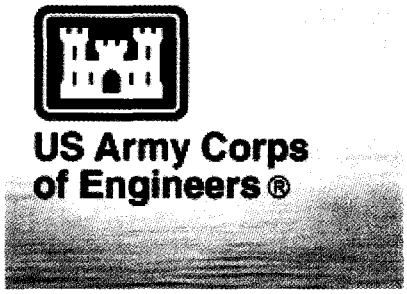

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE DISTRICT

and the

CITY OF WHITEFISH

Section 595 – City of Whitefish Wastewater System Improvement Project

Whitefish, Flathead County, Montana

Environmental Assessment & Finding of No Significant Impact

December 2010

Finding of No Significant Impact

SECTION 595 of WRDA 99
CITY OF WHITEFISH
WASTEWATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WHITEFISH, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

Project Summary

Under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) is partnering with the Non-Federal Sponsor, the City of Whitefish, on its wastewater system improvement project. City of Whitefish (City or Whitefish) is located on the northwestern part of the State of Montana, on the western side of the continental divide, near Glacier National Park. The City is seeking improvements to its wastewater system. Presently the treated wastewater from the City's wastewater system is discharged directly into the Whitefish River, via an effluent diffuser. Recent Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit established new effluent standards that are to be implemented in July of 2008, July of 2011 and December of 2014. The City has taken steps to address their problems; however, two "priority" elements need to be addressed: 1) Wastewater disinfection (more restrictive effluent standards can be anticipated due to concerns regarding the impacts of nutrients entering receiving streams in the Flathead Lake drainage basin), and 2) Inflow and infiltration (I&I) from approximately 11,350 lineal feet of the City's gravity collection lines, manholes and individual service lines. Reduction of infiltration and inflow are needed to reduce the risk of excessive flows in the sewer mains and conveyance lift stations leading to unplanned discharges.

Alternatives

To address these concerns, the City considered several alternatives to improve disinfection and address inflow and infiltration deficiencies.

- Alternatives to improve disinfection included: Alternative DF1 – Ultraviolet Disinfection, Alternative DF2 – Chlorination and Dechlorination **(Recommended Plan)**, and Alternative DF3 – No Action. The No Action alternative was not selected because the Department of Environmental Quality, through the MPDES discharge permit, has legally mandated that the City reduce its bacterial concentrations by July of 2011. Taking no action would not accomplish this mandate. Chlorine and UV disinfection are essentially equivalent at inactivating fecal coliforms or E. coli and UV disinfection is more effective at inactivating Cryptosporidium and Giardia cysts. The alternative chosen was Chlorination and dechlorination. This alternative will install liquid sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate feed facilities in the space currently occupied by an abandoned belt filter press. The Chlorination/dechlorination alternative was chosen ultimately due to lower initial capital costs, the potential need for a means to feed hypochlorite for activated sludge filament control should a Burlington Northern Railroad (BNR) facility be constructed in the future, and lowest present worth value in the event a BNR facility is placed into service within ten years.

- Alternatives to address inflow and infiltration (I&I) included: Alternative P1 – Joint Grouting, Alternative P2 – Pipe Bursting, Alternative P3 – Micro Tunneling, Alternative P4 – Fold and Form Lining, Alternative P5 – Cured-in-Place-Pipe Lining (CIPP) **(Recommended Plan)**, Alternative P6 – Open Trench Pipe Replacement, Alternative P7 – Slip Lining, and Alternative P8 – No Action. Joint Grouting is presumed to be a temporary resolution to I&I, and since Whitefish is seeking a permanent resolution, this alternative was not selected. Pipe Bursting is costly, labor intensive, and requires implementation of considerable traffic-control and safety efforts due to open trench excavation. Because of the additional costs, safety concerns, and potential disruptions to community traffic, this alternative was not selected. The No Action alternative was not selected because it would not address the I&I problems, it could lead to sewage backup as pipes continue to degrade, and it would increase energy use as infiltration increases. Constructions of new manholes were dropped due to cost considerations. The remaining alternatives were considered viable alternatives and thus carried forward for additional screening. These alternatives were placed within a matrix and evaluated using a variety of criteria (cost, longevity, I&I removal effectiveness, hydraulic characteristics, construction complexity, disruption to the City, environmental impacts and public acceptance). Results of this screening indicate the best scores for the Recommended Plan, CIPP Lining. Thus, the other alternatives were eliminated from further consideration.

