG, CHMM, REA
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs | Construction & Facilities Management (CFM)



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

October 13, 2023

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability – Draft NEPA Environmental Assessment
Proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements Projects
Fort Harrison VA Medical Center
3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, Montana

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The Proposed Action would correct seismic deficiencies at the Fort Harrison VAMC and would remodel and expand the retrofitted facilities to accommodate the operational needs of the medical center. The Proposed Action includes construction of new acute inpatient care space through a three-story, approximately 82,600-square-foot bed tower building addition on the south side of the main hospital building (Building 154); seismic retrofitting of Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A and the connecting corridor; remodeling approximately 221,800 square feet of space within these buildings to meet the current and future VAMC operational needs; construction of a new, approximately 15,700-square-foot, two-story central utility plant north of Building 154; construction of an approximately four-story, 660-space parking garage north of Building 154; and associated infrastructure upgrades.

The Proposed Action construction activities would be conducted in phases over a period of approximately 10 years to minimize campus disruption, support continued campus operations, and minimize the need for temporary swing space during construction. The proposed project locations are primarily existing paved parking lots, maintained grassy areas, and areas adjacent to existing buildings. All of the proposed improvements are located within the Fort Harrison VAMC campus on land owned by the Federal Government.

The location of the Fort Harrison VAMC campus is shown on Figures 1 and 2. Figure 3 provides an aerial photograph of the campus. Figure 4 illustrates the primary Proposed Action construction areas.

VA has prepared the Draft EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500- 1508), and VA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Concurrent with this mailing, a Notice of Availability for the Draft EA will be published in the Helena Independent Record. A hard copy of the Draft EA is available at the Lewis & Clark Library located at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT for review and comment.

The Draft EA is also available on the VA CFM Environmental Program Office website at <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp>.

Please submit your comments on the Draft EA via email by **November 16, 2023**, to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade Draft EA". VA will address and incorporate relevant comments in the Final EA.

For additional information or questions, please contact Bruce Mack, Environmental Engineer at bruce.mack@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade Draft EA".

Respectfully,

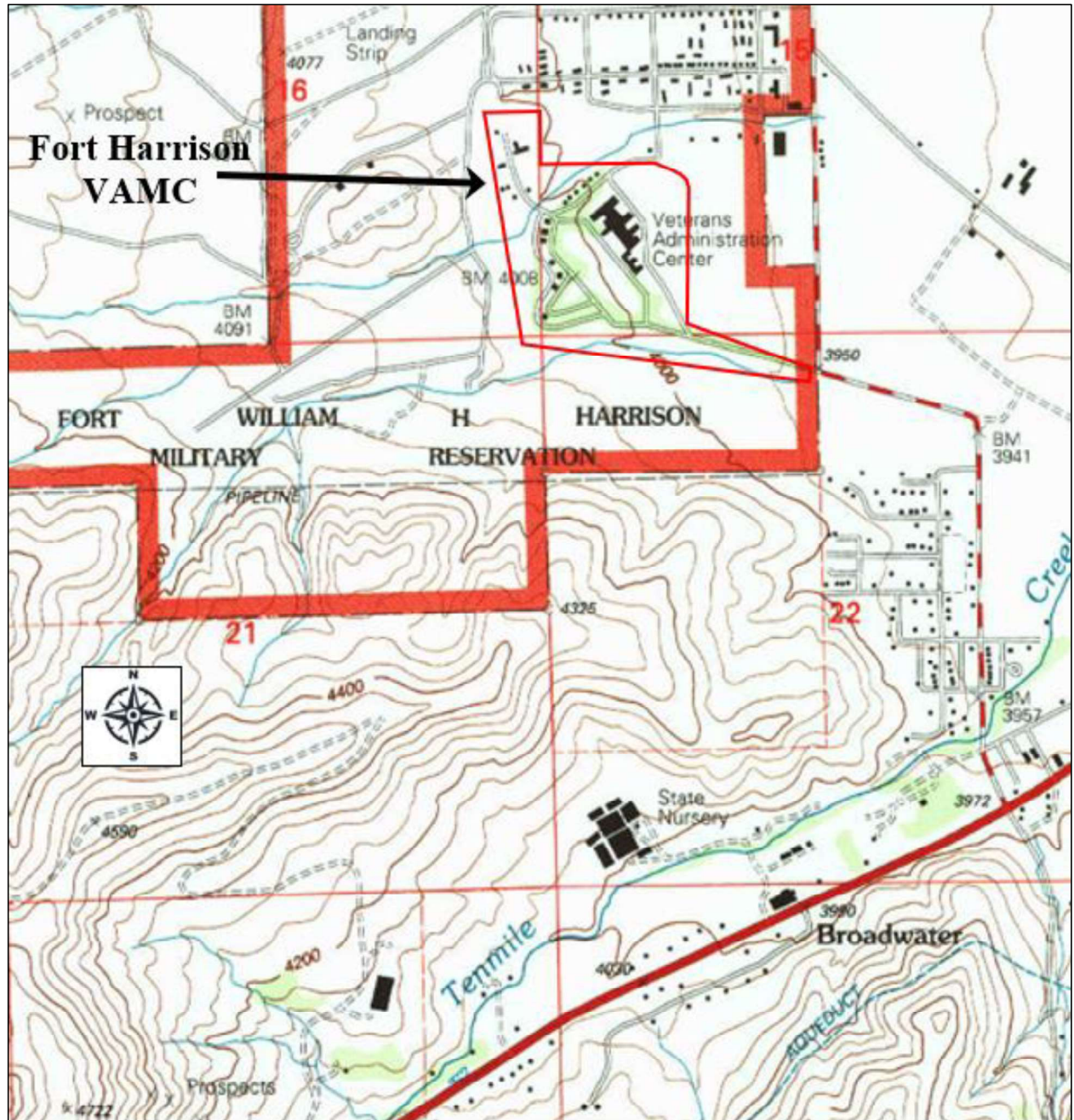
KATHRYN DOMM
Digitally signed by KATHRYN
DOMM
Date: 2023.10.06 15:43:40 -05'00'

Kathryn Domm
Director, Environmental Program Office (EPO)
Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Figure 1: Fort Harrison VAMC Location Map

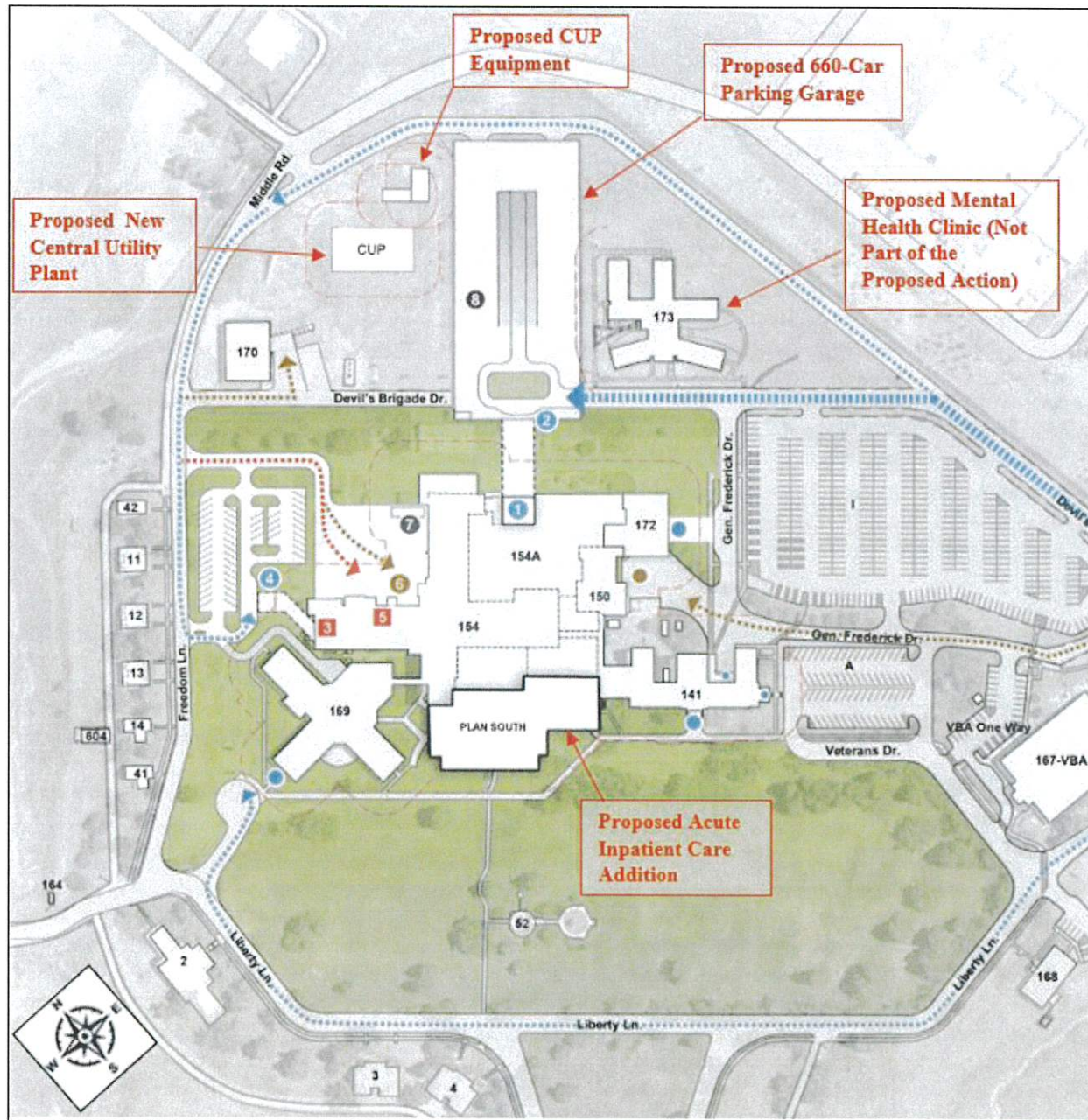


Figure 2: Topographic Location Map



[illegible]

