



## 2023 Environmental Analysis Review Form Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Review of Unique Impact Projects

### Project Overview

**Trout Unlimited**

**Proposed Project Name:** Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge Trail and Fisheries Improvement Project

**Project Summary:** This award funds bridge construction, signage, and trail improvements on an ADA compliant trail at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge.

**Project Location:** Ravalli County

### Environmental Form Submitted with Application

Environmental Analysis Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
FWP Categorical Exclusion Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
USFS Categorical Exclusion Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER: Environmental Assessment – North Burnt Fork Creek Culvert Removal and Restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Types of Impacts Identified

Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potentially Significant (Proceed to completing Table 1 and Table 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>

If Potentially Significant Impacts were identified, note in Table 1 and Table 2 in which areas they were identified, for what term, and whether they can be mitigated. (Use the reference on determining significance found in Table 3 during your review.)

- **Short-Term:** impacts that would not last longer than the proposed project.
- **Long-Term:** impacts that would remain or occur following the proposed project.
- **Mitigation:** Some impacts may require mitigation to limit potential impacts below significance. For FWP to rely on mitigation strategies to limit impacts they must be enforceable. To be enforceable, mitigation strategies must be required by an authorizing document (the grant agreement). As defined in ARM 12.2.429, mitigation means:
  - Avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action or parts of a project;
  - Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of a project and its implementation;
  - Rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; or
  - Reducing or eliminating an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of a project or the time period thereafter that an impact continues.

**Table 1. Potentially Significant Impacts to the Physical Environment**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	Duration of Potentially Significant Impact		Summary of Potential Direct, Secondary, and Cumulative Impacts that are Potentially Significant and Mitigation Measures Identified
	Short-Term	Long-Term	
Resource			
Terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life and habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Water quality, quantity, and distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Soil quality, stability, and moisture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vegetation cover, quantity, and quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Historical and archaeological sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, and energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Table 2: Potentially Significant Impacts to the Human Population**

HUMAN POPULATION	Duration of Potentially Significant Impact		Summary of Potential Direct, Secondary, and Cumulative Impacts that are Potentially Significant and Mitigation Measures Identified
	Short-Term	Long-Term	
Resource			
Social structures and mores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cultural uniqueness and diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Local and state tax base and tax revenues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Agricultural or Industrial production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Human health and safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Quantity and distribution of employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Distribution and density of population and housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demands for government services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial, agricultural, and commercial activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Locally adopted environmental plans and goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other appropriate social and economic circumstances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Table 3: Reference: Determining the Significance of Impacts on the Quality of the Physical and Human Environment**

<p>If impacts associated with the proposed project are identified, FWP must determine the significance of the impacts. (ARM 12.2.431) This determination forms the basis for FWP’s decision as to whether additional MEPA review is required.</p> <p>According to the applicable requirements of ARM 12.2.431, FWP must consider the criteria identified in this table to determine the significance of each impact on the quality of the human environment. The significance determination is made by giving weight to these criteria in their totality. For example, impacts identified as moderate or major in severity may not be significant if the duration is short-term. However, moderate or major impacts of short-term duration may be significant if the quantity and quality of the resource is limited and/or the resource is unique or fragile. Further, moderate or major impacts to a resource may not be significant if the quantity of that resource is high or the quality of the resource is not unique or fragile.</p>	
<p><b>Criteria Used to Determine Significance. ARM 12.2.431(1).</b></p>	
(a)	<p>The <b>severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency</b> of the occurrence of the impact</p> <p><b>“Severity”</b> describes the density of the potential impact, while <b>“extent”</b> describes the area where the impact will likely occur, e.g., a project may propagate ten noxious weeds on a surface area of 1 square foot. Here, the impact may be high in severity, but over a low extent. In contrast, if ten noxious weeds were distributed over ten acres, there may be low severity over a larger extent.</p> <p><b>“Duration”</b> describes the time period during which an impact may occur, while <b>“frequency”</b> describes how often the impact may occur, e.g., an operation that uses lights to mine at night may have frequent lighting impacts during one season (duration).</p>
(b)	<p>The probability that the impact will occur if the proposed project occurs; or conversely, reasonable assurance in keeping with the potential severity of an impact that the impact will not occur</p>
(c)	<p>Growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, including the relationship or contribution of the impact to cumulative impacts</p>
(d)	<p>The quantity and quality of each environmental resource or value that would be affected, including the uniqueness and fragility of those resources and values</p>
(e)	<p>The importance to the state and to society of each environmental resource or value that would be affected</p>
(f)	<p>Any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed project that would commit FWP to future actions with significant impacts or a decision in principle about such future actions</p>

(g)	Potential conflict with local, state, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans
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**FWP Notes:**

Summary of Analysis from submitted EA: The proposed action would result in temporary and localized impacts to air quality and fisheries (turbidity from construction). It would fully satisfy the purpose and need for this project, reconnecting 2.5 miles of habitat for aquatic organisms and improving riparian habitat for all riparian-dependent species. Visitor access and recreation opportunities may be limited during construction yet would be improved in the long-term through improved habitat and wildlife viewing opportunities, as well as improved interpretive signage.

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis**

An impact may be adverse, beneficial, or both. If none of the adverse effects of the impact are significant, an EIS is not required. ARM 12.2.431(2).

<b>NO</b> further analysis is needed for the proposed action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further analysis <b>is needed</b> to complete the EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
FWP must conduct <b>EIS</b> level review for the proposed action	<input type="checkbox"/>

**EA Review**

	Name	Title
<b>EA reviewed by:</b>	Stephanie Clemen	Recreational Trails Program Manager