Recommended Plan

Selection of the preferred alternative was based upon multiple criteria, both monetary and non-monetary. The recommended plan includes: construction of a new Chlorination and Dechlorination system using liquid sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate, CIPP rehabilitation of approximately 9,350 feet of pipe ranging from 8" diameter to 18" diameter, and open trench replacement of approximately 2,000 feet of 8" diameter pipe.

Alternative DF2: Chlorination/Dechlorination. In wastewater, chlorine reacts with ammonia to form monochloramine, which penetrates into cells and kills/inactivates organisms by oxidizing some of their carbonaceous matter. Sodium bisulfate removes residual chlorine by serving as a reducing agent.

The chemical feed system can be configured so hypochlorite is applied to the inlet of the final aerated lagoon. The low, mid, and high range hypochlorite doses are anticipated to be 2, 4, and 8 mg/L, respectively, although lower doses may be attainable when applied to the influent because of its greater clarity and reduced E.coli content.

For complete dechlorination, the sodium bisulfate doses will be at least 1.46 times the chlorine residual. The concentration for the chlorine residual leaving the final aerated lagoon is estimated to be 0.4, 0.8, and 1.2 mg/L, respectively. Both the hypochlorite and bisulfate will be flow paced to optimize chemical usage.

Alternative P5: Cured-in-place Pipe Lining (CIPP). CIPP is the process of inserting a flexible, epoxy-impregnated fabric "sock" into a section of host pipe from manhole to manhole and curing it to form a structurally sound, watertight lining that conforms to the inside of the host pipe. The flexible fabric sock is inserted into the host pipe using hydrostatic pressure until it

extends through the entire block of host pipe. Once it is in place, heated water is circulated through the sock which activates the thermally-setting epoxy within the liner fabric. After curing for a period of time, the water is removed and the ends trimmed and sealed. The recommended plan includes both Cured-in-Place-Pipe lining as well as open trench replacement. There are areas that CIPP is not feasible from engineering and cost considerations and open trench is the next best alternative for these locations.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The Wastewater System Improvement Project will ensure permit compliance with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards and improve system piping. The recommended plan will result in no adverse impacts to any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. The recommended plan will result in no impacts to any properties listed, proposed for listing, eligible for listing, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Areas near the proposed project site will be temporarily disturbed by construction activities. The impacts associated with the proposed system upgrades are short term and minor. These minor impacts will be greatly offset by updating the existing wastewater system and meeting DEQ requirements. Of the various alternatives considered, the Recommended Plan is proposed because it can be reasonably implemented, meets the projects purpose and needs, and is consistent with protection of the nation's environment.

Mitigation Measures

Best Management Practices, such as minimizing ground disturbance, washing off-road equipment prior to entering construction sites, and seeding (with a native seed mixture), mulching, and fertilizing of disturbed areas to reduce weed establishment and prevent erosion, will be implemented. All other permits will be obtained prior to project construction. As such, no additional mitigation is proposed or warranted.

Coordination

Coordination with the general public was conducted via a public hearing held on April 28, 2008 in the Whitefish City Council chambers. Efforts were made throughout the planning process to update the public and incorporate their comments and concerns. No comments for or against the proposed project were received from the public. Coordination with area Tribes was conducted via a letter, dated October 5, 2010 from Mr. John C. Wilson, Public Works Director with the City of Whitefish to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. No comments from the tribes were received. However, on November 9, 2010, Ms. Sherri Baccaro, Assistant to the Public Works Director of the City of Whitefish, contacted Ms. Marcia Pablo, Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office via telephone. In that conversation, Ms. Pablo stated that they have no concerns with the proposed project. Coordination with the resource agencies occurred as detailed in the Environmental Assessment. No adverse comments concerning the proposed project were received from the resource agencies. The proposed project will result in long-term social benefits and the adverse environmental effects are minor/short-term construction related. The minor impacts associated with this project will be well outweighed by the overall long-term benefits associated with an improved wastewater system.

