

# Environmental Assessments

MNHP Environmental Summary Tool

&

Environmental Assessment Forms



## 2018 EA's: What's New?

- Environmental Checklist
- Summary Report Required
- Mitigation Statements- Only!

**Mitigation**

1a. Describe mitigation strategies:

Font Family    Font Size    **B**    *I*    U    [List Icons]

Path: p    Words: 0

10,000 character max



**MONTANA**  
**Natural Heritage**  
**Program**

1515 East 6th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-0241  
mnhp.org

Envir

1. General Vegetation Impact	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
Will the proposed project result in:				
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Alteration of the plant community?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
c. Adverse effects on any non-target plants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
d. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

**Mitigation**

1a. Describe mitigation strategies:

Font Family    Font Size    **B**    *I*    U    [List Icons]

Path: p    Words: 0

10,000 character max



**Environmental Summary**

Suggested Citation  
Montana Natural Heritage Program, Environmental Summary Report  
for Latitude 44.30734 to 44.49510 and Longitude 110.24103 to 110.45556. Retrieved on 7/6/2017.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is a program of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System. It is operated as a special program under the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship at the University of Montana, Missoula.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the Montana - a network of over 40 similar programs in states, provinces and nations throughout the Western Hemisphere, working to provide comprehensive public and distribution information for species and ecosystems.



Several new changes for the Environmental Summary in 2018.

EA checklists have replaced most narratives on the EA forms; only mitigation statements will need to be described.

The MNHP has created an environmental summary tool. This report includes all the information needed for three of the seven EA forms.

The report is required and can be obtained by contacting the MNHP or Jasmine Reimer- MDA.

mtnhp.org

# Environmental Summary Report

The screenshot displays the Montana Natural Heritage Program website. On the left, there is a navigation menu with categories like 'Home', 'Animals', 'Plants', 'Ecology', 'Wetlands', 'Publications', 'Data', 'About', and 'Quick Data'. Below this is a 'Montana Natural Heritage Program' section with a list of announcements, including '2017 Conservationist of the Year Award' and 'Montana Field Guide'. A red arrow points to the 'Natural Heritage MapViewer' link. In the center, there is a map viewer showing a map of Montana with various layers selected. On the right, there is a 'Task Selection' panel with a 'Switch Task' button and a list of tasks such as 'Generalized Observations', 'Ecological Information', and 'Land Management'. The website footer includes 'mt.gov' and 'MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM'.

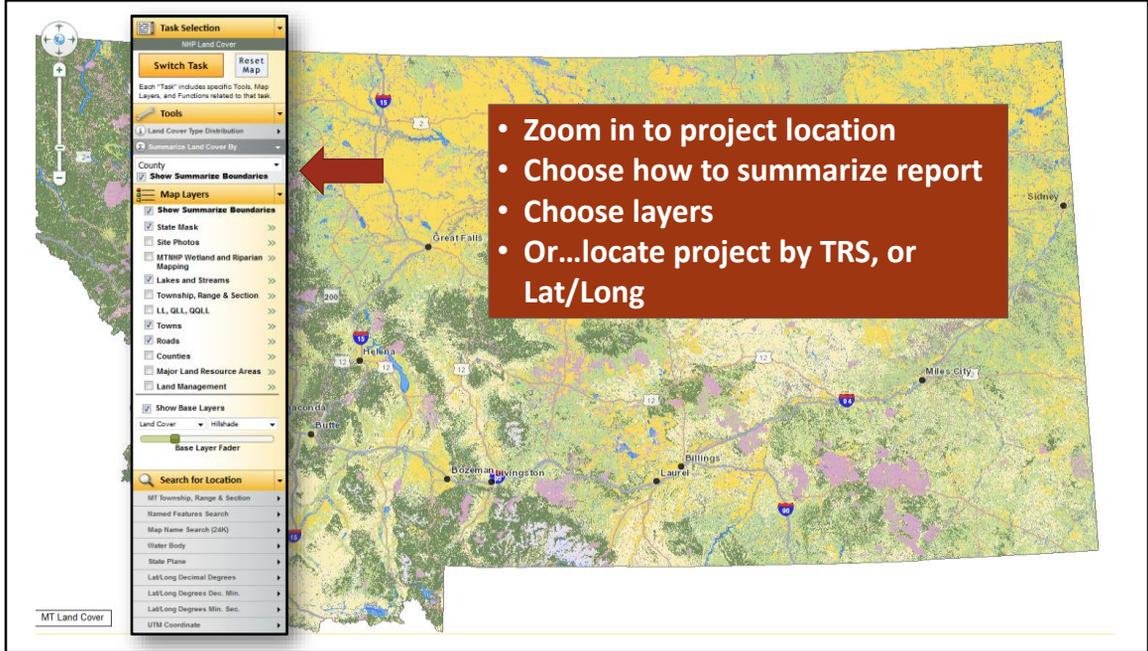
Where to find EA information?

