

Draft
Environmental Assessment

Travelers' Rest State Park
Public Water Supply Upgrade



Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed state action:

Montana State Parks (MSP), a Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), proposes a project to connect the visitor center at Travelers' Rest State Park (TRSP) to the Lolo Water District.

In 2012, FWP acquired 24 acres of land and the visitor center and museum as an addition to TRSP. The water supply for the visitor center is currently a well shared with the former landowners and does not meet the requirements for a public water supply.

This project would provide a 2" diameter water line from the Lolo Water District main line located at US Highway 12 approximately 1/3 mile to connect to the visitor center. This will provide a certified public water supply for the park visitors and staff members stationed at TRSP.

Additionally this project will provide outdoor water hydrants to assist in irrigation of current and future park landscaping and other management activities such as cleaning outdoor latrines and sidewalks.

This project will require excavation of a trench 6' deep along the current park entry road to the visitor center – approximately 1800 feet. The excavated area will be regarded and reseeded when complete.

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:

Section 23-1-110, MCA, and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 12.2.433 guides public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks, which this document provides. ARM 12.8.602 requires the Department to consider the wishes of the public, the capacity of the site for development, environmental impacts, long-range maintenance, protection of natural features and impacts on tourism as these elements relate to development or improvement to state parks. This document will illuminate the facets of the proposed project in relation to this rule. See Appendix A for HB 495 qualification.

3. Name of project: Travelers' Rest State Park Public Water Supply Upgrade

4. Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):

Montana State Parks
FWP, Region 2
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

5. Anticipated Schedule:

Estimated Construction Commencement Date: 10/1/2013
Estimated Completion Date: 12/1/2013
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 90%

6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):**
 The Travelers' Rest is located within the community of Lolo, MT approximately 8 miles south of Missoula, Montana.

Legal Description: T12N, R20W, Sec. 34. Tract 3A-1 in E2 and Plat C2, Parcel 001 in NE ¼

7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
Industrial	<u>0</u>	Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<u>0.1</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Forestry	<u>0</u>
		Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

8. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

- (a) **Permits:** permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Missoula County	Construction Permit (responsibility of Contractor)
Montana Department of Transportation	Encroachment Permit (already obtained)

- (b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana State Parks	\$25,000

- (c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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8. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:** This project would provide public water to the Travelers' Rest State Park Visitor Center. In addition, it would provide potential future irrigation for park lands located north of Lolo Creek, including native vegetation restoration on recently acquired open space lands. The project will involve trenching along the existing entry road from US Highway 12 to the Visitor Center and then connecting a 2" water line to the water main located on US Highway 12.

In addition to providing a reliable source of potable water for park visitors and employees, by installing frost free hydrants at the edge of parking areas, this will provide a ready source of water for irrigation and maintenance purposes.

The existing water supply for the Visitor Center is a shared well with the neighbors and former owners of the building. It is essential to provide TRSP with an independent water supply.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative A: No Action – This would leave TRSP using the existing shared well with our neighbors. This is unacceptable to the neighbors. It is also unlikely that due to the depth and location of the existing well that it could ever be considered a safe source of public water in perpetuity.

Alternative B: Proposed Action – Connect to the Lolo Water District public water supply system. This action would establish a long-term source of safe public water and a reliable source of water for irrigation and other management purposes.

Alternative C: Establish a new well at Travelers' Rest State Park.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				1B
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

1B. Although historically used for agricultural purposes, the lands affected by the proposed action are no longer used for agricultural production.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2A
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2A. Minor and temporary amounts of dust may be generated during the excavation for the water line. Construction would be timed to minimize disturbance to park visitors. The contractor would follow Best Management Practices (BMP's) during construction to minimize risks and reduce dust.

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X			3H.
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)						
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)						
n. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3H. The use of heavy equipment during construction may result in a slight risk of contamination from petroleum. Best Management Practices will be followed during all phases of construction to minimize these risks. The application of herbicides to manage noxious weeds will be applied according to the guidelines in the FWP Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4A
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				4D
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			4E
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4A. Construction will take place in an area already disturbed during construction of the park entrance road in 2004. Disturbed soils will be re-vegetated with native species following construction. Vegetation in the area affected is historically prairie grasses of the Bitterroot Valley and local native grass seed mixes will be used.

4D. The proposed project area is not used for agricultural production.