Figure 4: Primary Proposed Action Construction Areas



APPENDIX C - NHPA SECTION 106 CONSULTATION AND NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE CORRESPONDENCE

Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | P.O. Box 1500

Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

1.877.468.8387 | 406.442.6410

www.montana.va.gov

May 1, 2023

Reid Nelson
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001
Via email to e106@achp.gov

Re: Initiation of Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Dear Director Nelson,

In the past ten years, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has conducted several assessments of the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (VAMC) and its capital assets. These assessments have determined that Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A, and the connecting corridor are seismically deficient and that Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A are undersized, resulting in functional deficiencies. Correction of these deficiencies would require new parking on campus and various utility upgrades and installations. In addition, the campus boiler plant is deficient and requires replacement.

Fort Harrison VAMC is initiating consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq) and the implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800 for this proposed undertaking.

Definition of the Undertaking

The Undertaking is defined as seismic upgrades and Specialty Care improvements projects to the Fort Harrison VAMC. It is anticipated that the improvements would be implemented in at least two phases, subject to funding and campus operations, beginning with design in 2023 and finishing construction no later than 2033.

- *Seismic Upgrades* - VA has determined the Fort Harrison VAMC is at “Moderate High” risk of seismic activity. A 2017 study of the campus determined Buildings 141, 150, 154, 154A, and the connecting corridors do not meet current seismic building code standards and to be at risk during a seismic episode. Proposed seismic upgrades to Buildings 141, 150, 154, 154A and the connecting corridors include selective demolitions of some interior spaces, adding shear walls and diaphragm and wall connections and corner reinforcements, and installing new mechanical systems.

- *Functional Improvements* - In 2017, VA identified a number of departmental inefficiencies, including departments that were too small; departments that were not adjacent to related departments and clinics; and lack of clear flow patterns. To correct these deficiencies, VA has proposed to renovate approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A following the completion of the seismic upgrades. The design for these renovations is incomplete, but modifications are limited to the building interiors.
VA also has proposed to construct an acute inpatient care addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A. The design is not complete but the addition is anticipated to be three stories in height and measure approximately 82,600 square feet. Once the addition has been constructed and the interior renovations are complete, VA would end three off-campus leases and relocate the functions to the main hospital complex. The construction of the additions and the proposed renovations would require upgraded utility lines and potentially new utility corridors. Plans are not complete.
- *Central Utility Plant* – The current boiler facilities in Building 171 do not meet VA standards and the building has been determined “Mission Critical” for seismic purposes and requires modification to be compliant with VA seismic standards. In addition to these concerns related to Building 171, the campus lacks a chiller plant. To correct these deficiencies, Fort Harrison VAMC has proposed to construct a new utility plant measuring approximately 15,700 square feet and no more than two stories in height. This new plant would be located northeast of Building 154 (Main Hospital) in an existing surface parking lot. The design of the new Central Utility Plant is not complete. This plan would lead to the vacation of Building 171. Buildings 142, 151, and 159 (former campus heating buildings) are proposed for demolition, but the schedule for these demolitions is subject to the availability of future funding.
- *Parking* - Campus parking would be lost by the construction of the proposed Central Utility Plant. To rectify the parking space displacement and address existing parking deficiencies, VA has proposed to construct a 660-space parking garage north of Buildings 154 and 154A. The buildings would connect to the garage via a covered corridor. The designs for the parking garage and connector are not complete; however, it is assumed the garage would be approximately four stories in height. The construction of the parking garage would require upgraded utility lines and potentially new utility corridors. Plans are not complete.

VA anticipates implementing the Undertaking in the following manner, subject to funding and operational needs:

- Phase I
 - Construct a Central Utility Plant and upgrade the related campus utilities
 - Remove equipment from Building 171 and cap related campus utilities
 - Construct a Parking Garage with Connector to Buildings 154 and 154A
- Phase II
 - Construct addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A and upgrade related campus utilities
 - Seismic retrofits of Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A and the connecting corridors
 - Renovate approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A
 - Various campus security improvements
- As funding becomes available
 - Demolish Buildings 142, 151, and 159

Delineation of the Area of Potential Effects

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Undertaking includes the entirety of the Ft. Harrison VAMC campus (Figure 1). This APE takes into account direct effects related to building construction and utility upgrades as well as potential effects to viewshed, use, and traffic.



Figure 1 - Fort Harrison VAMC with the APE indicated in red

Identification of Historic Properties

The APE contains the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District (Figure 2) and two recorded archaeological sites. There are no known historic landscape features individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but the Parade Ground is listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. No Traditional Cultural Properties associated with the Fort Harrison VAMC campus have been listed in the NRHP, but the area is of known significance to Native American Tribes.

Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District - The entirety of the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District is located within the recommended APE for the Undertaking. The historic district was listed in the NRHP in 2016 under Criterion A for the site's history as a military post and later as a VA hospital, and under Criterion C for its architecture. Of the buildings subject to the proposed Undertaking, Buildings 141, 142, and 151 and the Parade Ground contribute to the historic district. Buildings 150, 154,

154A, 159, and 171 were determined not to contribute. Photos of these resources are included in Attachment 1.



Figure 2 - Map of Fort Harrison VA Hospital Historic District with contributing and non-contributing resources identified¹

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874, Section 10. Modified 2023.

Site 24LC0123 - The Fort Harrison VAMC campus has been identified as Site 24LC0123.² The site has the potential to yield deposits related to the history of the area as a military reservation and later as a Veterans hospital. No artifacts associated with this site that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) have yet been identified.

Site 24LC1143 – Site 24LC1143³ is the former golf course for the Army installation and, later, the Veterans hospital. Most of the acreage is now the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, however, a small portion extends into the Fort Harrison VAMC property. Some features of the former golf course may still be extant. No artifacts associated with this site that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) have yet been identified.

Archaeological Potential – There is potential for intact deposits that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) to be identified. These sites may relate to Native American lifeways, fort activities, or Veterans' hospital occupation of the land.

Assessment of Adverse Effects

Buildings 150, 154, 154A, and 171 do not contribute to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and are not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. Interior modification of these buildings, including the removal of equipment from Building 171, does not adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and has no potential to disturb archaeological resources.

Building 141 is a contributing resource to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District. Full renovation and seismic retrofit plans are not finalized for Building 141; however, all construction will be at the interior. The building has lost materials integrity at its interior due to modifications for modern healthcare and administrative needs. The interior renovation does not adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and has no potential to disturb archaeological resources.

The proposed locations of the Central Utility Plant and Parking Garage are to the rear (northeast) of Buildings 154 and 154A. The proposed Central Utility Plant is smaller in height than the main hospital buildings and the proposed parking garage is comparable in height to the extant buildings. These prospective locations are largely obscured from view from historic buildings. Historic viewsheds in this area were irreparably impacted by the construction of Buildings 154, 154A, and 169. Further development of the Buildings 154/154A hospital complex by construction of a Parking Garage and Central Utility Plant would not alter the character-defining features of contributing resources to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, but has the potential to disturb archaeological resources.

Buildings 142 and 151 are contributing resources to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District. Demolition of these buildings would adversely affect the historic district.

The design of the addition to Buildings 154 and 154A is not complete but is likely to encroach into the Parade Ground. The change to the Parade Ground is adverse, however, the level of effect cannot be determined until plans have been finalized. Additional adverse effects to the viewshed of the historic district could occur related to the materials and design of the addition. Construction has the potential to disturb archaeological resources.

² National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874.; File search by MT SHPO, January 11, 2023.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874.; File search by MT SHPO, January 11, 2023.; Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, LLC, Historic Preservation Plan VA Montana Health Care System – Fort Harrison, on behalf of VA, 2017, page 44.

Ft. Harrison VAMC has determined the Undertaking will adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District due to the demolition of two contributing resources. Further adverse effects may be identified based on the design of the addition to Buildings 154 and 154A and the results of archaeological monitoring, but the range of effects of the Undertaking cannot be fully analyzed at this time. Ft. Harrison VAMC proposes to consult to develop a programmatic agreement (PA) in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(b) to resolve the adverse effects related to the proposed demolitions and procedures for archaeological monitoring and design review.

