



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MEPA NEPA Checklist

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development X

Renovation

Maintenance

Land Acquisition

Equipment Acquisition

Other (Describe)

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

Roosevelt County

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.

Gordon Oelkers

Town of Culbertson Town Hall

P.O. Box 351

Culbertson, MT 59218

4. Name of project.

Town of Culbertson Recreational Trail

5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date
May 2011

Estimated completion date
December 2011

Current status of project design (% complete)

Currently the project is in the preliminary stages and has just recently received Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) funding from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to begin. 0% is complete.

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
Roosevelt County

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	COUNTY
28N	56E	20,29	Roosevelt County

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

(a) Developed:
residential..... NA acres
industrial NA acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation NA acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas NA acres

(d) Floodplain NA acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland NA acres
dry cropland..... NA acres
forestry..... NA acres
rangeland NA acres
other..... NA acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more

appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.
See Attached

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

The Town of Culbertson has recently received CTEP funding for the development of a trail system that separates motorized transportation from non-motorized/pedestrian transportation. Culbertson is focusing their efforts on developing a trail that will run along the east side of Old Highway 16 starting one block north of Highway 2 and heading north ending approximately two miles from town. This trail will eventually be connected to a designated trail loop through the town as future plans are to add sidewalks and adjacent bike lanes where pedestrians/users can access the new trail. Old Highway 16 is County owned and is currently shared by motorized vehicles and pedestrians. Schools use the road as a route for multiple sports training and local pedestrian/bicycle citizens use the route for general exercise. Currently there is no separation between the users on the road and vehicles, which causes a major safety hazard. The Town of Culbertson is planning to put a trail along the shoulder of the old highway in order to separate the motorized and non-motorized/pedestrian traffic. This separation will greatly increase the safety of all users as well as provide a local trail system for the Town.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the MEPA-required no action alternative). At a minimum, the following three alternatives must be presented.

a). Preferred Alternative: **The preferred alternative is to construct the trail with an 8-ft wide asphalt surface for bike and pedestrian use separated from Old Highway 16 to facilitate a safer route for trail users and to eliminate non-vehicular/vehicle conflicts. The cost of this alternative is \$170,870 Asphalt is the preferred alternative due to cost and other factors. Asphalt is more resistant to extreme weather changes and is easier to patch than other materials. The Town of Culbertson is aware that asphalt requires more maintenance than concrete. However, since these trails are for bike and pedestrian use, the maintenance required will be due more to natural processes, and therefore should be significantly reduced in comparison to motorized use. In addition, the Town maintains miles of asphalt streets and could easily incorporate the asphalt trail maintenance into the existing streets maintenance program. The construction of this trail will provide a beginning to a local trail network that has been in the planning process for the past 2 years. This trail will be paved and will be accessible to disabled users. Additional benefits of constructing this trail would be improved quality of life and exercise regimens, increased safety for current pedestrians and bicyclists, and increased safety for motorists. Old Highway 16 would also become less congested due to separation of the types of users.**

b). No-action Alternative: **If no action is taken, Old Highway 16 will continue to be used by motorists and non-motorists, which is a major safety concern. One of the**

primary goals of the Town of Culbertson is to provide a safe local trail system that will cater to the broadest range of users possible. By taking no action, users, which include children, will continue to share a road. By constructing and paving this trail the range of users would increase, there will be an increase in safety as well as providing additional opportunities for recreation.

c). Additional Alternatives:

1.) The first alternative to paving with asphalt is to construct the trail with concrete. This alternative would cost approximately \$449,021 which is approximately 163% more than asphalt. Concrete is more susceptible to cracking in extreme weather and is harder to maintain. Concrete in most instances lasts longer than asphalt, but maintaining cracks and/or other problems costs significantly more. The benefits to users of the trail would be similar to the benefits of an asphalt trail except for the impact resistance of concrete (higher) versus asphalt (lower) that directly affects the joint health and wellness of walkers and joggers using the trail system.