Conclusion

After evaluating the anticipated environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed activity, it is my determination that construction of the proposed Whitefish Wastewater System Improvement Project does not constitute a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The proposed action has been coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies, and there are no unresolved issues. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

11 FEBRUARY 2011
Date

Anthony O. Wright
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps), in cooperation with the Non-Federal Sponsor, the City of Whitefish, proposes to upgrade components of the existing wastewater system in the City of Whitefish under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. The proposed Wastewater System Improvement Project planning area is located within the city of Whitefish. Whitefish is located on the western side of the continental divide, near Glacier National Park.

The recommended plan includes construction of a new Chlorination and Dechlorination system using liquid sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate, CIPP rehabilitation of approximately 9,350 feet of pipe ranging from 8" diameter to 18" diameter, and open trench replacement of approximately 2,000 feet of 8" diameter pipe.

Coordination

Coordination with the general public was conducted via public hearings held on April 28, 2008 in the Whitefish City Council chambers. Efforts were made throughout the planning process to update the public and incorporate their comments and concerns. No comments for or against the proposed project were received from the public. Coordination with area Tribes was conducted via a letter, dated October 5, 2010 from Mr. John C. Wilson, Public Works Director with the City of Whitefish to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. No comments from the tribes were received. However, on November 9, 2010, Ms. Sherri Baccaro, Assistant to the Public Works Director of the City of Whitefish, contacted Ms. Marcia Pablo, Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office via telephone. In that conversation, Ms. Pablo stated that they have no concerns with the proposed project. Coordination with the resource agencies occurred as detailed in the Environmental Assessment. No adverse comments concerning the proposed project were received from the resource agencies. The proposed project will result in long-term social benefits and the adverse environmental effects are minor/short-term construction related. The minor impacts associated with this project will be well outweighed by the overall long-term benefits associated with an improved wastewater system.

Additional information concerning this project may be obtained from Mr. Matthew D. Vandenberg, Environmental Resources Specialist, PM-AC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District by email at matthew.d.vandenberg@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 402- 995-2694.

NEPA REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
&
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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Section 1: INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information that was developed during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public interest review of the proposed Section 595 Wastewater System Improvement Project.

Section 2: AUTHORITY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) is partnering with the Non-Federal Sponsor, the City of Whitefish, on its wastewater system improvement project. Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 provides authority for Corps of Engineers participation.

Section 3: PROJECT LOCATION

City of Whitefish (City or Whitefish) is located on the western side of the continental divide, near Glacier National Park. The study area is bounded by the north border of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Township 31N, Range 22W; the west border of Sections 5, 8, 15, 22, 27, and 34 of Township 31N, Range 22W and Sections 11, 13, 24, 25, and 36 of Township 30N, Range 22W; the south border of Sections 11 and 13 of Township 30N, Range 22W and Sections 16, 17, and 18 of Township 30N, Range 21W; and the east border of Sections 32, 29, 20, 16, 9, and 4 of Township 30N, Range 21W, and Sections 33, 28, 21, 17, 7 and 6 of Township 31N, Range 21W. The boundary of the project area follows the boundary of the proposed Whitefish planning jurisdiction.

Section 4: EXISTING CONDITION

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The existing wastewater treatment facilities consist of three partially mixed aerated lagoons for biological treatment with the discharge from the lagoon system flowing to a flocculating clarifier where alum and polymers are added to precipitate phosphorus. From there, the treated wastewater is discharged directly into the Whitefish River. Design capacity for the lagoons, built in 1979, is 1.25 million gallons per day (MGD) based on average daily flow. The flocculating

clarifier and ancillary equipment have a design capacity of 1.8 MGD. The lagoons were upgraded in 2002 with sludge removal from Cell #1, new aeration diffusers in all three cells, a fabric curtain in Cell #1, and improved influent structure, new blowers and aeration piping. The facilities were again upgraded in 2008-09 with construction of a new, redundant flocculating clarifier, a new headworks building with mechanical perforated plate bar screen, odor control bio-filter and improvements to the plant's electrical system including two new auxiliary generators.