Outreach

Ft. Harrison VAMC has invited the following agencies and organizations to participate in this consultation effort: Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Chippewa Cree Business Community, Crow Tribe of Montana, Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Certified Local Government, Lewis & Clark County Historical Society, Fort William Henry Harrison/Montana Military Museum, and Preserve Montana.

Ft. Harrison VAMC is evaluating impacts of the Undertaking on the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA process, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on impacts to cultural resources, including historic properties. Notices for public comment will be published in *The Independent Record*, the Helena newspaper, and posted to social media.

Continuing Consultation/Next Steps

Ft. Harrison VAMC requests your review and comment the delineation of the APE, the identification of historic properties, and the assessment of adverse effects able to be completed at this time within the statutory review period established in 36 CFR Part 800. A draft of the PA also is included in this transmission for your review and comment.

Ft. Harrison VAMC will host a meeting with consulting parties to discuss this Undertaking and the draft PA in June/July 2023. This meeting will be hosted via Microsoft Teams with the ability to share screens.

Ft. Harrison VAMC values your assistance and looks forward to consulting with your office on this important project for our Veterans. Please contact Joseph Bilodeau at Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Judy Hayman, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Montana VA Health Care System

CC: Jose Rivera Hernandez, MTVAHCS
Héctor M. Abreu-Cintrón, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer
Vanessa Hanvey, Program Analyst/VA Liaison

ATTACHMENT 1: Resources Subject to the Undertaking



Figure 3 – Building 141, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 5 - Building 150, non-contributing



Figure 4 - Building 142, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 6 - Building 151, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 7 – Buildings 154 and 154A, non-contributing



Figure 9 - Building 171, non-contributing



Figure 8 - Building 159, non-contributing



Figure 10 - Parade Ground, contributing resource to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | P.O. Box 1500

Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

1.877.468.8387 | 406.442.6410

www.montana.va.gov

May 1, 2023

Durell Cooper
Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
Via email to durellcooper05@gmail.com

Re: Initiation of Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Dear Chairman Cooper,

In the past ten years, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has conducted several assessments of the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (VAMC) and its capital assets. These assessments have determined that Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A, and the connecting corridor are seismically deficient and that Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A are undersized, resulting in functional deficiencies. Correction of these deficiencies would require new parking on campus and various utility upgrades and installations. In addition, the campus boiler plant is deficient and requires replacement.

Fort Harrison VAMC is initiating consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq) and the implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800 for this proposed undertaking.

Definition of the Undertaking

The Undertaking is defined as seismic upgrades and Specialty Care improvements projects to the Fort Harrison VAMC. It is anticipated that the improvements would be implemented in at least two phases, subject to funding and campus operations, beginning with design in 2023 and finishing construction no later than 2033.

- *Seismic Upgrades* - VA has determined the Fort Harrison VAMC is at "Moderate High" risk of seismic activity. A 2017 study of the campus determined Buildings 141, 150, 154, 154A, and the connecting corridors do not meet current seismic building code standards and to be at risk during a seismic episode. Proposed seismic upgrades to Buildings 141, 150, 154, 154A and the connecting corridors include selective demolitions of some interior spaces, adding shear walls and diaphragm and wall connections and corner reinforcements, and installing new mechanical systems.
- *Functional Improvements* - In 2017, VA identified a number of departmental inefficiencies, including departments that were too small; departments that were not adjacent to related

departments and clinics; and lack of clear flow patterns. To correct these deficiencies, VA has proposed to renovate approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A following the completion of the seismic upgrades. The design for these renovations is incomplete, but modifications are limited to the building interiors.

VA also has proposed to construct an acute inpatient care addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A. The design is not complete but the addition is anticipated to be three stories in height and measure approximately 82,600 square feet. Once the addition has been constructed and the interior renovations are complete, VA would end three off-campus leases and relocate the functions to the main hospital complex. The construction of the additions and the proposed renovations would require upgraded utility lines and potentially new utility corridors. Plans are not complete.

- *Central Utility Plant* – The current boiler facilities in Building 171 do not meet VA standards and the building has been determined “Mission Critical” for seismic purposes and requires modification to be compliant with VA seismic standards. In addition to these concerns related to Building 171, the campus lacks a chiller plant. To correct these deficiencies, Fort Harrison VAMC has proposed to construct a new utility plant measuring approximately 15,700 square feet and no more than two stories in height. This new plant would be located northeast of Building 154 (Main Hospital) in an existing surface parking lot. The design of the new Central Utility Plant is not complete. This plan would lead to the vacation of Building 171. Buildings 142, 151, and 159 (former campus heating buildings) are proposed for demolition, but the schedule for these demolitions is subject to funding.
- *Parking* - Campus parking would be lost by the construction of the proposed Central Utility Plant. To rectify the parking space displacement and address existing parking deficiencies, VA has proposed to construct a 660-space parking garage north of Buildings 154 and 154A. The buildings would connect to the garage via a covered corridor. The designs for the parking garage and connector are not complete; however, it is assumed the garage would be approximately four stories in height. The construction of the parking garage would require upgraded utility lines and potentially new utility corridors. Plans are not complete.

VA anticipates implementing the Undertaking in the following manner, subject to funding and operational needs:

- Phase I
 - Construct a Central Utility Plant and upgrade the related campus utilities
 - Remove equipment from Building 171 and cap related campus utilities
 - Construct a Parking Garage with Connector to Buildings 154 and 154A
- Phase II
 - Construct addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A and upgrade related campus utilities
 - Seismic retrofits of Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A and the connecting corridors
 - Renovate approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A
 - Various campus security improvements
- As funding becomes available
 - Demolish Buildings 142, 151, and 159

Delineation of the Area of Potential Effects

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Undertaking includes the entirety of the Ft. Harrison VAMC campus (Figure 1). This APE takes into account direct effects related to building construction and utility upgrades as well as potential effects to viewshed, use, and traffic.



Figure 1 - Fort Harrison VAMC with the APE indicated in red

Identification of Historic Properties

The APE contains the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District (Figure 2) and two recorded archaeological sites. There are no known historic landscape features individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but the Parade Ground is listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. No Traditional Cultural Properties associated with the Fort Harrison VAMC campus have been listed in the NRHP, but the area is of known significance to Native American Tribes.

Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District - The entirety of the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District is located within the recommended APE for the Undertaking. The historic district was listed in the NRHP in 2016 under Criterion A for the site's history as a military post and later as a VA hospital, and under Criterion C for its architecture. Of the buildings subject to the proposed Undertaking, Buildings 141, 142, and 151 and the Parade Ground contribute to the historic district. Buildings 150, 154, 154A, 159, and 171 were determined not to contribute. Photos of these resources are included in Attachment 1.



Figure 2 - Map of Fort Harrison VA Hospital Historic District with contributing and non-contributing resources identified¹

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874, Section 10. Modified 2023.

Site 24LC0123 - The Fort Harrison VAMC campus has been identified as Site 24LC0123.² The site has the potential to yield deposits related to the history of the area as a military reservation and later as a Veterans hospital. No artifacts associated with this site that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) have yet been identified.

Site 24LC1143 – Site 24LC1143³ is the former golf course for the Army installation and, later, the Veterans hospital. Most of the acreage is now the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, however, a small portion extends into the Fort Harrison VAMC property. Some features of the former golf course may still be extant. No artifacts associated with this site that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) have yet been identified.

Archaeological Potential – There is potential for intact deposits that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) to be identified. These sites may relate to Native American lifeways, fort activities, or Veterans' hospital occupation of the land.

Assessment of Adverse Effects

Buildings 150, 154, 154A, and 171 do not contribute to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and are not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. Interior modification of these buildings, including the removal of equipment from Building 171, does not adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and has no potential to disturb archaeological resources.

Building 141 is a contributing resource to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District. Full renovation and seismic retrofit plans are not finalized for Building 141; however, all construction will be at the interior. The building has lost materials integrity at its interior due to modifications for modern healthcare and administrative needs. The interior renovation does not adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District and has no potential to disturb archaeological resources.

The proposed locations of the Central Utility Plant and Parking Garage are to the rear (northeast) of Buildings 154 and 154A. The proposed Central Utility Plant is smaller in height than the main hospital buildings and the proposed parking garage is comparable in height to the extant buildings. These prospective locations are largely obscured from view from historic buildings. Historic viewsheds in this area were irreparably impacted by the construction of Buildings 154, 154A, and 169. Further development of the Buildings 154/154A hospital complex by construction of a Parking Garage and Central Utility Plant would not alter the character-defining features of contributing resources to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, but has the potential to disturb archaeological resources.

Buildings 142 and 151 are contributing resources to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District. Demolition of these buildings would adversely affect the historic district.

The design of the addition to Buildings 154 and 154A is not complete but is likely to encroach into the Parade Ground. The change to the Parade Ground is adverse, however, the level of effect cannot be determined until plans have been finalized. Additional adverse effects to the viewshed of the historic district could occur related to the materials and design of the addition. Construction has the potential to disturb archaeological resources.