2.) The second alternative is to construct the trail with millings rotomilled and removed from an existing degraded pavement project. This alternative would cost approximately \$146,039 which is approximately 14% less than new asphalt. Millings provide a rougher surface that can potentially result in a higher number of accidents due to tripping and/or falling. Millings are also much harder to maintain than new asphalt due to the fact that millings will not last as long as new asphalt and tend to separate more quickly than new asphalt. The benefits of a lower up-front construction cost would be quickly offset by maintenance and longevity issues.

3.) The third alternative is to construct the trail with gravel. The proposed trails would be constructed with a new graded and compacted gravel surface. This alternative would be the lowest in capital cost of the all of the alternatives with exception to the no action alternative. However, maintaining a gravel trail would become an ongoing, year-round maintenance activity as all types of weather conditions could potentially affect the trail (e.g. heavy rains could washout sections of the trail). This is the least preferred alternative as it limits the types of users and would be very difficult to construct and maintain to ADA standards.

11. Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits		
Agency Name:	Permit:	Date Filed:
Roosevelt County	Old Highway 16 encroachment permit	In Progress

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
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				1c.
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				1d.
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				1e.
f. Other		X				1f.

- 1a. The trail will be constructed as close to the existing ground surface as possible. This will result in very little earthwork required to construct the proposed trail. Therefore, it is anticipated that no soil instability or changes in geology will occur.**
- 1b. The proposed trail will be constructed as close to the existing ground surface as possible and will not result in a disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil that would reduce productivity or fertility in the soils. All disturbed areas will be stripped of topsoil before work on the trails begins. Topsoil will be stockpiled and placed back on all disturbed areas when the trail work has been completed. All disturbed areas will be seeded as required by the contract documents and the requirements of a DEQ Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.**
- 1c. There will be no destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features as the improvements will be located within the existing County road right-of-way that has been previously disturbed by road construction.**
- 1d. The proposed trail will not result in changes to siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a reservoir, stream or the bed or shore of a lake.**
- 1e. The proposed trail lies on relatively flat ground that would eliminate the exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazards.**
- 1f. No negative land resource impacts have been identified.**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				2b.
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				2c.
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				2d.
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				2e.
f. Other		X				2f.

- 2a. The proposed trail is designed for non-motorized travel and will not contribute to emissions of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality. The trail segment may provide a benefit by reducing emissions of air pollutants through an increase in non-motorized travel and a decrease in motorized travel.
- 2b. The trail will be used for non-motorized travel and will not create objectionable odors.
- 2c. The trail will be designated for non-motorized use only and will not result in alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally.
- 2d. The trail will be used for non-motorized travel and will not adversely affect area vegetation. The proposed trail will be constructed within a County road right-of-way and will therefore not affect adjacent cropland.
- 2e. There will be no discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regulations as the trail will be designated for non-motorized use only.
- 2f. No negative Air Quality Impacts have been identified.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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

3a. The proposed trail will not be located within or near a water body and will not affect discharges into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity. During construction of the proposed trail, the contractor will be responsible for obtaining a DEQ Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and following the requirements of the plan and the contract documents.

3b. The rate of surface runoff will increase slightly due to an increase of the infiltration factor for asphalt compared to the existing ground that the trail will be constructed on. The design and construction will include provisions to utilize best management practices to offset this slight increase.

