

**Draft
Environmental Assessment**

**Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park
Host Site Improvement Project**



September 16, 2013



**Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park
Host Site Improvement Project
Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- 1. Type of proposed state action:** Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, proposes to improve the existing host site area (consisting of two host pads) and utilities at Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park. The project would involve laying two gravel pads for Recreational Vehicle (RV) parking, installing one shared underground potable water cistern, two underground septic holding tanks, relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal adjacent to each of the two host pads and relocating the existing storage shed to a new location behind the existing vault toilets. The project will also include moving the entrance road to a safer location approximately 100’ west of the current entrance.
- 2. Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established “for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational and economic life of the people and their health.” Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives MFWP “jurisdiction, custody and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites and monuments.”
- 3. Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):**
Montana State Parks is the project sponsor.
- 4. Anticipated Schedule:**
Estimated Commencement Date: Spring 2014
Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2014
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 100%
- 5. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):**
Cascade County, T17N, R3E, Section 7. 17 miles southeast of Ulm, MT on State Highway 330.

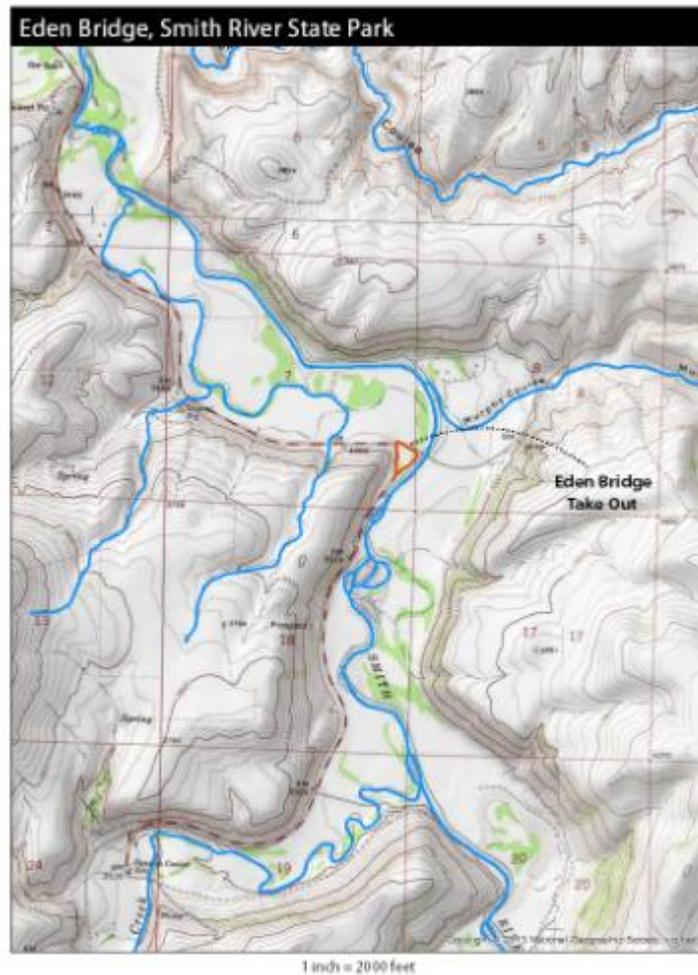


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

5. 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>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<u>.5</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>

7. Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.

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

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Cascade County	Septic
Cascade County	Approach

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana State Parks	\$17,000 ('11 Bed Tax)

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

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office	Cultural and Historic Resources

8. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

Description: Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park

Eden Bridge is the take-out site for recreational floaters floating the Smith River, Smith River State Park & River Corridor. Smith River State Park is a multi-day, 59-mile float which begins at the put-in site of Camp Baker. Approximately 5,000 people per year float the Smith River and complete their float trip at the Eden Bridge take-out.

Proposed Action

The proposed project is to improve the existing host site area (accommodates 2 RVs) and utilities at Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park. The project would involve laying two gravel pads for RV parking (each approximately 35 ft x 12 ft), installing one shared underground water cistern, two underground septic holding tanks, relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal adjacent to each of the two host pads, relocating the storage shed behind the vault toilets and moving the entrance road (see Figure 2).

The project area has been utilized by volunteer hosts since the early 1990's and currently consists of one phone pedestal and one power box which is shared between the two sets of volunteers. Beginning in 2013, two 450-gallon above ground water tanks were installed adjacent to each RV. However, prior to 2013, potable water was not available. Sewage storage is not currently available, requiring hosts to drive their RV's 50+ miles roundtrip into Great Falls to dispose of their sewage at an approved dump station.