The Montana Natural Heritage Program website: [mtnhp.org](http://mtnhp.org)

Click on Natural Heritage MapViewer

Click on Land Cover

Use the Task Selection or zoom to find your project area.

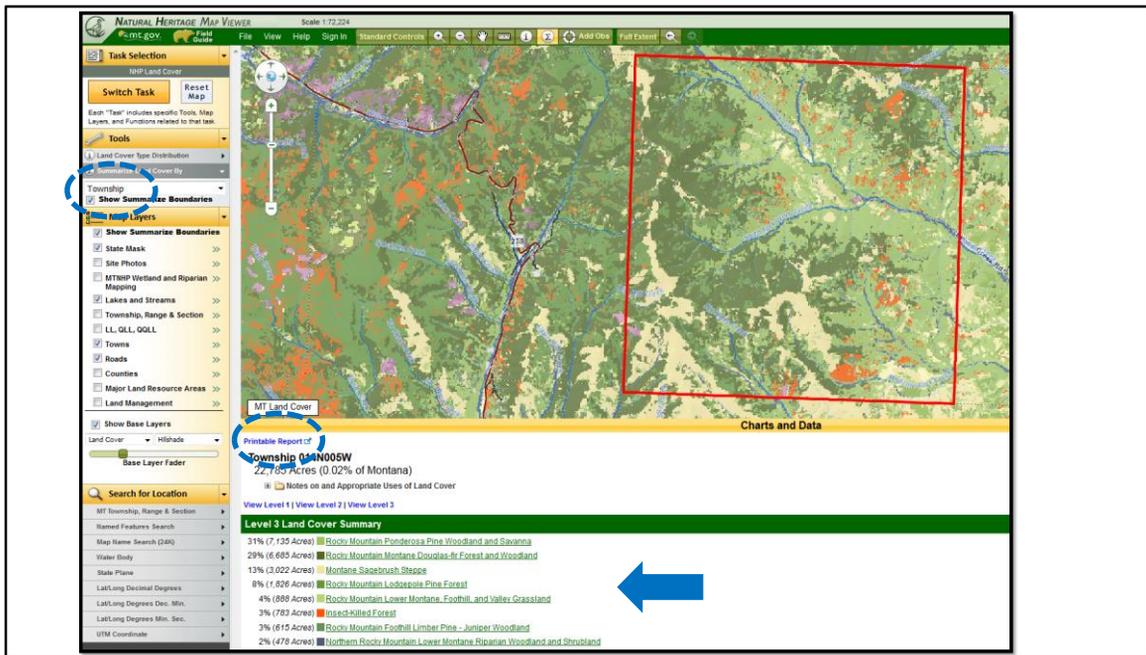


Several Features of the Task Selection Bar:

Summarize Land Cover By: County, Township, Section

Map Layers: Choose from several different layers for more/less detailed maps

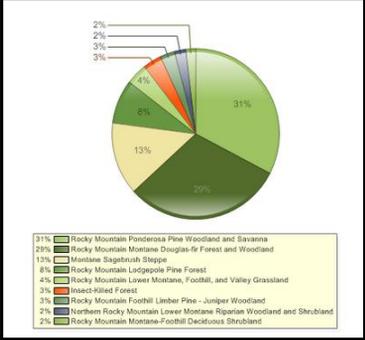
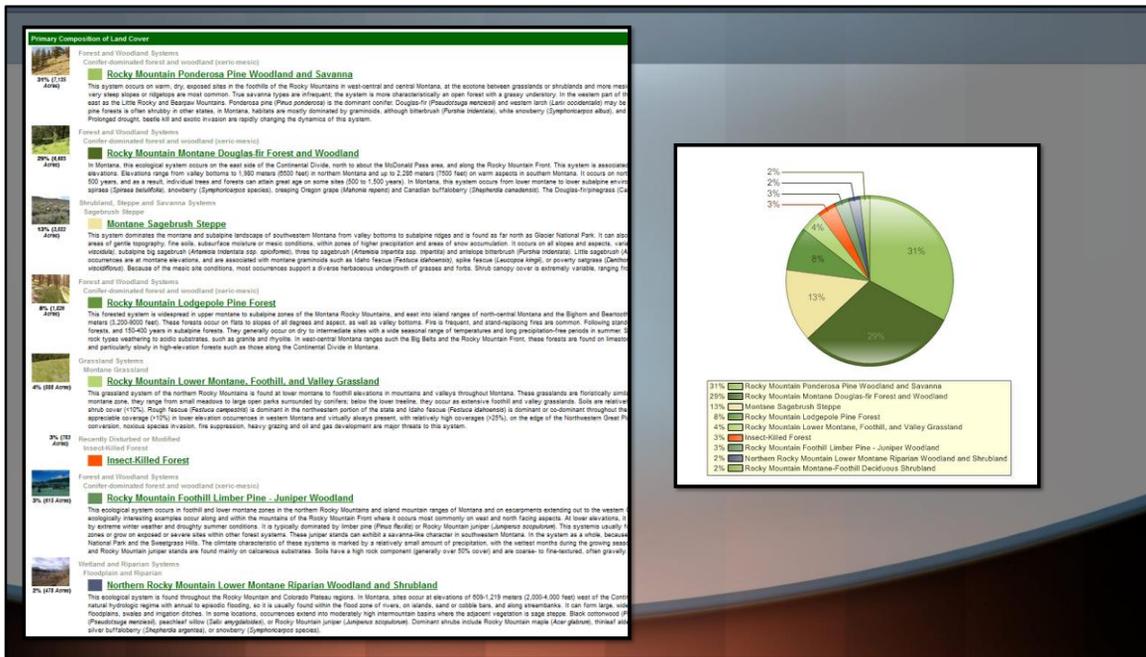
Search for a location by: TRS, Lat/Long, waterbody, town



Once you have the area selected:

Print the pdf report, or click on each specific land cover section to learn more

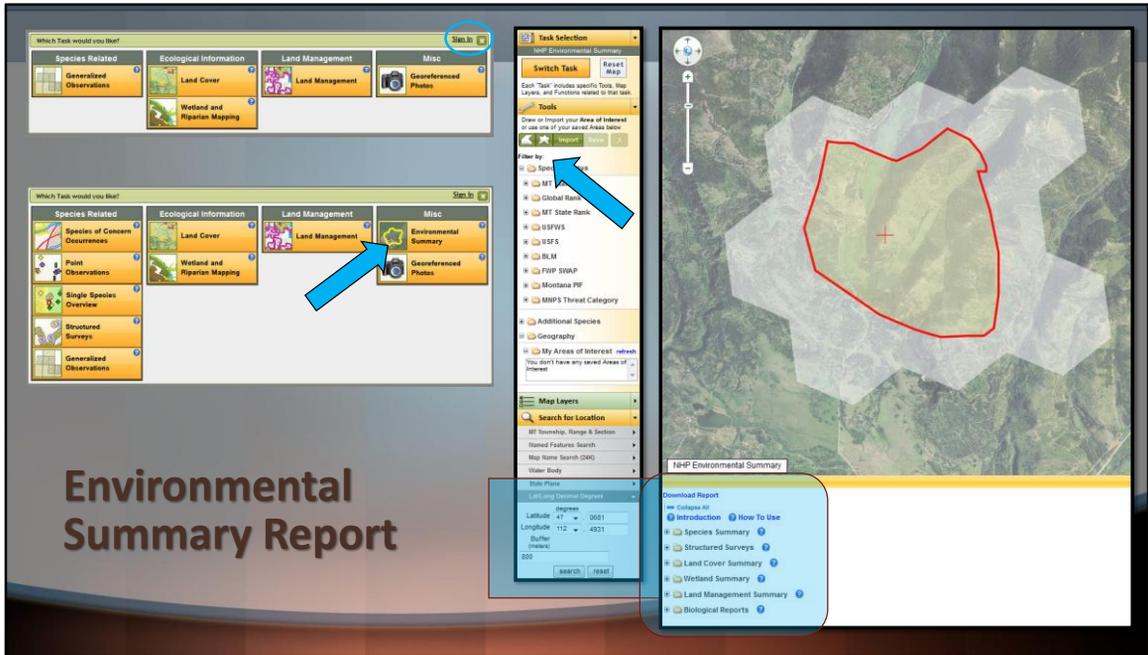




The printable report looks like this.

It gives you the percentage of land covered by each ecosystem.

Find information under each system's name, or click to learn more about a specific system.



The Environmental Summary Tool was created by the MNHP in 2016.

As of now, it can only be used by Agency employees but that may change in December- stay tuned.

The summary tool gives users more options to find species observations and surveys, as well as create an environmental summary report.

Use the same task selection to find the center point of the project, then create a polygon around the project area.

The tool creates a buffer around the area due to how data is stored in the program.

Once the project is mapped, you can search through summary reports or download a comprehensive report.

The screenshot shows a web application interface for species management. On the left, a sidebar lists various categories like 'Species Occurrences', 'Other Observed Species', and 'Land Management Summary'. The 'Species Occurrences' section is expanded, showing a list of species with 'Westslope Cutthroat Trout' highlighted. The main content area features a detailed profile for the selected species, including an image of the fish, a map of Montana showing its distribution, and text describing its biology and habitat. A table on the right side of the interface displays survey data, with columns for '# SO', '# Obs', 'Predictive Model', 'Associated Habitat', and 'Range'.

Expand each summary folder to get more detailed information.

The summaries include:

Species Occurrences (all Species of Concern in the area)

Other Species (more common observed species)

- See # of observations, associated habitat, range, rank, etc.
- Expand each to learn more

Structural Surveys

Land Cover Summary

Wetland Summary

Land Management Summary

The PDF Field Guide – One page for each SOC in the area and can easily be printed and given to landowners and/or staff

MTNHP\_EnviroSum\_2017-10-16\_11... Microsoft Excel 97-2003 ... 68 KB No 1,469 KB 96% 10/16/2017 11:35 AM  
 MTNHP\_EnviroSum\_2017-10-16\_11... Adobe Acrobat Document 4,351 KB No 4,580 KB 5% 10/16/2017 11:35 AM

**MONTANA Natural Heritage Program**  
 1515 East 6th Avenue  
 Helena, MT 59603  
 (406) 444-0241  
 mnhp.org

**Environmental Summary**

**Suggested Citation**  
 Montana Natural Heritage Program. Environmental Summary Report for Land Use #167-10-16-11-10000. Retrieved on 10/16/2017.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is a program of the Montana State Office's Natural Resources Information System. It is operated as a special program under the Office of the State Historian for Research and Creative Services at the University of Montana, Helena. The Montana Natural Heritage Program is a grant-funded program. A number of grant-funded programs in science, planning, and related fields are supported by Montana Natural Heritage Program funds. For more information, please contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-0241.

**Species Occurrences**

**F. Westslope Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) 806**

**Forest and Woodland Systems**  
**Conifer-dominated forest and woodland (xeric-mesic)**  
**Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland**

In Montana, this ecological system occurs on the east side of the Continental Divide, north to about the McDonald Pass area, and along the Rocky Mountain Front. This system is associated with a dry to subarctic continental climate regime with annual precipitation ranging from 51 to 102 centimeters (20-40 inches), with a maximum in winter or late spring. Winter snowpacks typically melt off in early spring at lower elevations. Elevations range from valley bottoms to 1,980 meters (6500 feet) in northern Montana and up to 2,286 meters (7500 feet) on warm aspects in southern Montana. It occurs on north-facing aspects in most areas, and south-facing aspects at higher elevations. This is a Douglas-fir