² National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874.; File search by MT SHPO, January 11, 2023.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Montana, National Register #16000874.; File search by MT SHPO, January 11, 2023.; Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, LLC, Historic Preservation Plan VA Montana Health Care System – Fort Harrison, on behalf of VA, 2017, page 44.

Ft. Harrison VAMC has determined the Undertaking will adversely affect the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District due to the demolition of two contributing resources. Further adverse effects may be identified based on the design of the addition to Buildings 154 and 154A and the results of archaeological monitoring, but the range of effects of the Undertaking cannot be fully analyzed at this time. Ft. Harrison VAMC proposes to consult to develop a programmatic agreement (PA) in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(b) to resolve the adverse effects related to the proposed demolitions and procedures for archaeological monitoring and design review.

Outreach

Ft. Harrison VAMC has invited the following agencies and organizations to participate in this consultation effort: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Chippewa Cree Business Community, Crow Tribe of Montana, Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Certified Local Government, Lewis & Clark County Historical Society, Preserve Montana, and the Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation/Montana Military Museum.

Ft. Harrison VAMC is evaluating impacts of the Undertaking on the human environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA process, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on impacts to cultural resources, including historic properties. Notices for public comment will be published in *The Independent Record*, the Helena newspaper, and posted to social media.

Continuing Consultation/Next Steps

Ft. Harrison VAMC requests your review and comment the delineation of the APE, the identification of historic properties, and the assessment of adverse effects able to be completed at this time within the statutory review period established in 36 CFR Part 800. A draft of the PA also is included in this transmission for your review and comment.

Ft. Harrison VAMC will host a meeting with consulting parties to discuss this Undertaking and the draft PA in June/July 2023. This meeting will be hosted via Microsoft Teams with the ability to share screens. If your Tribe would prefer, VA will arrange an independent consultation meeting to discuss historic properties and potential effects to those properties.

Ft. Harrison VAMC values your assistance and looks forward to consulting with your office on this important project for our Veterans. Please contact Joseph Bilodeau at joseph.bilodeau@va.gov if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Judy Hayman, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Montana VA Health Care System

CC: Jose Rivera Hernandez, MTVAHCS
Héctor M. Abreu-Cintrón, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer

ATTACHMENT 1: Resources Subject to the Undertaking



Figure 3 – Building 141, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 5 - Building 150, non-contributing



Figure 4 - Building 142, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 6 - Building 151, contributing resource to Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District



Figure 7 – Buildings 154 and 154A, non-contributing



Figure 9 - Building 171, non-contributing



Figure 8 - Building 159, non-contributing



Figure 10 - Parade Ground, contributing resource to the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District

Hon. Sara C. Bronin
Chair

Jordan Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 1000
Washington, DC 20420

Ref: *Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison Veterans Affairs Medical Center*
Ft. Harrison, Lewis and Clark Counties, Montana
ACHP Project Number: 019563

Dear Secretary McDonough:

In response to the recent notification by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) will participate in consultation to develop a programmatic agreement (Agreement) for Section 106 responsibilities at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(b)(2)(i). We are notifying you, as the head of the agency, of our decision to participate in consultation. By copy of this letter, we are also notifying Ms. Judy Hayman, Montana VA Health Care System Executive Director, of this decision.

Our participation in this consultation will be handled by Vanessa Hanvey, who can be reached at (202) 517-0224 via email at vhanvey@achp.gov. We look forward to working with your agency and other consulting parties to develop a program alternative that tailors the Section 106 review process to meet historic preservation goals and program needs.

Sincerely,

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director



Montana State Historic Preservation Office
225 N. Roberts Ave.
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
406-444-7715

July 24, 2023

Judy Hayman, Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Network 19, Montana VA Health Care System (436)
3687 Veterans Drive, P.O. Box 1500
Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Re: Initiation of Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Dear Ms. Hayman,

Thank you for your letter received May 16, 2023, regarding development of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for planned seismic upgrades and facility improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center. We concur with your determination of *historic properties affected, adverse effect*. This determination includes the delineation of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the identification of historic properties, and the assessment of adverse effects on historic properties completed at the time of writing on May 16, 2023.

We met virtually on July 20, 2023, with representatives from Veterans Affairs, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Helena-Lewis & Clark County Certified Local Government. We discussed the known details of the Undertaking, the draft PA, and offered recommendations for revising the language of the PA. This includes revisions that speak to the updated plans to retain Buildings 142 and 159, limiting potential demolition to Building 151.

Please note that our concurrence does not substitute for a good faith effort to consult with interested parties, local government authorities, and American Indian tribes. If you receive a comment that substantially relates to a historic property located within or adjacent to the APE, please submit it to our office for review. Include documentation of how the comment was addressed.

Please reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for consulting with us.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Tran, Historic Architecture Specialist
406.444.7717
lindsay.tran@mt.gov

FILE: VA - 2023 - 20230516515



CC: Jose Rivera Hernandez, MTVAHCS
Héctor M. Abreu-Cintrón, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer

From: [Bilodeau, Joseph](#)
To: [Kelly Sellers Wittie](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison.
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:56:31 PM
Importance: High

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II
Engineering & Facilities Management Service
Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500
Office | 406.447.7383
www.montana.va.gov

From: gary.lafranier@cheyennenation.com <gary.lafranier@cheyennenation.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison.
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

After reviewing project, Northern Cheyenne determines that the project will have a No Adverse Effect.

Thank You,

Gary LaFranier

FCC/ Section 106 Coordinator
(406) 477-8114
Lame Deer, MT. 59043

From: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 12:51 PM
To: Brown, Peter; Tran, Lindsay
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L.; Abreu, Hector M.; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM)
Subject: RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Fort Harrison VAMC will host a Consulting Party meeting on July 19, 2023, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed seismic upgrades and specialty care improvements undertaking and the related draft programmatic agreement (PA).

Please RSVP by July 12th to ensure adequate digital accommodations.

Information on joining Teams without an account - <https://support.microsoft.com/en-au/office/join-a-meeting-without-a-teams-account-c6efc38f-4e03-4e79-b28f-e65a4c039508#:~:text=You%20don't%20need%20to,once%20you%20join%20the%20meeting.>

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II
Engineering & Facilities Management Service
Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Brown, Peter <pebrown@mt.gov>
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>
Subject: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

Mr. Brown,

This is a courtesy notice to inform you that Fort Harrison VA Medical Center is initiating consultation.

The letter and draft PA have been uploaded through the MT SHPO portal. Hard copies have also been sent out, to your attention. Thank you.

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Healthcare Engineer

FAC-COR Level II

Engineering & Facilities Management Service

Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 5:55 PM
To: Pam Attardo
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L.; Abreu, Hector M.; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM); Kathy Macefield
Subject: RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Pam,

Thank you for your response. We will get you and Kathy added to the invite shortly.

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II
Engineering & Facilities Management Service
Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Pam Attardo <PATTARDO@lccountymt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 3:49 PM
To: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>; Kathy Macefield <KMACEFIELD@lccountymt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

Hi Joe,

I will be attending and Kathy Macefield of my office would also like to attend (I'm copying her here).

Best,
Pam

From: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Pam Attardo <PATTARDO@lccountymt.gov>
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack,

Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

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Good morning,

Fort Harrison VAMC will host a Consulting Party meeting on July 19, 2023, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed seismic upgrades and specialty care improvements undertaking and the related draft programmatic agreement (PA).

Please RSVP by July 12th to ensure adequate digital accommodations.

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Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II

Engineering & Facilities Management Service

Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:58 PM

To: pattardo@lccountymt.gov

Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>

Subject: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

Hello,

Please find attached. The Fort Harrison VA Medical Center is initiating consultation. Thank you.

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Healthcare Engineer

FAC-COR Level II

Engineering & Facilities Management Service

Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Aaron Brien <Aaron.Brien@crow-nsn.gov>

Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <hector.abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <bruce.mack@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

Hi Mr. Brien,

VA intends to distribute the minutes and presentation and will ensure you receive it. Thank you for reaching out.

Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II

Engineering & Facilities Management Service

Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)

3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Office | 406.447.7383

www.montana.va.gov

From: Aaron Brien <Aaron.Brien@crow-nsn.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:29 AM

To: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>

Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

Sorry for the late response but would it be possible to receive meeting note?