Wastewater Collection System

The present-day wastewater collection system in Whitefish consists of approximately 45.7 miles of conventional gravity sewer mains, 16 raw wastewater lift stations and force mains of various capacity, a series of 13 grinder pump installations serving from one to 20 residences each, and two septic tank effluent pump (STEP) system serving individual areas on the east shore of Whitefish Lake. Due to historic and ongoing problems with maintenance and access, the City of Whitefish has disallowed the installation of any more of these grinder pump and STEP system. The collection system delivers raw wastewater to the main sewage lift station and then on to the aerated lagoon treatment system. Each of the collection system components was evaluated with respect to condition and dependability as well as capacity to handle existing and projected wastewater flows.

A systematic analysis of the existing wastewater treatment and collection facilities was completed in a planning document and considered waste loads from existing sources and anticipated loads for a 20-year planning period. Needed repairs to the existing clarifier were considered and options include rehabilitation and replacement. Wastewater disinfection options were evaluated and included ultraviolet disinfection and gas chlorination. In addition, sewer system repairs, main replacement and "in situ" rehabilitation also were evaluated.

Section 5: PURPOSE & NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of the Wastewater System Improvement Project is to address deficiencies in the inflow and infiltration (I&I) from the City's gravity collection lines, manholes and individual service lines and meet the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's mandate on reducing bacterial concentrations.

The need of the Wastewater System Improvement Project is to up-grade existing piping system (reduction of infiltration and inflow to reduce the risk of excessive flows in the sewer mains and conveyance lift stations leading to unplanned discharges) which is likely to fail in the immediate future and address current and future discharge restrictions mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the impacts of nutrients entering receiving streams in the Flathead Lake drainage basin.

Section 6: ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT SELECTED

To address deficiencies with the Disinfection Facilities, the following alternatives were considered:

Alternative DF1: Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection. UV light is generated utilizing electricity passing through low-pressure mercury arc lamps which emit UV light with a germicidal wavelength of 253.7 nanometers. The disinfection process alters the DNA in the cells of the microorganisms so that they can no longer reproduce. The exposure time to the light in the conduit or channel typically ranges from six to 10 seconds.

This alternative would include construction of an ultraviolet light disinfection facility near the existing outfall line. The new facility would be 28 feet by18 feet and would have three channels; two channels with banks of low pressure UV lights and the third channel to serve as a bypass. Each channel would be designed at 3.0 million gallons per day thereby providing a 25% redundancy for flows which is greater than design average daily flow conditions. This alternative was rejected due to higher initial capital costs.

Alternative DF3: No Action. The No Action alternative would include no construction and the facilities would remain in their current condition. The No Action alternative is not feasible in that the Department of Environmental Quality, through the Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System discharge permit, has legally mandated the City to reduce bacterial concentrations by July of 2011. Failure to do so would result in an enforcement action, likely including fines. The No Action alternative would not accomplish this; thus, the No Action alternative was not recommended.

To eliminate a significant portion of the City's Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) as well as address significant structural issues, approximately 4.02 miles of the City's gravity collection lines, manholes and individual service lines must be replaced or rehabilitated. Approximately 10,325 lineal feet of gravity sewer is identified as "priority" and is targeted for replacement or rehabilitation under this Project. To address deficient wastewater system manholes and piping, the following alternatives were considered:

Alternative P1: Joint Grouting. Pipe or manhole rehabilitation through grouting is typically done with a non-shrink, 100% solids, thixotrophic (substances which are thick like a solid, but which flow like a liquid when a sideways force is applied) epoxy grout or urethane grout that is applied under high pressure to the interior surface of the pipe at each joint or defect. While the grouting method will recapture some of the hydraulic integrity of the pipe and generally improve its flow characteristics, Whitefish is seeking a more permanent resolution to the infiltration and structural problems. Consequently, the joint grouting alternative was not considered further.