**Wetland and Riparian Mapping**

Palustrine	Acres	Wetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water surface for most of the growing season.
PAB Aquatic Bed	6	<1 Wetlands with less than 75% areal cover of stones, boulders, or bedrock. AND with less than 30% vegetative cover
PUS Unconsolidated Shore	<1	Wetlands with less than 75% areal cover of stones, boulders, or bedrock. AND with less than 30% vegetative cover
PDM Emergent	124	Wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season.
PSS		

**Land Management Summary**

	Ownership	Tribal	Easements	Other Boundaries (possible overlaps)
<b>Public Lands</b>	<b>3,217 Acres (56%)</b>			
Federal	2,341 Acres (41%)			
US Forest Service	2,341 Acres (41%)			
USFS Owned	2,341 Acres (41%)			
USFS Ranger Districts				2,425 Acres
USFS National Forest Boundaries				2,425 Acres
State	876 Acres (15%)			
Montana State Trust Lands	876 Acres (15%)			
MT State Trust Owned	876 Acres (15%)			
<b>Conservation Easements</b>			<b>396 Acres (7%)</b>	
Private			396 Acres (7%)	
Five Valleys Land Trust			396 Acres (7%)	
<b>Private Lands or Unknown Ownership</b>	<b>2,137 Acres (37%)</b>			

The Downloaded Report – Required for all new Local Cooperative grants

The report contains all the information in the Summary tool but in pdf form and excel.

- Species Occurrences
- Land Cover Summary
- Wetland Summary
- Land Management Summary



MTNHP_EnviroSum_2017-10-16_11...	Microsoft Excel 97-2003 ...	68 KB	No	1,469 KB	96%	10/16/2017 11:35 AM
MTNHP_EnviroSum_2017-10-16_11...	Adobe Acrobat Document	4,351 KB	No	4,580 KB	5%	10/16/2017 11:35 AM

**Application: 62314 - 2018 Local Cooperative- New Test Application**

**Program Area:** AGR Noxious Weed Trust Fund

**Funding Opportunities:** 60497 - AGR Noxious Weed Trust Fund 2018 Local Cooperative- New

**Application Deadline:** 01/06/2018

---

**Instructions**

*The required application forms appear below. Please note: Clicking "Mark as Complete" does not submit the application component or prevent further editing. The check mark beside the form is only an indicator that the form has been completed. All application components must be marked as complete in order to submit. To submit the application click the Submit button.*

Application Forms		Application Details   <a href="#">Submit</a>   <a href="#">Withdraw</a>	
Form Name	Complete?	Last Edited	
<a href="#">General Information</a>	✓	10/13/2017	
<a href="#">Project Information</a>			
<a href="#">Cooperators</a>			
<a href="#">Herbicide Worksheet</a>			
<a href="#">Revegetation Worksheet</a>			
<a href="#">Budget</a>			
<a href="#">Project Overview - Local Coop</a>			
<a href="#">Objectives &amp; IWM Plan</a>			
<a href="#">Activities/Education Timeline</a>			
<a href="#">EA- General Vegetation</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Soils</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Surface and Groundwater</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Fish and Wildlife Habitat</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Air Quality</a>			
<a href="#">EA- Historical and Archaeological Sites</a>			
<a href="#">Other Attachments</a>			



Attach the pdf and excel files under Other Attachments on your application

## All EA Forms

- Checklist
  - Complete each line in the checklist
  - Answer yes or no for each of the impact sections
  - Think critically about the questions: Weed control efforts do have impacts on the environment, but not all impacts are bad and most can be mitigated easily.
- Mitigation
  - Each question corresponds to a line in the checklist
  - Answer each question; even if the answer is None
  - These should be specific statements, and may need to include application methods and information from herbicide labels.

# General Vegetation

## General Vegetation

This section should address **potential damage to non-target vegetation in the project area**. Plant community type and plant species information can be found using the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) Map Viewer or the Environmental Summary Report. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".

Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question.

1. General Vegetation Impact Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Alteration of the plant community?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
c. Adverse effects on any non-target plants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
d. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

General Vegetation:

Addresses potential damage to non-target vegetation in the project area.

C. Non-target plants: Look at labels to see what plant species are vulnerable to each proposed herbicide, check the environmental summary report for SOC.