Project Benefits

The volunteer hosts at Eden Bridge perform a variety of duties in support of Smith River State Park including, but not limited to the following;

- Site security for 60 plus vehicles and trailers at a given time
- Assisting floaters exiting the river
- Collecting floater logs containing valuable user data.
- Documenting incidents (emergency, life threatening and non-life threatening, law and non-law enforcement, accidents, wildlife encounters etc.)
- Site maintenance (cleaning/stocking vault toilets, grass mowing, tree trimming, weed control, litter patrol, recycling, etc.)
- Traffic and parking control
- Information sharing with Parks staff (incidents, wildlife encounters, hazards etc.)
- Maintaining the lost and found program
- Managing Enterprise merchandise (selling Smith River T-Shirts and future merchandise)

Providing the basic amenities of stable and level parking pads as well as convenient and reliable electricity, water, sewer and phone will greatly enhance the ability to attract and maintain quality volunteer hosts for the long-term. This will ensure a high quality experience for floaters as well as non-floating visitors.

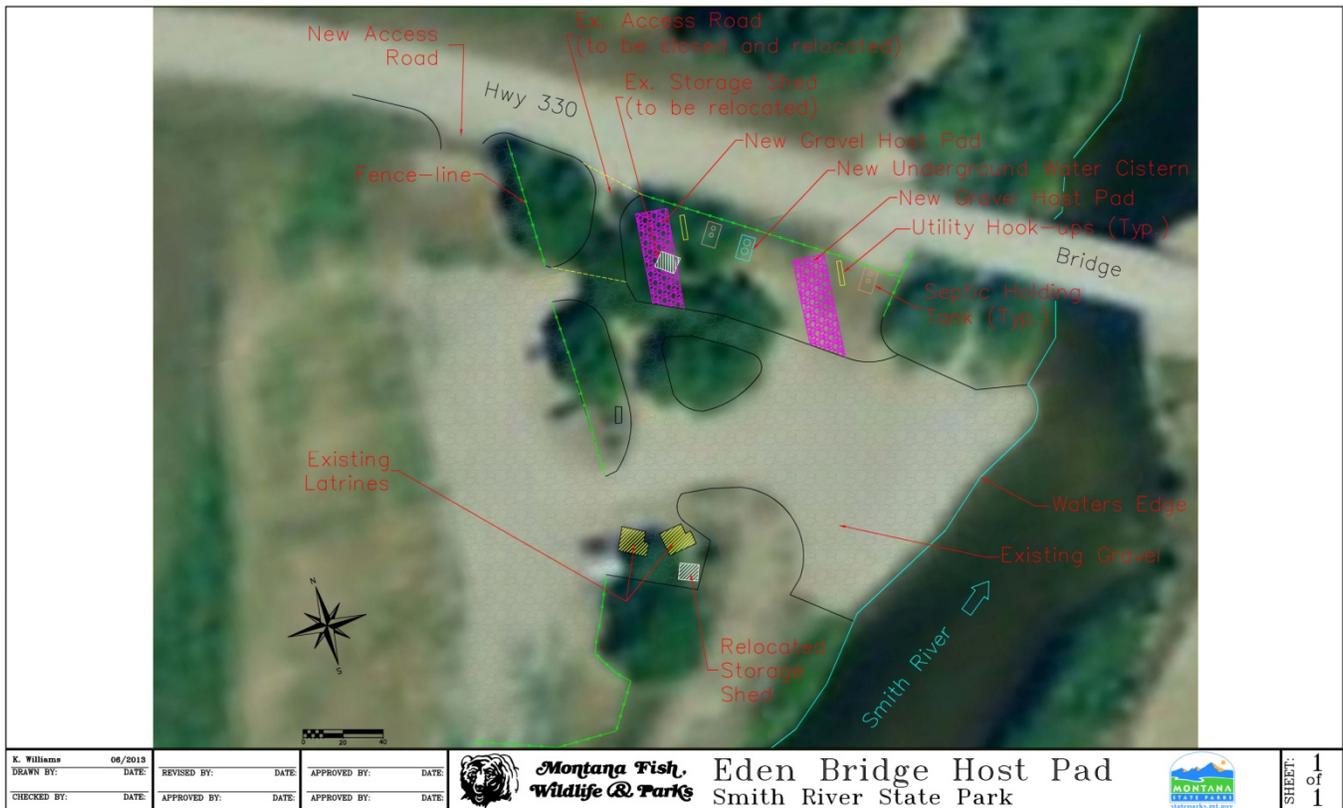


Figure 2. Concept Map

9. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

The current host site area would not be improved. Two sets of volunteer hosts would continue to share the one phone box and electrical box, utilize water from two above ground 450-gallon water tanks and be required to drive their RV's into the city of Great Falls to dispose of their sewage. Future attempts to recruit qualified volunteer hosts would be increasingly difficult due to substandard accommodations, resulting in a substandard level of customer service and reducing site security and safety.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

This is the preferred alternative. The currently used host area would be improved, involving laying two gravel pads for RV parking (each approximately 35 ft x 12 ft), installing one shared underground water cistern, two underground septic holding tanks, relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal adjacent to each of the two host pads, relocating the storage shed behind the vault toilets and moving the entrance road (see Figure 2). Recruiting and retaining qualified, long-term volunteer hosts would be more likely with this alternative, resulting in a high level of customer service and site security.

10. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency: Not applicable

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

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		Yes	1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	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				

1a & 1b. There will be some displacement and disruption of soil due to excavation to bury the water cistern and the two septic holding tanks, as well as scraping and leveling the soil for the storage building relocation and relocation of the entrance road. There will also be displacement and disruption of soil when trenching new electrical and phone lines to the two power pedestals. Two gravel layers will be added to serve as the host parking pads. These impacts would be minor and temporary. Once the project is completed, the impacted surface soil would be reseeded with native grasses and rehabilitated to prevent new erosion patterns from becoming established. The gravel pad areas are currently located in a gravel area that is essentially void of vegetation so impacts to soil and vegetation are minimal.

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		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	2b
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 regulations?		N/A				

2a & 2b. There will be some dust during the excavation phase and exhaust fumes from heavy equipment. However, this should only occur during a short time period of one to two days and will occur during the late Fall and/or early Spring months when no floaters are present and very few non-floaters are visiting the site. The nearest neighbors are located approximately ¼ mile to the northeast and ¼ mile to the northwest and should not be affected due to prevailing wind patterns.

The buried septic holding tanks will be vented to releases gas buildup which may create objectionable odors. This will be mitigated by ensuring that the venting stacks are located as such that the prevailing winds will carry any odors away from the immediate area of the host pads and the immediate vicinity of the public. Charcoal filters will be installed on the vent stacks to reduce odors.

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		Yes	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.)		N/A				
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/A				

3h. The project will involve burying two septic holding tanks, which will pose a minor risk in contamination of groundwater, in the event that one or both of the tanks would develop a leak. This risk will be mitigated with routine maintenance and annual inspections of the holding tanks. In addition, Montana State Parks will ensure that each tank possesses the proper safety features that indicate when the holding tanks have reached the capacity at which they need to be pumped, to prevent overflows. All local and State codes will be followed, and all necessary permits will be obtained.

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		Yes	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		N/A				
g. Other:						

4a. One Box Elder tree approximately 16 inches in diameter and another 3-4 Box Elder trees ranging from 6-10 inches in diameter would need to be removed to accommodate the gravel pad nearest to the site entrance. The majority of surface area within the host pad footprint is currently void of grasses or shrubs, so there will be minimal disturbance. A concrete slab will be poured (approximately 8 x 12 feet) to serve as the floor/foundation for the storage building relocation, which will disturb approximately 100 square feet of dry land grasses. Once the project is complete, areas surrounding the host pads, including the surface areas above the buried cistern and septic tanks and the original location of the storage building and old entrance road, will be reseeded with a native grass blend.

4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MNHP) species of concern database found no vascular or nonvascular plants within the boundaries of Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park.

4e. Disturbance to the soil, seed bed and vegetation caused by excavation, trenching and heavy equipment traffic will increase the threat that noxious weeds may take root. Once the project is complete, all disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native grass blend. Noxious weed monitoring and control will continue to occur on a regular basis within the project area as well as throughout the entire park.

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				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				5c
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				5f
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				

5b & 5c. There would be no deterioration of critical fish habitat. There is the possibility that the buried septic tanks may end up within the 50-year flood plain layer. To mitigate the risk of contamination of the Smith River, the septic tanks will have routine maintenance and inspections performed on an annual basis. In addition, the tanks will be pumped on an as needed basis and at the end of the float season.

During the construction phase, changes in diversity or abundance of game species (deer, elk, upland game birds, waterfowl) would be non-existent and for nongame species (small mammals, birds) impacts would be minimal. Once the project is complete, long-term impacts to fish, game and nongame species are not anticipated.

5f & 5h. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no species of special concern in the vicinity of Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park.

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		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X		Yes	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				

6a & 6b. There will be temporary increases in noise levels caused by heavy equipment during the construction phase. However, construction will occur during the late Fall and/or early Spring months when no floaters are present and very few non-floaters are visiting the site. The closest neighbors, ¼ mile to the northeast and ¼ mile to the northwest, should hear little to no noise during construction. Noise levels will return to preexisting levels following construction.