Alternative P2: Pipe Bursting. Pipe-bursting is very similar to slip-lining (see Alternative P7 below) with the exception that the new pipe that is inserted into the host pipe is of the same or larger diameter than the host pipe. This is accomplished by the use of a pneumatic cracking head that is forced through the host pipe ahead of the inserted pipe. The cracking head shatters the host pipe and pushes the pieces into the surrounding soil, making room for the new pipe of equal or larger diameter. Due to the increased expense of pipe bursting over slip-lining, and given that all of the lines considered for rehabilitation in the Whitefish system have more than adequate capacity to handle design flows, additional pipe size is not needed. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Alternative P3: Micro Tunneling, Open-shield Tunneling or Horizontal Directional Drilling. Pipeline replacement could be accomplished by trenchless methods such as micro-tunneling, open-shield tunneling or directional drilling. A feasibility evaluation was conducted for each of these replacement alternatives based on the size of the pipe required as well as the physical constraints in the project area. Due to the construction complexity and cost of micro-tunneling and open shield tunneling, these alternatives were dismissed. Directional drilling was dismissed because of its inherent grade control problems and its less-than ideal application for installing gravity sewer lines.

The following five alternatives were carried forward in preliminary design for further consideration. These alternatives were then objectively compared and subsequently ranked based on the following criteria: I&I removal effectiveness, longevity, hydraulic characteristics, construction complexity, and overall disruption (e.g., traffic and safety concerns). The smaller the number that was assigned to each alternative, the more favorable and less adverse the impact was for that alternative. The alternative with the lowest score represented the alternative that was most favorable from an environmental, socio-economic, and logistic standpoint.

Alternative P4: Fold & Form Lining. Fold & Form Lining is a trenchless rehabilitation alternative that involves the insertion of a "folded" PVC pipe into the host pipe. The folded shape of the lining pipe allows the pipe to be inserted relatively easily from manhole to manhole and requires no excavation at either end. Once the folded pipe has been inserted, high pressure steam is fed through the liner and it softens and expands to conform to the inside of the host pipe. While the liner is still warm, a mandrel is passed through the liner to further expand it to the inside of the host pipe.

The total score for this alternative was **16** (I&I removal effectiveness = 3, longevity = 4, hydraulic characteristic = 3, construction complexity = 3, and disruption = 3). Since this alternative did not receive the lowest score and was not the most favorable alternative, it was not recommended.

Alternative P5: Cured-in-place Pipe Lining. See Section 7 (Recommended Alternative).

Alternative P6: Open Trench (Abandon or Replacement). Open-trench installation is accomplished by exposing the existing pipe and laying new pipe adjacent to (abandon) or in the same alignment as (replacement) the existing pipe. With this method, a new PVC pipe would be installed with new bedding and backfill and the service lines would be connected using saddles or "Y" fittings in the new sewer main pipe. The existing sewer main would be abandoned in place or removed as the new pipe is installed. It is likely that new manholes would be required in order to accommodate any new pipe that is installed adjacent to the existing pipe.

The total score for this alternative was **13** (I&I removal effectiveness = 1, longevity = 1, hydraulic characteristic = 1, construction complexity = 5, and disruption = 5). Since this alternative did not receive the lowest score, it was not recommended as a complete replacement plan, however, some open trenching is necessary for certain areas (see alternative P5).

Alternative P7: Slip-lining. Slip-Lining is the process of pulling a smaller diameter, polyethylene pipe inside of the existing or "host" pipe to carry the wastewater flow. Both ends

of a block of pipe (typically at each manhole) are excavated to allow for the insertion and the full length of fused pipe to be pulled into place using a winching system. All of the service line connections are then spot-excavated and re-connected.

The total score for this alternative was **18** (I&I removal effectiveness = 4, longevity = 2, hydraulic characteristic = 4, construction complexity = 4, and disruption = 4). This alternative was not recommended because it did not receive the lowest score.

Alternative P8: No Action. The No Action alternative consists of continuing to manage the system as-is and not conducting any pipeline rehabilitation or replacement projects. Advantages of this alternative are low cost and ease of implementation. Drawbacks of this alternative are continued infiltration into the system, increased likelihood of sewage backups as pipes continue to degrade, and increased energy use as infiltration increases over time.