1. General Vegetation Impact Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Alteration of the plant community?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
c. Adverse effects on any non-target plants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
d. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

### Mitigation

**1a. Describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**1b. Describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**1c. List vulnerable plant species and describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**1d. List any additional impacts and describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max



Remember to use MS Word, then copy and paste in each field.

1a. corresponds to question a. in the checklist section; 1b. to b.; etc.

Look at labels to know how to avoid non-target plant damage for each proposed herbicide, check the environmental summary report for SOC.

Some mitigation strategies may include timing of spraying, creating a buffer, spot spraying instead of broadcasting, using biocontrol in riparian areas, ect.

If there is no impact, write NONE in the mitigation statement.

# Fish and Wildlife Habitat

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat

*This section should address the potential for effects from weed control actions on fish and wildlife habitat in the project area. Use the Montana Heritage Program Field Guide or Environmental Summary Report to find species and habitat information, or contact your local Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".*

**\*If your project includes grazing,** consult with a local Fish, Wildlife and Parks specialist. Describe how the project will address potential issues with bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, wolves and other predators.

Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question.

4. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Impact Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Alterations of critical fish or wildlife habitat?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
d. Grazing domestic animals in areas associated with bighorn sheep or predators?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
4e. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Addresses potential effects on fish and wildlife from weed control actions in the project area.

Look at the MNHP mapviewer or check the environmental summary report for SOC and other observed species in the project area.

4. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Impact Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Alterations of critical fish or wildlife habitat?				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species?				
d. Grazing domestic animals in areas associated with bighorn sheep or predators?				
4e. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?				
<b>Mitigation</b>				
4a. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
4b. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
4c. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
4d. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
4e. List any additional impacts and describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				

A list of fish and wildlife species and their habitats can be found using the MTNHP Map Viewer, or the Environmental Summary Report. You could also contact a local Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Biologist to help identify the common wildlife species in your project area.

Mitigation examples may include timing treatment when foragers are not present, spot treating plants around sensitive areas vs. aerial application, using mechanical or biological control methods in sensitive areas, etc.

**If your project includes grazing**, consult with a local Fish, Wildlife and Parks specialist. Describe how the project will address potential issues with bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, wolves and other predators.

# Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

## Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

This section should address effects on species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or species listed as sensitive by the Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP) in the project area. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".

Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question.

5. Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Alterations of critical habitat for TES species?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Adverse effects on any TES species?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
5c. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

## Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species

Addresses potential effects on species listed under the ESA or sensitive by the MNHP from weed control actions in the project area.

Look at the MNHP mapviewer/field guide or check the environmental summary report for SOC in the project area.

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species		<a href="#">Mark as Complete</a>   <a href="#">Go to Application Forms</a>		
<p>This section should address effects on species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or species listed as sensitive by the Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP) in the project area. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".</p> <p>Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question.</p>				
5. Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Alterations of critical habitat for TES species?				
b. Adverse effects on any TES species?				
5c. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?				
<b>Mitigation</b>				
5a. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
5b. Describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				
5c. List any additional impacts and describe mitigation strategies:*				
10,000 character max				

Use the MNHP mapviewer/field guide or check the environmental summary report for SOC in the project area.

Mitigation examples may include spraying during daylight hours so the little brown myotis is not flying, choosing chemicals that will have minimal damage to silver and big sage to lessen the impact to the greater sage grouse habitat, using a 200 foot buffer around any found ferruginous hawk nests, etc.

# Air Quality

## Air Quality

This section should **address the impact to air quality in the project area**. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".

Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question. List **advisory and mandatory statements from each herbicide label regarding air quality and drift**. Examples include "do not apply at wind speeds over 10 mph", "boom length must not exceed 75% of the wingspan or 90% of the rotor blade diameter", "do not apply with a nozzle height greater than 4 feet above crop canopy", etc. Review each herbicide label fully for information related to use precautions regarding air quality and drift.

6. Air Quality Impacts Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
b. Creation of objectionable odors?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
c. Adverse effects on non-target plants due to drift?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
6d. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

## Air Quality

Addresses the impact to air quality in the project area.

Note: All herbicide treatments, burning and soil tillage will temporarily reduce air quality.