Thank you

Aaron B. Brien, Director
Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Cell: 406.679.2511
Office: 406.839.3817
aaron.brien@crow-nsn.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph <Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:44:16 AM
To: Aaron Brien <Aaron.Brien@crow-nsn.gov>
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

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Regards,

Joe Bilodeau
Deputy Chief Engineer | FAC-COR Level II
Engineering & Facilities Management Service
Communication | Woo | Harmony | Input | Learner



Rocky Mountain Network 19 | Montana VA Health Care System (436)
3687 Veterans Drive | Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500
Office | 406.447.7383
www.montana.va.gov

From: Bilodeau, Joseph
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:56 PM
To: aaron.brien@crow-nsn.gov
Cc: Rivera Hernandez, Jose L. <Jose.RiveraHernandez1@va.gov>; Abreu, Hector M. <Hector.Abreu@va.gov>; Mack, Bruce G. (CFM) <Bruce.Mack@va.gov>
Subject: Fort Harrison VA Medical Center - Initiation of Consultation

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Regards,

Joe Bilodeau

Healthcare Engineer

FAC-COR Level II

Engineering & Facilities Management Service

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SUMMARY
FORT HARRISON VAMC SEISMIC & FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS NHPA MEETING
JULY 19, 2023

Participants:

Hector Abreu, VA Historic Preservation Office (VA HPO)
David Marasco, VA Office of Logistics & Construction
Joseph Bilodeau, Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (VAMC)
Leslie Holz, VA VISN 19
Vanessa Hanvey, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
Pete Brown, Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MT SHPO)
Lindsay Tran, MT SHPO
Kathy Macefield, Helena/Lewis & Clark Certified Local Government (LCG)
Robin Clark, Contractor Support – TTL Associates
Kelly Sellers Wittie, Contractor Support – Row 10

The meeting began at 10:05 AM MT.

- VA thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting.
- VA notified participants that the call was being recorded.
- Fort Harrison VAMC invited everyone to visit the campus to see the new signage program. The signs detail the history of the campus and provide wayfinding assistance.
- VA requires seismic retrofits for seismic deficiencies and functional inefficiencies. The proposed Undertaking largely is centered in the main hospital but there are smaller projects across the campus.
- VA has removed Buildings 142 and 159 from this Undertaking. Potential actions concerning Building 151 remain part of the Undertaking.
 - MT SHPO commented that Building 142 has potential for adaptive reuse, if equipment could be removed. VA HPO noted that VA would look to alternate uses prior to demolition.
- VA has defined the Area of Potential Effect as the entire Fort Harrison VAMC campus.
 - The APE includes the Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital Historic District and two known archaeological sites. Though no artifacts have been identified to date, there exists a potential for intact deposits. No Traditional Cultural Properties have been identified on the campus to date. VA has extended an invitation to Tribes to consult but has not heard from any Tribes to date.
 - ACHP asked about VA's plans for cultural resources survey. VA HPO stated that there is a list of historic built resources. MT SHPO noted that the Parade Ground is called out as an important landscape, but no other landscape features have been specifically listed. VA has completed archaeological investigations on campus, including most recently in the location of the former Quarters that are now in use as housing (EUL). VA completed a historic preservation plan ca. 2017 that identified areas of the campus with the highest potential to retain intact deposits. No artifacts that meet the criteria for listing have been identified.

- Retrofit/Renovation of Buildings 150 and 154/154A – Buildings 150, 154, and 154A do not contribute to the historic district. Design plans are not complete, but all plans are limited to interior renovations. VA does not see a potential for adverse effects.
- Addition to Building 154 – Building 154 does not contribute to the historic district. Under the proposed Undertaking, VA would construct a 3-story addition to the building. The proposed addition would encroach onto Veterans Drive and the Parade Ground and could affect existing viewsheds. VA has massing sketches, but design plans are not complete, so VA cannot fully determine effects. VA has determined that encroachment into the Parade Ground is an adverse effect. VA has proposed design review with Consulting Party input to help minimize adverse effects.
 - MT SHPO asked if additional pavement/roadway would be needed to support the Addition or provide space for emergency vehicles.
 - VAMC answered that no plans have been finalized but, right now, VA wants to keep the views as much as possible. Construction would likely abut the Parade Ground. Again, no plans have been finalized. VA OCFM noted that VA may consider an oversized sidewalk that could accommodate a firetruck or other emergency vehicle.
 - MT SHPO said it would be great to minimize the introduction of new pavement or even to remove existing pavement to restore the original appearance of the Parade Ground. MT SHPO also has seen a grid of concrete units that is structurally sufficient to allow emergency vehicles to get close.
- Retrofit and Renovation of Building 141 – This building is an important contributing resource to the historic district. The building is proposed for retrofit and renovation, but plans are not complete. Construction would be limited to the interior of the building. The interior of the building has lost integrity due to changes in medical care. There is no potential to disturb archaeological resources. As the renovation is limited to the interior, VA has proposed that plans will not adversely affect historic properties.
- CUP and Parking Garage with Related Infrastructure Improvements – VA has proposed to build a CUP and a parking garage behind Buildings 154/154A.
 - Building 171 (Boiler Plant) does not meet VA standards and is seismically deficient. Fort Harrison VAMC also lacks a chiller plant. VA therefore has proposed to construct a new CUP. Design plans are not complete but is not anticipated to be more than two stories in height. VA proposes to vacate Building 171 and remove the equipment but has no plans for a reuse for Building 171 at this time.
 - Infrastructure upgrades including utilities and roadway improvements based on final designs.
 - Design plans are not complete, but the proposed parking garage is not anticipated to be more than five stories in height and of approximately 660 spaces. Construction of the garage would correct existing deficiencies and future parking losses related to proposed construction projects.
 - Construction of CUP and parking garage largely obscured by Buildings 154/154A and Building 169. No adverse effects to built resources but potential for archaeological impacts.
- Potential for Demolition of Building 151 – Initially, VA proposed to demolish three vacant buildings (Buildings 142, 151, and 159). VA has revised this list and the Undertaking now includes only Building 151, which is a contributing resource to the historic district. Demolition would only occur if/when funding is secured and if the VAMC has no use for the building. Such a demolition would be an adverse effect to historic properties.

- MT SHPO asked if the draft PA would include language concerning funding for the proposed demolition of Building 151. VA clarified that funding, if it happens, would occur in Phase II of the proposed Undertaking (FY25). Demolition would be subject to funding. As VA moves into Design Phase, right now, the demolition is not in scope. VA clarified that the draft PA will be revised to remove Buildings 142 and 159 but would like to note required mitigation if/when Building 151 is demolished.
- There are several component projects to this Undertaking. VA initiated consultation on May 11, 2023. VA extended an invitation to this meeting on July 5, 2023, and again on July 19, 2023. To date, VA has not received comments/responses from Tribes. VA is conducting a parallel NEPA process for this action. VA initiated Scoping in March 2023. Announcements included newspaper ads, website postings, and direct emails. To date, VA has not received any comments related to historic properties.
- VA has determined the proposed Undertaking will adversely affect Building 151 but cannot determine the full range of effects to the historic district until design plans are finalized. VA is aware of the potential for effects to archaeological deposits. VA therefore has proposed to develop a PA to resolve known effects and set procedures to avoid, minimize, avoid potential effects.
- VA distributed a copy of the draft PA with the materials in May 2023. VA requested comments on the draft PA by August 4, 2023. All parties were invited to provide comments in the meeting, if comfortable. Comments on the draft PA were captured on the draft PA document in MS Word.
 - MT SHPO will issue its formal response. MT SHPO did provide mitigation ideas via email. ACHP provided notice of its participation on May 22, 2023.
 - LCG asked if Building 151 could be relocated rather than demolished. VA HPO detailed VA's internal procedures for review. VA starts by looking for another internal use, then looks to leasing (Section 111 or Enhanced-Use Lease). B151 is a small building so it may be challenging to lease. If no leases are viable, VA offers the building for relocation. VA would advertise, often with help from the SHPO.
 - LCG asked for clarification on the location of the proposed addition to B154. VA showed the location on the map. VA has square footage requirements (about 83,000 sq ft), but no information about exterior materials. Buildings 154 and 154A are not contributing, though Building 141 is adjacent and is historic.
- VA will consider all comments and revise the draft PA.
- VAMC invited all parties to visit the campus this fall to see the new signage. Please contact VAMC in advance.
- MT SHPO thanked VA for hosting.

The meeting ended at 12:05 PM MT.

August 17, 2023

Lindsay Tran
Historic Architecture Specialist
Montana Historical Society
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
225 North Roberts Avenue
PO Box 201201
Helena, Montana 59620-1201
Via email to Lindsay.Tran@mt.gov

Re: Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort
Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Dear Specialist Tran,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiated consultation with your office and other parties on May 11, 2023, concerning the proposed development of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve potential adverse effects from the seismic upgrades and specialty care improvements to the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (VAMC). Fort Harrison VAMC received comments on the draft PA submitted through June 12, 2023, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On July 19, 2023, Fort Harrison VAMC hosted a consulting party meeting to discuss the proposed Undertaking and received comments on the draft PA. Fort Harrison VAMC requested parties submit additional comments by August 4, 2023.

Redefinition of the Undertaking

The Fort Harrison VAMC has recently reassessed its facilities program needs and requested that we modify the Undertaking by eliminating the proposed demolition of Buildings 142, 159 and 151. Buildings 142 and 151 are contributing resources while Building 159 is non-contributing. The Undertaking is now limited to:

- Construction of a Central Utility Plant and upgrade the related campus utilities,
- Removal equipment from Building 171 and the capping of related campus utilities,
- Construction of a Parking Garage with Connector to Buildings 154 and 154A,
- Construction of an addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A and upgrade related campus utilities,
- Seismic retrofit of Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A and the connecting corridors,
- Renovation of approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A, and
- Associated campus security improvements.

Delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and Identification of Historic Properties

The APE for this Undertaking remains unchanged. It includes the whole of the Fort Harrison VAMC campus to account for the various component projects.

The APE contains the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, archaeological Site 24LC0123 (Fort Harrison VAMC campus), and Site 24LC1143 (the former golf course for the Fort Harrison Army installation). There are no known historic landscape features individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but the Parade Ground is listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. No Traditional Cultural Properties associated with the Fort Harrison VAMC campus have been listed in the NRHP, but the area is of known significance to Native American Tribes. There is potential for intact deposits that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) to be identified. These sites may relate to Native American lifeways, fort activities, or Veterans hospital occupation of the land.

Assessment of Adverse Effects

As previously stated in the May 2023 documentation to initiate consultation and as discussed in the July 2023 consultation meeting, the range of effects of the Undertaking cannot be fully analyzed until the design plans are complete. Preliminary assessments of adverse effects are as follows. Notations about historic status are related to the resource's significance to the Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital Historic District.

- Construction of a Central Utility Plant and upgrade the related campus utilities – No adverse effects to built resources. Potential for disturbance of archaeological resources.
- Removal equipment from Building 171 (non-contributing) and the capping of related campus utilities – No adverse effects to built or archaeological resources.
- Construction of a Parking Garage with Connector to Buildings 154 (non-contributing) and 154A (non-contributing) – No adverse effects to built resources. Potential for disturbance of archaeological resources.
- Construction of an addition to the south side of Buildings 154 and 154A and upgrade related campus utilities – Potential for adverse effects to built and archaeological resources. Adverse effects to the Parade Ground (contributing) are anticipated.
- Seismic retrofit of Buildings 141 (contributing), 150 (non-contributing), 154, and 154A and the connecting corridors (non-contributing) – No adverse effects to built or archaeological resources.
- Renovation of approximately 221,800 building gross square feet in Buildings 141, 150, 154, and 154A – No adverse effects to built or archaeological resources.
- Associated campus security improvements – Limited potential for adverse effects.

Additional information about preliminary assessments of adverse effects is included in the May 2023 documentation initiating consultation.

Your office concurred with Fort Harrison VAMC's delineation of the APE, identification of historic properties, and assessments of adverse effect on July 24, 2023. Please notify Fort Harrison VAMC if your concurrence has changed based on the reduction of the Undertaking to exclude the demolition of Building 151.

The change in the definition of the Undertaking has not changed Fort Harrison VAMC's intent to develop a programmatic agreement (PA) to establish processes for design review and further archaeological assessment.

Revised Draft PA

A copy of the draft PA, including all comments made during the July consultation meeting and those received after, is included in this transmission. A summary of the July consultation meeting also is attached.

Fort Harrison VAMC has taken all comments into account and revised the draft PA. The revised draft is based on the updated definition of the Undertaking. Fort Harrison VAMC requests your comments on the revised draft by September 8, 2023 so any adverse impacts to the project schedule can be minimized. Once all comments have been received Fort Harrison VAMC will initiate circulation of the PA for signature and final execution.

Fort Harrison VAMC values your assistance and looks forward to consulting with your office on this important project for our Veterans. Please contact Joseph Bilodeau at Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Duane B. Gill, FACHE

Interim Executive Director, Montana VA Health Care System

CC: Jose L. Rivera Hernandez, MTVAHCS
Héctor M. Abreu Cintrón, VA Federal Preservation Officer
Pete Brown, MT SHPO

Attachments:

- July 19, 2023, consultation meeting presentation
- July 19, 2023, consultation meeting summary including comments made on the draft PA
- Revised draft PA with "Track Changes"
- Revised draft PA for review and comment

August 17, 2023

Durell Cooper
Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
Via email to durellcooper05@gmail.com

Re: Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Dear Chairman Cooper,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiated consultation with your Tribe and other parties on May 11, 2023, concerning the proposed development of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve potential adverse effects from the seismic upgrades and specialty care improvements to the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (VAMC). Fort Harrison VAMC received comments on the draft PA submitted through June 12, 2023, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On July 19, 2023, Fort Harrison VAMC hosted a consulting party meeting to discuss the proposed Undertaking and received comments on the draft PA. Fort Harrison VAMC requested parties submit additional comments by August 4, 2023.

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Additional information about preliminary assessments of adverse effects is included in the May 2023 documentation initiating consultation.

The Montana Historical Society, as the State Historic Preservation Office, concurred with Fort Harrison VAMC's delineation of the APE, identification of historic properties, and assessments of adverse effect on July 24, 2023. Please notify Fort Harrison VAMC if your concurrence has changed based on the reduction of the Undertaking to exclude the demolition of Building 151.

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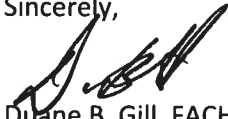
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Fort Harrison VAMC values your assistance and looks forward to consulting with your Tribe on this important project for our Veterans. Please contact Joseph Bilodeau at Joseph.Bilodeau@va.gov if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Duane B. Gill, FACHE

Acting Executive Director, Montana VA Health Care System

CC: Jose Rivera Hernandez, MTVAHCS
Héctor M. Abreu Cintrón, VA Federal Preservation Officer

Attachments:

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- July 19, 2023, consultation meeting summary including comments made on the draft PA
- Revised draft PA with "Track Changes"
- Revised draft PA for review and comment



Montana State Historic Preservation Office
225 N. Roberts Ave.
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
406-444-7715

August 31, 2023

Joe Bilodeau
Deputy Chief Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Rocky Mountain Network 19, Montana VA Health Care System (4365)
3687 Veterans Drive
Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

Re: Comments on Revised Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Improvements

Dear Mr. Bilodeau,

Thank you for your correspondence received August 21, 2023, requesting comment on a revised draft of the PA for the above-referenced project at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center at Fort Harrison in Lewis & Clark County, Montana. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Find enclosed a copy of SHPO's comments on this latest draft.

We look forward to final execution of the PA and to continued consultation on this project.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Tran, Historic Architecture Specialist
406.444.7717
lindsay.tran@mt.gov



Encl: VA_FortHarrisonVAMC_RevisedDraftPA_2023082108_SHPOComments

FILE: VA - 2023 - 2023082108

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

HERITAGE TRIBAL OFFICES (HETO)
CULTURAL RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203



PHONE: (208) 236-1086/1081/1084
EMAIL: csmith@sbtribes.com
jbill@sbtribes.com
ambowers@sbtribes.com

August 21, 2023

Duane B. Gill
Montana VA Health Care System
Acting Executive Director
3687 Veterans Drive
Fort Harrison, MT 59636-1500

**RE: CONSULTATION FOR SEISMIC UPGRADES AND SPECIALTY CARE
IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FORT HARRISON VA MEDICAL CENTER, FT.
HARRISON, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA**

Dear Mr. Gill:

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) Heritage Tribal Office (HeTO) appreciates the opportunity to provide technical comments to the Consultation for Seismic Upgrades and Specialty Care Improvements at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Lewis & Clark County, Montana.

Although Consultation was initiated on May 11, 2023, Tribes concur with the proposed undertaking. We also concur with the Draft PA discussion regarding Section IV- Treatment measures for archaeological resources, regarding monitoring. The Tribes missed the August 4, 2023 deadline, but are sending comments for the revised Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) before the September 8, 2023 deadline.

As stated in your letter: The Area of Potential Effects (APE) contains the Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District, archaeological Site 24LC0123 (Fort Harrison VAMC campus), and Site 24LC1143 (the former golf course for the Fort Harrison Army Installation). There are no known historic landscape features individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP), but the Parade Ground is listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. No Traditional Cultural Properties associated with the Fort Harrison VAMC campus have been listed in the NRHP, but the area is of known significance to Native American Tribes. There is potential for intact deposits that meet the criteria for listing in the

NRHP (36 CFR § 60.4) to be identified. These sites may relate to Native American lifeways, fort activities, or Veterans hospital occupation of the land.

Therefore, within the Draft PA discussion on Section V-Treatment of Human Remains and Items of religious and cultural importance, we have some comments. We propose additional language that tribes will be notified and consulted regarding potential human remains and/or potential funerary objects identified and this section also refer to Section VI-Post-Review Discoveries, that will notify tribes and seek consultation with tribes.

We appreciate that you contacted the Tribes for input to the Fort Harrison undertaking. The purpose of this letter is to provide technical input and not intended as formal government-to-government consultation. Should there be any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (208) 236-1086 or e-mail at: csmith@sbtribes.com.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Smith
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Cultural Resource Coordinator

APPENDIX D – SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #1: Looking southeast across the southeastern portion of the Fort Harrison VAMC campus.



Photo #2: Looking north across parking lots L and K (proposed CUP and parking garage area) in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #3: Looking east across parking lots L and K in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #4: Looking northeast across vacant land (proposed mental healthcare (B173) area) in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #5: Looking southwest across vacant land and parking lot L (proposed CUP area) in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #6: Looking south at the northwest side of the Main Hospital (B154) in the northern portion of the campus.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #7: Looking northeast at Building 154 (main hospital building).



Photo #8: Looking northeast at Building 141 (administration building).