4E. Soils disturbed during construction will likely colonize with weeds. Disturbed areas will be re-seeded with native grasses to reduce the establishment of weeds. MSP will continue to treat the affected area in accordance with the Statewide Integrated Weed Management Plan using chemical, biological and mechanical methods to control weeds throughout the park. As the area is along the entry road, it is treated annually for noxious weed control as part of TRSP weed control budget. There is not expected to be an increased cost in weed control due to this project.

** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		N/A				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		N/A				
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife:

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6A.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X			6B
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6A. The use of heavy equipment during construction could add minimal noise levels for a short duration.

6B. The minor and temporary increases in noise levels occurring during construction may disturb some visitors or neighbors. However, MSP will attempt to complete construction during periods of lower visitation and in an expeditious timeline.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			8A.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		Yes Positive	8C
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8A. Physical disturbance of the soil during construction may introduce noxious weeds to the site. This area is currently part of the annual noxious weed treatment area at TRSP and is treated in accordance to the FWP Statewide Integrated Weed Management Plan which uses a combination of chemical, biological and mechanical treatments to control noxious weeds. The use of herbicides will be in compliance with the application guidelines to minimize the risk of chemical spills or water contamination and applied by people trained in safe handling techniques.

8C. MSP proposes to update and improve the water supply by connecting to a reliable public water source. The proposed project will improve public safety by providing safe, reliable and uninterrupted water to the visitor center, restrooms, and hydrants in the park.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10E
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10F
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10E. The estimated cost of the project is \$25,000. This includes an estimated \$20,000 in construction costs, a \$3,000 "late comers" fee to Missoula County and \$2,000 in estimated permit costs.

10F. Projected annual service costs are estimated to be \$1000.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			X		Yes Positive	11C
d. *** <u>For P-R/D-I</u> , will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11C. The proposed project could improve the recreational opportunities and visitor satisfaction and enjoyment at TRSP by providing irrigated areas to promote native vegetation and increased interpretive and educational opportunities associated with that vegetation.

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?	X				X	12A
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12A. In accordance with the Montana Antiquities Act (22-3-421 to 22-3-442) and with FWPs ARM rules (12.8.501 to 12.8.10), a heritage resource survey will be conducted prior to project development to identify possible historic and archaeological sites. Impacts to these sites, if identified, will be taken into consideration as part of project planning and will be avoided, if possible. If sites are identified and cannot be avoided in accordance with MCA 22-3-430, mitigation measures will be proposed. MSP has consulted the State Historic Preservation office regarding this project. SHPO concurs that MSP's normal compliance process is appropriate to protect cultural and historic resources.

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)						
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

During the installation of the proposed water line, there may be minor and temporary impacts to the physical environment but the impacts would be short-term. The addition of a sustainable and reliable water source would benefit the public and the staff of TRSP over the long-term. The proposed project would have no negative effects on the biological, physical and human environments. When considered over the long-term, the proposed development positively impacts the public's enjoyment of this National Historic Landmark.

The minor impacts to the environment that were identified in the previous section are small in scale and would not influence the overall environment of the immediate area. The natural environment would continue to provide habitat to the transient and permanent wildlife and aquatic species.

This project will establish a reliable public water supply for Travelers' Rest State Park, providing benefits to park visitors and Montana MSP. When complete, the project will also provide irrigation water for the areas surrounding the Travelers' Rest State Park Visitor Center, including habitat restoration projects that are part of the long-term vision of the park.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public Legal Notices in each of these papers: *Missoulian*, *Ravalli Republic* and *Independent Record*
- One statewide press release;
- Public notice on the Montana State Parks webpage www.stateparks.mt.gov

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project. A copy of the EA will be posted on the Montana State Parks webpage www.stateparks.mt.gov ("Public Notices"). This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

- 2. Duration of comment period, if any.**

The public comment period will extend for thirty (30) days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on **September 9, 2013** and can be mailed to the address below:

Loren Flynn, Park Manager Travelers' Rest State Park
ATTN; Water Supply Upgrade
PO Box 995
Lolo MT 59847
(406) 273-4253

PART V. EA PREPARATION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? No
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.**

Based on an evaluation of impacts to the physical and human environment under MEPA, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts from the proposed action; therefore an EIS is not necessary and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis in determining the significance of impacts. FWP assessed the severity, geographic extent and frequency of the impact(s), the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the probability would not occur. FWP assessed the growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal or state laws. As this EA revealed no significant impacts from the proposed actions, the EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

- 2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Loren Flynn
Travelers' Rest State Park Manager
PO Box 995
Lolo MT 59847
Lflynn2@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 273-4253