**Air Quality**
[Mark as Complete](#) | [Go to Application Forms](#)

*This section should address the impact to air quality in the project area. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".*

*Complete the table below and describe mitigation efforts for each question. List advisory and mandatory statements from each herbicide label regarding air quality and drift. Examples include "do not apply at wind speeds over 10 mph", "boom length must not exceed 75% of the wingspan or 90% of the rotor blade diameter", "do not apply with a nozzle height greater than 4 feet above crop canopy", etc. Review each herbicide label fully for information related to use precautions regarding air quality and drift.*

6. Air Quality Impacts Will the proposed project result in:	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can it be mitigated?
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?				
c. Adverse effects on non-target plants due to drift?				
6d. Any other likely impacts not addressed above?				

**Mitigation**

**6a. Describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**6b. Describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**6c. Describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

**6d. List any additional impacts and describe mitigation strategies:\***

10,000 character max

Use herbicide labels to find advisory statements and ways to mitigate air quality and drift. Examples include:

- “do not apply at wind speeds over 10 mph”,
- “boom length must not exceed 75% of the wingspan or 90% of the rotor blade diameter”,
- “do not apply with a nozzle height greater than 4 feet above crop canopy”, etc.

Mitigation examples may include applying herbicides by air to reduce dust from ground activity, applying herbicides when winds are between 2-10 mph, using a surfactant to increase droplet size, will not spray during an inversion, etc.

Visit the following site: [Avoiding Pesticide Drift](#) for more information.

# Historical and Archaeological Sites

## Historical and Archaeological Sites

This section should address impacts on historical and archeological resources in the project area. Instructions and links can be downloaded or opened from this Funding Opportunity's description page under "Attachments".

\*Please obtain and attach a letter below, from either a local historical society or the Montana Historical Society. The letter should provide information on local features of historical or archeological importance to the area and their potential impact from proposed control methods. Note: grazing, burning and some mechanical weed control methods may cause impacts to historical and archeological sites.

To request a search on cultural records, fill out a File Search Request form and e-mail it to Damon Murdo. The form is at the following website: [Montana Historical Society](#)  
Note: You will not be charged any fees for this service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
1410 8th Ave., P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
Phone: (406)-444-7767  
Email: [dmurdo@mt.gov](mailto:dmurdo@mt.gov)  
Attn: Damon Murdo

Will the proposed project impact any historical and/or archeological sites?  Yes  No

Describe mitigation strategies:



## Historical Site Letter

Click on the icon to add the attachment.

Montana Historical Society Letter\*  No file selected.  
Click here to add attachment.

## Historical and Archaeological Sites

Addresses the impact to historical and archaeological resources in the project area.

Obtain a letter from either a local historical society or the **Montana Historical Society**.

- The letter should provide information on local features of historical or archeological importance to the area and their potential impact from proposed control methods.

Note: grazing, burning and some mechanical weed control methods may cause impacts to historical and archeological sites.

Mitigation examples may include establishing buffers around known sites, using non-ground disturbing activities, etc.

## Other Attachments

- Project Map
- MNHP Environmental Summary Report (pdf and excel)
- Letter from the Montana Historical Society
- Soil Maps
- Surface Water Map
- Well Logs
- Letters of support

# Environmental Assessments



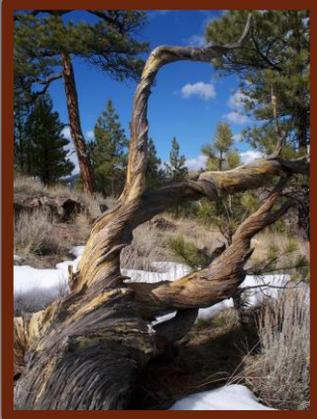
Environmental assessments are required on all NEW Local Cooperative projects.

An additional assessment will be needed if the project area is expanded and/or new herbicides added.

Environmental assessments are completed to ensure that project participants are aware of environmental concerns in the project area.

Start Early! Plan Ahead – it takes time to gather all required information.

## Questions?



**Dave Burch** State Weed Coordinator  
444-3140 dburch@mt.gov

**Jasmine Reimer** NWTF Grant Coordinator  
444-7882 jreimer@mt.gov

**Carol Bearden** Weed Program Specialist  
444-7880 cbearden@mt.gov