Photo #9: Looking east at the southwest entrance of B154 (proposed building addition area).



Photo #10: Looking northwest along Veterans Drive (proposed building addition area) in the central portion of the campus.



Photo #11: Looking southeast across the parade ground in the central portion of the campus.



Photo #12: Looking southeast at Building 171 (current boiler plant) in the northeastern portion of the campus.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #13: Looking south along Independence Way at warehouse (B31), former boiler house (B142), and engineering shops (B20) in the northwestern portion of the campus.



Photo #14: Looking northwest at storage buildings B47 and B17 in the northwestern portion of the campus.



Photo #15: Looking northwest at the southeast side of B172 in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #16: Looking northwest along Patriot's Way in the northeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #17: Looking northeast across the Mt. Defensa Avenue drainage ditch located in the northern portion of the campus.



Photo #18: Looking north across the detention pond located along the eastern campus boundary.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #19: Looking southwest at the eastern side of the enhanced use lease (EUL) Dormitory (B2) in the western portion of the campus.



Photo #20: Looking southwest along Gen. Eschenburg Lane and EUL Quarters (B3, B4, B5, and B35, B36) in the southwestern portion of the campus.



Photo #21: Looking southwest along Middle Road and EUL Quarters (B42, B11, B12, B13, B14, and B41) in the northern portion of the campus.



Photo #22: Looking east at the northwest corner of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office Building (B167) in the southeastern portion of the campus.



Photo #23: Sweat lodge, medicine circle, and drainage ditch located in the southern portion of the campus.



Photo #24: Looking along the entrance drive (Honor Drive) in the southeastern corner of the campus.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #25: Northerly adjoining Fort Harrison RV Park (2090 Buna Loop).



Photo #26: Northerly adjoining US Naval Reserve Center (2090 USS Helena Drive).



Photo #27: Northerly adjoining walking path.



Photo #28: Northerly adjoining Building 1010 Fort Harrison Fire Station (4375 Rome Avenue).



Photo #29: Easterly adjoining Fort Harrison Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center (National Guard) (1956 Mt Majo Street).



Photo #25: Southerly adjoining Montana State Veterans Cemetery (3550 Heroes Road).

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS FORT HARRISON VAMC CAMPUS



Photo #261: Southerly adjoining vacant land and VA water tower.



Photo #27: Westerly adjoining National Guard Obstacle Course.

APPENDIX E – IPAC REPORT



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Montana Ecological Services Field Office

585 Shephard Way, Suite 1

Helena, MT 59601-6287

Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339

<https://fws.gov/office/montana-ecological-services>

In Reply Refer To:

December 14, 2022

Project Code: 2023-0025122

Project Name: Fort Harrison Medical Center Major Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Montana Ecological Services Field Office

585 Shephard Way, Suite 1

Helena, MT 59601-6287

(406) 449-5225

Project Summary

Project Code: 2023-0025122

Project Name: Fort Harrison Medical Center Major Project

Project Type: Commercial Development

Project Description: The Veterans Affairs proposes to make seismic corrections/renovations to buildings, construct additions at buildings, construct a parking garage, construct a new replacement Central Utility Plant, make infrastructure upgrades, and complete a land exchange with the Army National Guard.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@46.618280850000005,-112.10272058255289,14z>



Counties: Lewis and Clark County, Montana

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Grizzly Bear <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> Population: U.S.A., conterminous (lower 48) States, except where listed as an experimental population There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7642	Threatened
North American Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123	Proposed Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Cassin's Finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30
Long-eared Owl <i>asio otus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Pinyon Jay <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15
Rufous Hummingbird <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Western Grebe <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

Probability Of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

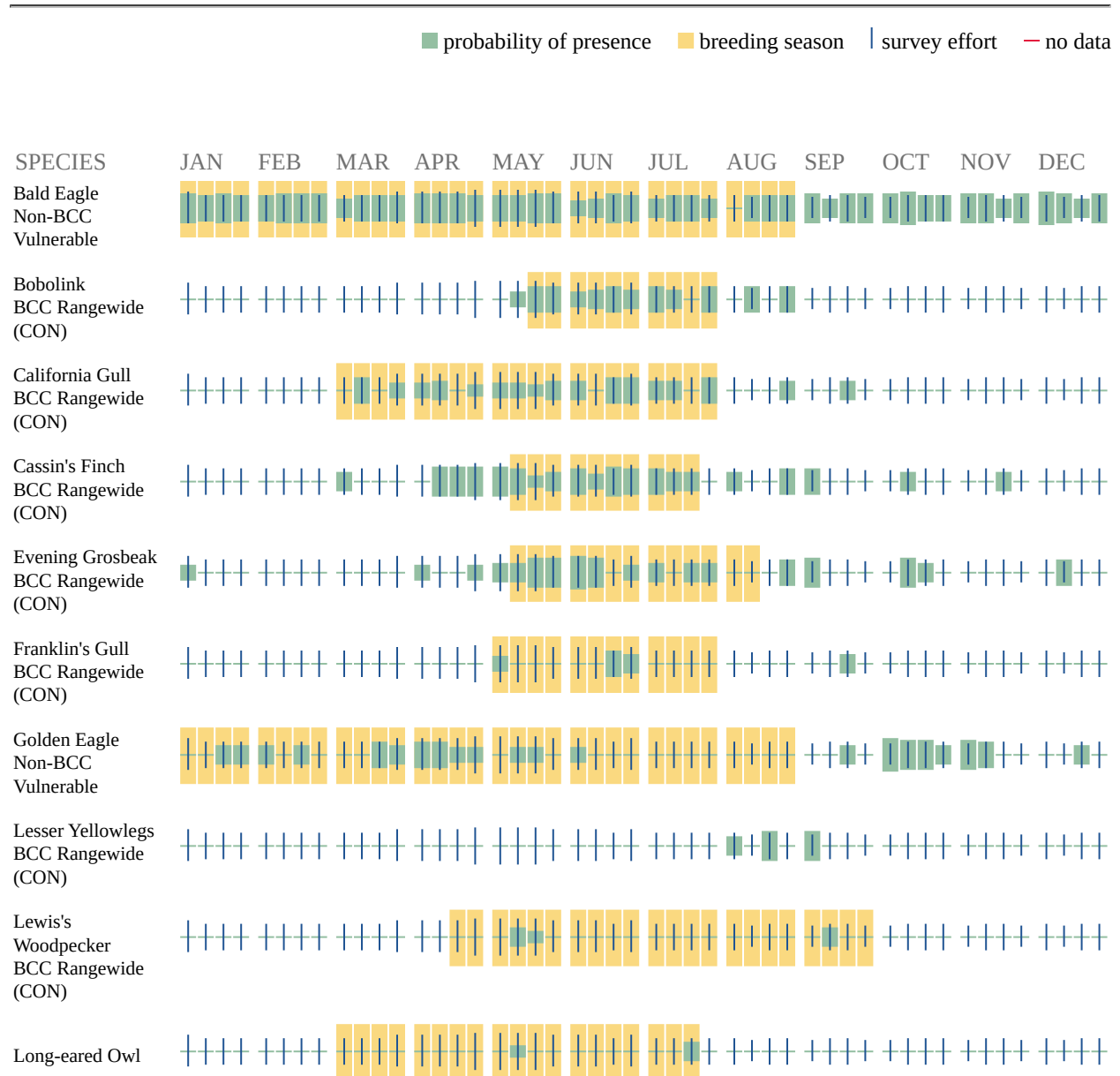
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

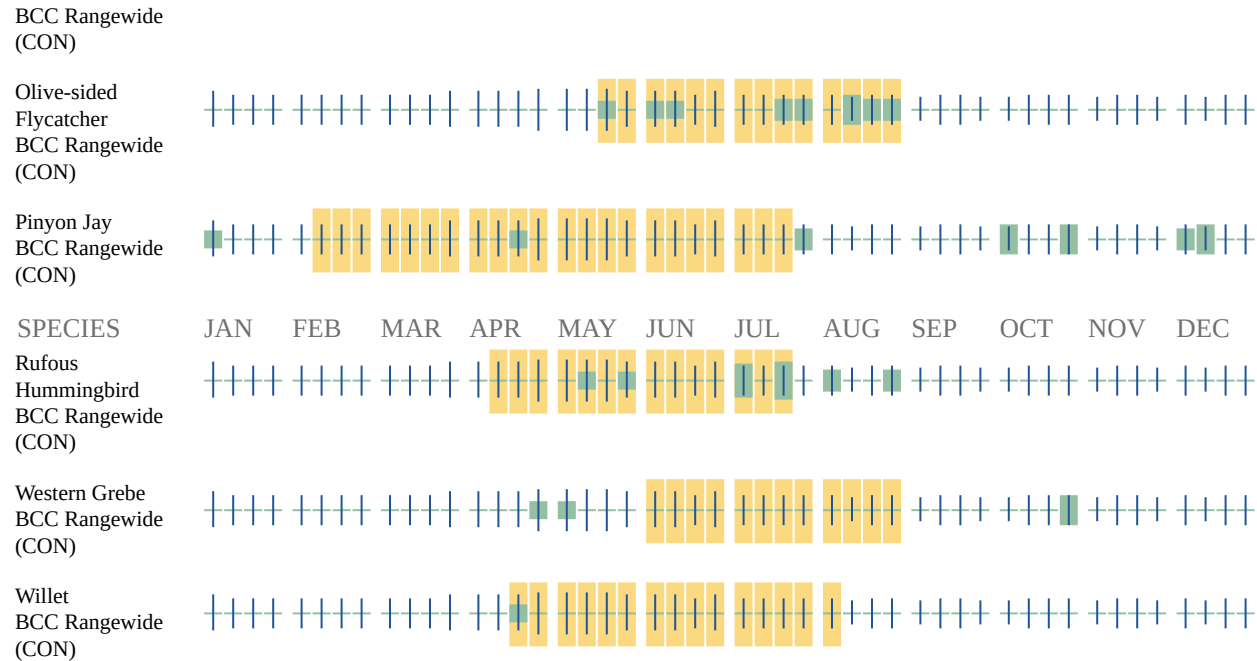
No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>