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 (Positive)		7a
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				

7a. This project will have a positive impact on the productivity of the site by improving circulatory patterns, better definition of the host area, relocating the storage building closer to the latrines, and improving safety by relocating the entrance road away from the congested host area.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:						
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		Yes	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	8c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			N/A			

8a. The project involves burying two septic holding tanks. Decomposition of certain wastes (i.e. fecal matter) releases gases which, if not properly vented, could build up pressure causing an explosion. The buried septic holding tanks will be properly vented to releases gas buildup mitigating the risk of explosion. Routine inspections and annual maintenance of the septic tanks will also be conducted.

8c. The project involves burying two septic holding tanks, which will pose a minor risk in contamination of groundwater and/or surface water, in the event that one or both of the tanks would develop a leak or overflow. This risk can be mitigated with routine maintenance and annual inspections of the holding tanks. In addition, Montana State Parks will ensure that each tank possesses the proper safety features that indicate when the holding tanks have reached the capacity at which they need to be pumped, to prevent overflows.

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9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:						
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				

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES 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		Yes	10c
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X		Yes	10f

10c. New electrical and phone lines will be trenched to two pedestal boxes from the existing power and phone boxes. Linear distance of these utility lines from the existing boxes to the new location is between 30 to 50 feet, which is not considered to be a substantial alteration.

10d. There may be a minor increase in the use of electricity resulting from the operation of a high pressure water pump to deliver water against gravity from the buried cistern.

10f. Annual maintenance costs are anticipated to increase somewhere between \$500 to \$1,000 per year. This increase in maintenance costs is primarily associated with the routine maintenance, inspection and pumping of the two septic holding tanks.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X (Positive)			11a
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 (Positive)			11c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		N/A				

11a. This project involves improving a pre-existing host site area, so the resulting impact is likely to be positive.

11c. This project will not impact the quantity of recreation but will likely improve the quality of recreational opportunities through improved customer service.

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

12a – 12c. 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 was conducted in 1999 for previous improvements within the current project area. No sites were identified within the area but an archaeological site with tipi rings (24CA0127) was identified outside the project boundary. The current project area is heavily disturbed by previous improvements and heavy recreational use. Based on the negative results of the previous survey and to past ground disturbing impacts to the area, no further cultural resource work is required.

If previously undetected archaeological sites are uncovered during project construction, in accordance with MCA 22-3-435, the State Historic Preservation Office will be contacted and steps will be taken to ensure the preservation of the archaeological site until it can be evaluated by a professional archaeologist.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
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.)		N/A				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		N/A				

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed project consists of improving a pre-existing host site area. This would involve laying formal gravel parking pads, installing modern power/phone pedestals and installing/burying a cistern and two septic holding tanks. The current storage building would be moved from its existing location adjacent to the host site area to a location behind the vault toilets. The entrance road will be moved a short distance west.

Providing the basic amenities of level and stable parking pads as well as convenient and reliable electricity, water, sewer and phone will greatly enhance the ability to attract and maintain quality volunteer hosts for the long-term. This will ensure a high quality experience for floaters as well as non-floating visitors.

This analysis did not reveal any significant individual or cumulative impacts to the physical or human environment. All minor impacts identified in this analysis can be mitigated.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

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

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Great Falls Tribune*, *Helena Independent Record*.
- One regional press release;
- Public notice on the Montana State Parks web page: 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 this 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:

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 31, 2013 and can be mailed to the address below:

Eden Bridge Host Site Improvement Comments
c/o Colin Maas, Park Manager, Smith River State Park
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405

Or emailed through the website www.stateparks.mt.gov – click on “Public Notices”.

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.

This environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts due to the proposed action, therefore an EIS is not necessary and an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis.

- 2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Colin Maas
Park Manager
Smith River State Park
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5857

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

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 Parks Division, Heritage Resource Program
 Fisheries Division
 Wildlife Division
 Design and Construction
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System

APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: September 07, 2013

Person Reviewing: Colin Maas

Project Location: Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park, Cascade County, T17N, R3E, S7

Description of Proposed Work: Improve the existing host site area.

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:
- [] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments:
- [X] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater? *Yes*
Comments: *Excavation for one buried water cistern and two buried septic holding tanks. Trenching and burying of electrical lines and phone lines to two power pedestals.*
- [] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments:
- [] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments:
- [] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments:
- [] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments:
- [] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments:
- [] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments:
- [] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments:

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

TOURISM REPORT

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager
Montana Office of Tourism-Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park Host Site Improvement Project

Project Description: Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, proposes to improve the existing host site area (2 host pads) and utilities at Eden Bridge – Smith Rive State Park. The area will be used by two sets of volunteer hosts. It is expected that the hosts will assist floaters exiting the river; collect floater logs that document the visitors experience; perform site maintenance; and document incidents and be a contact point for emergency response.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

1. Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date September 13, 2013