- 3c. The proposed trail will not be located within the floodplain of any body of water resulting in no changes in the alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows.**
- 3d. The proposed trail will not result in changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body.**
- 3e. The proposed trail will not create an exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding because the trail will not be located within a floodplain or area susceptible to flooding.**
- 3f. The proposed trail will be constructed as close to the existing ground as possible and stormwater best management practices will be used to reduce stormwater pollution in the project area, thus no changes in the quality of groundwater will occur.**
- 3g. The proposed trail will be constructed as close to the existing ground as possible and will not provide for the berming or ponding of water, thus no changes in the quantity of groundwater will occur.**
- 3h. The runoff will not be altered chemically resulting in no increase in the risk of contamination of surface water or groundwater.**
- 3i. A search on the DNRC Water Rights Database showed there are no existing surface water rights that would be affected by the proposed trail.**
- 3j. Since no impacts to surface or groundwater quality will occur, there will be no impact to existing water users.**
- 3k. Since no impacts to surface or groundwater quantity will occur, there will be no impact to existing water users.**
- 3l. The proposed trail does not lie within a floodplain zone and thus will not affect designated floodplains.**
- 3m. There are no expected discharges as a result of the proposed trail improvements. Therefore, there will be no effects related to federal or state water quality regulations**
- 3n. No negative water impacts have been identified.**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
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		YES	4b.
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				4d.
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				4e.
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				4f.
g. Other:		X				4g.

- 4a. **The proposed trail will be constructed as close to existing ground as possible and will require minimal disturbance to construct. No changes in the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species are anticipated.**
- 4b. **The trail will be constructed within a County road right-of-way. These areas contain typical roadside vegetation such as wild grasses, weeds and other plants typically found along highways. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation when work is complete. Therefore, no alterations of a plant community will exist.**
- 4c. **The Town of Culbertson is in the process of working with the Roosevelt County Weed Department on the weed plan.**
- 4d. **The proposed trail will be constructed within the limits of the County road right-of-way for Old Highway 16, and therefore no agricultural lands will be affected by the proposed trail.**
- 4e. **The noxious weeds will be contained as proposed in the weed plan.**
- 4f. **No wetlands exist within the vicinity of the proposed trail. Prime farmland is located adjacent to the proposed trail segment but will not be impacted by the proposed trail construction.**
- 4g. **No negative vegetation impacts have been identified.**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				5a.
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				5d,
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				5e.
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				5g.
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				5h.
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?			X		Yes	5i.
j. Other:		X				5j.

- 5a. The proposed trail will be constructed as close to existing ground as possible and will require minimal disturbance to construct. The trail will also be located in existing County road right-of-way. There will be no deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat from this trail project.
- 5b. The proposed trail will have no change in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species, as the proposed trail is within existing County road right-of-way.
- 5c. The proposed trail will have no change in the diversity or abundance of nongame species, as the proposed trail is within existing County road right-of-way.
- 5d. The proposed trail will not introduce any new wildlife species into the project area.
- 5e. The proposed trail will be located within existing County road right-of-way. In addition, the proposed trail will be constructed as close to existing ground as possible. There will be no creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals.
- 5f. The Natural Heritage Program has stated three species of concern in the project vicinity, with two of the species being labeled as sensitive. However, the trail will be constructed in the existing County right-of-way and will involve minimal disturbance as the trail will be constructed as close to existing ground as

possible. The trail also will be a non-motorized trail, thus limiting vehicular encounters with these species.

- 5g. The only time wildlife may be subject to a stressful environment will be while construction takes place. However it is not anticipated that construction activities will be any more stressful than typical highway traffic conditions since the proposed trail is to be constructed within an existing County road right-of-way. Therefore, no increases in conditions that stress wildlife populations are foreseen.
- 5h. The Natural Heritage Program has stated that there are three species of concern within the vicinity of the project, with two of the species being labeled as sensitive. However, the trail project will have limited impacts on these species environment as the trail will be constructed within the existing County road right-of-way and as close to existing ground as possible. The construction of the trail segment within the existing County road right-of-way will ensure that existing habitat will not be disturbed.
- 5i. Weeds may be introduced into sites as a result of trail construction. Post construction weed monitoring & spraying where necessary will mitigate this impact as proposed effective weed management is planned.
- 5j. No negative fish and wildlife impacts have been identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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

- 6a. The proposed trail is for non-motorized use only and will not result in an increase in existing noise levels.**
- 6b. The users of the proposed trail will not expose people to severe or nuisance noise levels as only non-motorized traffic will be allowed.**
- 6c. No static electricity or electric force fields will be created by the construction of the proposed trail.**
- 6d. There will be no interference with radio or television reception and operation due to construction or use of the proposed trail.**
- 6e. No negative noise/electrical impacts have been identified.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				7a.
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				7b.
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				7c.
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				7d.
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				7e.
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				7f.
g. Other:		X				7g.