- 3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Legal Unit
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

APPENDICES

- A. Project Qualification Checklist
- B. Threatened and Endangered Species
- C. Project Site Map

APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: August 6, 2013

Person Reviewing: Loren Flynn

Project Location: Travelers' Rest State Park

Description of Proposed Work: Water supply upgrade

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: N/A
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments: N/A
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments: *Yes. Excavations required to install a 2" diameter water line from the public water main to the Travelers' Rest State Park Visitor Center.*
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: N/A
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: N/A
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: N/A
- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: *Even though Travelers' Rest State Park is a cultural site, the boundaries of the Travelers' Rest National Historic Landmark are outside the area affected by this project. This project will take place in an area disturbed both by previous agricultural use and road construction.*

- H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments: N/A

- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: N/A

- [] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments: N/A

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

APPENDIX B

List of Threatened, Endangered and Species of Concern at Travelers' Rest State Park

Common name <i>Species</i>	Status*	Habitat	Status in Vicinity of Parcels
<u>Species of Concern</u>			
Bull Trout <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Threatened, SOC, Tier 1	Mountain streams, rivers, and lakes	Uses Lolo Creek in Parcel #3 as a migratory corridor.
Westslope Cutthroat Trout <i>(Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi)</i>	Sensitive, SOC, Tier 1	Coldwater streams	Uses Lolo Creek in Parcel #3 as a migratory corridor.
Fisher <i>(Martes pennant)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Mixed conifer forest	The area has low quality fisher habitat.
Hoary Bat <i>(Lasiurus cinereus)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Conifer and riparian forests	Suitable habitat, no surveys have been done to document presence/absence.
Fringed Myotis <i>(Myotis thysanodes)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Riparian and dry mixed conifer forests	Suitable habitat, no surveys have been done to document presence/absence.
Bald Eagle <i>(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)</i>	Delisted, SOC, Tier 1	Riparian forests	Birds present and use all of the parcels for foraging
Clark's Nutcracker <i>(Nucifraga Columbiana)</i>	SOC, Tier 3	Conifer forests	Birds present & probably use all of the parcels.
Flammulated Owl <i>(Otus flammeolus)</i>	SOC, Tier 1	Low-mid elevation conifer forests with large trees	Suitable habitat, but not yet verified on site.
Great Blue Heron <i>(Ardea Herodias)</i>	SOC, Tier 3	Riparian woodlands	Birds present and use Parcel #3 frequently for foraging.
Northern Goshawk <i>(Accipiter gentilis)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Mixed conifer forests	Birds present and use all of the parcels.
Pileated Woodpecker <i>(Dryocopus pileatus)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Moist conifer forests	Birds present and use Parcel #3 extensively.
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>(Melanerpes lewis)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Riparian forest	Birds present and documented breeding in Parcel #3.
Clark's Nutcracker <i>(Nucifraga Columbiana)</i>	SOC, Tier 3	Conifer forest	Birds observed on site.
Veery <i>(Catharus fuscescens)</i>	SOC, Tier 2-3	Riparian forests, shrubby habitats	Birds present, primarily in Parcel #3.
Golden Eagle <i>(Aquila chrysaetos)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Grasslands	Birds present and use all of the parcels for foraging.
Cassin's Finch <i>(Carpodacus cassinii)</i>	SOC, Tier 3	Drier conifer forest	Birds observed on site.
Bobolink <i>(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)</i>	SOC, Tier 3	Moist grasslands	Suitable habitat, but not yet verified on site.
Harlequin Duck <i>(Histrionicus histrionicus)</i>	SOC, Tier 1	Mountain streams	Birds verified using Parcel #3.
Brown Creeper <i>(Certhia Americana)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Mixed conifer forests	Birds verified using Parcel #3.
Western Skink <i>(Eumeces skiltonianus)</i>	SOC, Tier 2	Rock outcrops	Suitable habitat, not verified.
<u>Potential Species of Concern</u>			
Barrow's Goldeneye <i>(Bucephala islandica)</i>	PSOC, Tier 3	Wetlands	Documented to occur in the area during migration.
An Ice Crawler <i>(Grylloblatta campodeiformis)</i>	PSOC		Unknown due to its nocturnal habits and activity at temperatures just above freezing.

APPENDIX C Project Site Map



E. Williams	05/20/13						Plan View Traveler's Rest State Park	SHEET: 2 of 3
DRAWN BY:	DATE:	REVISED BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:			
CHECKED BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:			