Migratory Birds FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
 2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
 3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).
-

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- [R4SBC](#)
-

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

Name: Lee Brewer

Address: 44265 Plymouth Oaks Boulevard

City: Plymouth

State: MI

Zip: 48170

Email lbrewer@ttlassoc.com

Phone: 7178880249

APPENDIX F – PUBLIC NOTICES AND COMMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE
SCOPING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED SEISMIC UPGRADE AND
SPECIALTY CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FORT HARRISON VA MEDICAL CENTER
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) requests input on the scoping of a National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects (Proposed Action) at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The Proposed Action would correct seismic deficiencies at the medical center and would remodel the facility to accommodate the operational needs of the VAMC. The Proposed Action includes constructing a three-story, approximately 82,600-square-foot addition on the south side of the main hospital building (Building 154); performing seismic improvements of Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A and renovation of these buildings (approximately 221,800 square feet); constructing an approximately 15,700-square-foot, two-story central utility plant; constructing an approximately four-story, 660-space parking garage; razing three small vacant buildings; and all associated infrastructure upgrades. The proposed project locations are primarily existing paved parking lots, maintained grassy areas, and areas adjacent to existing buildings. All of the improvements are located entirely within the Fort Harrison VAMC campus on land owned by the Federal Government.

Through this notice, VA is also providing the public with information about this undertaking and seeking public comment and input about the undertaking's effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

If you have any of the following: comments on the scope of issues for analysis, input on potential alternatives, information or existing analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, or information concerning historic properties at the site, please submit your comments/input via email by **May 1, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison Seismic Upgrade NEPA Scoping." For additional information or questions please contact Bruce Mack, VA Environmental Engineer, at bruce.mack@va.gov.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in the Summer of 2023. VA will publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the Helena Independent Record and solicit public comments at that time.

*** Proof of Publication ***

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
2222 Washington St
Helena, MT 59602
Ph: (406) 447-4000

PUBLIC NOTICE
SCOPING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED SEISMIC UPGRADE AND
SPECIALTY CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
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VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in the Summer of 2023. VA will publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the Helena Independent Record and solicit public comments at that time.
March 31 & April 2, 2023 149437 MNAXLP

CT Consultants, Inc.

Rob Clark

44265 PLYMOUTH OAKS BOULEVARD
PLYMOUTH MI 48170

ORDER NUMBER 149437

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says. That she is the principal clerk of The Helena Independent Record, a newspaper of general circulation published daily in the City of Helena, in the County of Lewis & Clark, State of Montana, and has charge of the Advertisements thereof.

Mark below if certification for the State of Montana

I hereby certify that I have read sec. 18-7-204 and 18-7-205, MCA, and subsequent revisions, and declare that the price or rate charged the State of Montana for the publication for which claim is made in printed copy in the amount of \$_____ is not in excess of the minimum rate charged any other advertiser for publication of advertisement, set in the same size type and published for the same number of insertions, further certify that this claim is correct and just in all respects, and that payment or credit has not been received.

Mandy Schilling
STATE OF MONTANA
County of Lewis & Clark

On this day of April 13, 2023 before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared Mandy Schilling known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed same. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year first above written.

Section: Legal

Category: 0701 Legals Helena

PUBLISHED ON: 03/31/2023, 04/02/2023

TOTAL AD COST: 357.00

FILED ON: 4/3/2023

Teresa A Cox
NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana
Residing at Billings, MT

My commission expires: 8/31/2025



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED SEISMIC UPGRADE AND
SPECIALTY CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FORT HARRISON VA MEDICAL CENTER
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The Proposed Action would correct seismic deficiencies at the Fort Harrison VAMC and would remodel and expand the retrofitted facilities to accommodate the operational needs of the medical center. The Proposed Action includes construction of new acute inpatient care space through a three-story, approximately 82,600-square-foot bed tower building addition on the south side of the main hospital building (Building 154); seismic retrofitting of Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A and the connecting corridor; remodeling approximately 221,800 square feet of space within these buildings to meet the current and future VAMC operational needs; construction of a new, approximately 15,700-square-foot, two-story central utility plant north of Building 154; construction of an approximately four-story, 660-space parking garage north of Building 154; and associated infrastructure upgrades. The proposed project locations are primarily existing paved parking lots, maintained grassy areas, and areas adjacent to existing buildings. All of the improvements are located entirely within the Fort Harrison VAMC campus on land owned by the Federal Government.

VA prepared the Draft EA in accordance with the NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500), the Council on Environmental Quality Guidance and VA NEPA implementation regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

The Draft EA is available for review at the Lewis & Clark Library located at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT and on the VA website at:

<https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp>.

VA will prepare and publish the Final EA following the 30-day public comment period. The public comment period ends on **November 16, 2023**. VA will address and incorporate relevant comments in the Final EA.

Please submit your comments on the Draft EA via email by **November 16, 2023** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade Draft EA". For additional information or questions, please contact Bruce Mack, Environmental Engineer at bruce.mack@va.gov.

*** Proof of Publication ***

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
2222 Washington St
Helena, MT 59602
Ph: (406) 447-4000

CT Consultants, Inc.

Rob Clark

44265 PLYMOUTH OAKS BOULEVARD
PLYMOUTH MI 48170

ORDER NUMBER 174980

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says. That she is the principal clerk of The Helena Independent Record, a newspaper of general circulation published daily in the City of Helena, in the County of Lewis & Clark, State of Montana, and has charge of the Advertisements thereof.

Mark below if certification for the State of Montana

I hereby certify that I have read sec. 18-7-204 and 18-7-205, MCA, and subsequent revisions, and declare that the price or rate charged the State of Montana for the publication for which claim is made in printed copy in the amount of \$_____ is not in excess of the minimum rate charged any other advertiser for publication of advertisement, set in the same size type and published for the same number of insertions, further certify that this claim is correct and just in all respects, and that payment or credit has not been received.

Mandy Schilling
STATE OF MONTANA
County of Lewis & Clark

On this day of Oct. 23, 2023, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared Mandy Schilling known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed same. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year first above written.

Section: Legal

Category: 0701 Legals Helena

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Amanda H. Cox
NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana
Residing at Billings, MT

My commission expires: 8/31/2025

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED SEISMIC UPGRADE AND
SPECIALTY CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FORT HARRISON VA MEDICAL CENTER
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed Seismic Upgrade and Specialty Care Improvements projects at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center (Fort Harrison VAMC) located at 3687 Veterans Drive in Fort Harrison, Montana. The Proposed Action would correct seismic deficiencies at the Fort Harrison VAMC and would remodel and expand the retrofitted facilities to accommodate the operational needs of the medical center. The Proposed Action includes construction of new acute inpatient care space through a three-story, approximately 82,600-square-foot bed tower building addition on the south side of the main hospital building (Building 154); seismic retrofitting of Buildings 141, 150, 154 and 154A and the connecting corridor; remodeling approximately 221,800 square feet of space within these buildings to meet the current and future VAMC operational needs; construction of a new, approximately 15,700-square-foot, two-story central utility plant north of Building 154; construction of an approximately four-story, 660-space parking garage north of Building 154; and associated infrastructure upgrades. The proposed project locations are primarily existing paved parking lots, maintained grassy areas, and areas adjacent to existing buildings. All of the improvements are located entirely within the Fort Harrison VAMC campus on land owned by the Federal Government.

VA prepared the Draft EA in accordance with the NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500), the Council on Environmental Quality Guidance and VA NEPA implementation regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

The Draft EA is available for review at the Lewis & Clark Library located at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT and on the VA website at:

<https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp>

VA will prepare and publish the Final EA following the 30-day public comment period. The public comment period ends on November 16, 2023. VA will address and incorporate relevant comments in the Final EA.

Please submit your comments on the Draft EA via email by November 16, 2023 to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Fort Harrison VAMC Seismic Upgrade Draft EA". For additional information or questions, please contact Bruce Mack, Environmental Engineer at bruce.mack@va.gov.
October 17, 21, 2023 174980 MNAXLP