- 7a. The proposed use of the land will be no different than existing and will not create an alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use.**
- 7b. There are no conflicts with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance.**
- 7c. The existing land use is the same as the proposed land use and no conflicts in land use will occur.**
- 7d. No residences lie within the proposed trail network and no adverse effects on residences will occur. Residences are not located directly within the project area.**
- 7e. The existing land use is the same as the proposed land use and complies with all existing land policies.**
- 7f. The proposed trail will provide a reduction in traffic hazards by allowing pedestrians and bicyclists to have a safe alternative to traveling on the existing public roads. No negative impacts to the existing transportation system have been identified.**
- 7g. No negative land use impacts have been identified.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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				8a.
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				8b.
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				8c.
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				8d.
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?			X		Yes	8e.
f. Other:		X				8f.

- 8a. The trail is for non-motorized use only eliminating any risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances.
- 8b. The proposed trail is within existing County road right-of-way, creating no need for a new emergency response or emergency evacuation plan.
- 8c. The proposed trail will not create any human health hazard or potential hazard.
- 8d. The proposed trail is located within the existing County road right-of-way with no known deposits of hazardous materials. The disturbance of any hazardous materials should not be an issue.
- 8e. The trail construction will not include the use or existence of chemical toxicants with exception to chemicals used for spraying and monitoring weeds.
- 8f. No negative risk/health hazards have been identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

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

- 9a. The proposed trail will not affect the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area.
- 9b. The proposed trail will increase and benefit the social structure of the Town of Culbertson and the outlying communities by improving the recreational opportunities in the area.
- 9c. There will not be an alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income.
- 9d. Since the proposed trail is for non-motorized use only there will be no changes in industrial or commercial activity.
- 9e. More people will use the proposed trail making the movement of traffic on the existing road more efficient, safer, and more appealing to both local citizens and tourists. The proposed trail system will reduce traffic hazards and the effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods.
- 9f. No negative community impacts have been identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative

description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. 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 so, specify:			X		Yes	10a.
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				10b.
c. 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				10c.
d. Increased used of any energy source?		X				10d.
e. Other.		X				10e.
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	Montana Department of Transportation Community Transportation Enhancement Program (see budget in application).					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	Annual maintenance costs for these trail improvement areas are estimated at \$3,000 per year.					

- 10a. The only governmental services needed for the proposed trail will be the additional maintenance by the Town of Culbertson and Weed Department of Roosevelt County. These services have already been addressed by the Town of Culbertson and Roosevelt County.
- 10b. The matching funds used to construct the proposed trail have been raised without increasing the tax base and revenues by the local or state government.
- 10c. There will be no 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 since the proposed trail will only be used by non-motorized groups and will not utilize lighting, power, natural gas or other fuel sources.
- 10d. The proposed trail is for non-motorized use only creating no increase in any energy source. The proposed trail system will add a positive benefit by reducing the use of energy sources by decreasing vehicular use.
- 10e. It is anticipated that no increase in taxes, utility use, energy or other public services/taxes/utilities will occur.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description

and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				11a.
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				11b.
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c.
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				11d.
e. Other:		X				11e.

11a. The proposed trail will improve the aesthetics of Culbertson and the surrounding areas by providing a safe place for bike and pedestrian use. The proposed trail will be aesthetically pleasing by being constructed as close to existing ground as possible so as not to make a large visual impact on the area.

11b. The proposed trail will also improve the aesthetic character of the community of Culbertson and surrounding areas.

11c. The proposed trail will significantly increase the quality of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings by providing a trail that is for non-motorized use only.

11d. The proposed trail is not located within or near wild or scenic river corridors, trails or wilderness areas.

11e. No negative aesthetic/recreation impacts have been identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you

checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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 changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				12b.
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				12c.
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				12d.
e. Other:		X				12e.

12a. A search was performed at the State Historic Preservation Office which returned no results of any site, structure or object of prehistoric or paleontological importance within the proposed trail system.

12b. The search issued through the State Historic Preservation Office showed no sites with any unique cultural values within the proposed trail system.

12c. The search issued through the State Historic Preservation Office also showed no sites with existing religious or sacred uses within the proposed trail system.

12d. A search was performed at the State Historic Preservation Office which returned no results of any site with historic or cultural resources within the proposed trail system.

12e. No adverse cultural/historic resources impacts have been identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the

above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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 which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a.
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				13b.
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				13c.
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				13d.
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				13e.
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				13f.
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.	DEQ Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan					

- 13a. Checklists 1-12 show that the proposed trails do not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.**
- 13b. There are no foreseeable potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur. The project consists of constructing a new paved bike and pedestrian trail within existing County road right-of-way which will create no environmental risks.**
- 13c. The proposed trail has been planned to eliminate conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.**
- 13d. There are no environmental effects that result from the construction of the proposed trail.**
- 13e. There are no foreseeable agencies that would be opposed to the construction of the proposed trail.**
- 13f. The public has been involved with the planning of the proposed trail from the very beginning of the project in the Spring of 2010. The public has had numerous opportunities to provide input and stated concerns have been addressed at public Town meetings, with no opposition to the proposed plan.**
- 13g. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared in accordance with Montana Department of Environmental Quality regulations pending grant approval.**

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole. These are impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in combination to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

The proposed trail will impose a minimal impact on the natural environment. The trail will be constructed within the existing County road right-of-way corridor. The only identified environmental impacts would be the slight increase in surface runoff due to the proposed 8 ft wide paved trail and an increase in maintenance costs for the Town of Culbertson Parks and Recreation Department and County Weed District. These impacts are not cumulative, can easily be mitigated and do not result in significant impacts. The minimal impacts are far offset through anticipated benefits that include a significant reduction in pedestrian/vehicle conflicts, increased socialization, reduction in air emissions, reduction in the use of energy sources and reduced effects on commerce.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO X

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

The proposed trail described above does not create significant impacts to the natural or human environment. Any impacts associated with the proposed trail construction can be easily mitigated onsite as to not affect the environment around the trails. Therefore, no EIS is necessary for the proposed trail project and the checklist level review is appropriate for this type of project.

3. **Public Comment.** At minimum, public input to the proposed project must be solicited through a legal ad in a daily newspaper with widest circulation in the immediate project area. This ad must run for a minimum of one day with at least 30 days allowed for public comment. The ad must include a brief description of the proposed project with the name, address, and contact information of the project sponsor. Comments should be provided in writing. The public comment period for this project must have occurred within 24 months (2 years) of the grant submission deadline.

a). Please include a photocopy of the legal advertisement, showing the date on which it ran in the newspaper.

b). Describe the total public involvement for this project beyond the legal ad. Projects may not be planned in isolation. The general public, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties should be involved from the onset. Promotion of public participation may be

through newspaper articles and any other means available, such as public meetings, federal quarterly newsletters, TV programs, radio announcements, etc.

During the development of the proposed trail/sidewalk system for the Town of Culbertson comments and ideas were solicited from various user groups within the community. These groups included local citizens, joggers, walkers and local high school students/athletes.

4. **Public Input Summary.** Please describe the nature of the public comments received during the official public comment period. Tally numbers of comments in support of the project and the numbers against. Summarize the most important comments received and your response to these comments. For example, if a reviewer made suggestions on how the project could be made better, how did you respond to that suggestion?
 - a). Provide copies of all comments received.
 - b). Changes to project design or scope of work based on public input.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency’s reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency’s decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency

action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.