The total score for this alternative was **17** (I&I removal effectiveness = 5, longevity = 5, hydraulic characteristic = 5, construction complexity = 1, and disruption = 1). Since this alternative did not receive the lowest score, it was not recommended. Additionally, the No Action alternative was ineffective at removing infiltration from the system and repairing significant structural, alignment and grade problems throughout the collection system.

Section 7: RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Selection of the preferred alternative was based upon multiple criteria, both monetary and non-monetary. The recommended plan includes construction of a chlorination/dechlorination disinfection facility and cured-in-place rehabilitation of approximately 9,350 lineal feet of 8-inch through 18-inch sewage collection pipe, and open trench replacement of approximately 2,000 lineal feet of 8-inch collection pipe.

Alternative DF2: Chlorination/Dechlorination. Chlorine has been a widely used disinfectant due to its effectiveness in oxidizing cellular material in microorganisms, including pathogens. This alternative is premised on installing liquid sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate feed facilities in the space currently occupied by the abandoned belt filter press inside the existing solids handling building. This disinfection system will assure continuous compliance with E. coli discharge requirements and the Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit conditions.

In wastewater, chlorine reacts with ammonia to form monochloramine, which penetrates into cells and kills/inactivates organixms by oxidizing some of their carbonaceous matter. Sodium bisulfate removes residual chlorine by serving as a reducing agent. The chemical feed system will be configured so hypochlorite is applied to the inlet of the final aerated lagoon. The low, mid, and high range hypochlorite doses are anticipated to be 2, 4, and 8 mg/L, respectively. Lower hypochlorite doses may be attainable when applying to the influent because of its greater clarity and reduced E.coli content.

For complete dechlorination, the sodium bisulfate does will be at least 1.46 times the chlorine residual. The low, mid, and high concentration for the chlorine residual leaving the lagoon are

estimated for by 0.4, 0.8, and 1.2 mg/L, respectively. The initial chemical feed and storage system will be designed for the ultimate year 2028 peak hour design flow of 6.0 mgd.

Both the hypochlorite and bisulfate will be flow paced to optimize chemical usage. While it is unlikely any chlorine residual will be present downstream if the City only feed chlorine to the influent of the polishing pond, it will be prepared for this contingency to minimize the potential for discharge permit violations.

The chlorination disinfection alternative was ultimately chosen by the City due to its lower initial capital cost. Additionally, there is great potential for the City to construct a BNR facility in the near future. A BNR facility will require a means to feed hypochlorite for activated sludge filament control, which will be provided by this chlorine disinfection alternative. If a BNR facility is placed into service within ten years, the chlorine disinfection alternative also has the lowest present worth.

Alternative P5: Cured-in-place Pipe Lining (CIPP). CIPP is the process of inserting a flexible, epoxy-impregnated fabric "sock" into a section of host pipe from manhole to manhole and curing it to form a structurally sound, watertight lining that conforms to the inside of the host pipe. The flexible fabric sock is inserted into the host pipe using hydrostatic pressure until it extends through the entire block of host pipe. Once it is in place, heated water is circulated through the sock which activates the thermally-setting epoxy within the liner fabric. After curing for a period of time, the water is removed and the ends trimmed and sealed. This alternative also consists of some open trench replacement. There are areas that CIPP is not feasible from engineering and cost considerations and open trench is the next best alternative for these locations. The total score for this alternative was **11** (I&I removal effectiveness = 2, longevity = 3, hydraulic characteristic = 2, construction complexity = 2, and disruption = 2) and, therefore, this alternative was recommended.

Section 8: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEW

Coordination with the general public was conducted via public hearings held on April 28, 2008 in the Whitefish City Council chambers. Efforts were made throughout the planning process to update the public and incorporate their comments and concerns. No comments for or against the proposed project were received from the public. Coordination with area Tribes was conducted via a letter, dated October 5, 2010 from Mr. John C. Wilson, Public Works Director with the City of Whitefish to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. No comments from the tribes were received. However, on November 9, 2010, Ms. Sherri Baccaro, Assistant to the Public Works Director of the City of Whitefish, contacted Ms. Marcia Pablo, Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office via telephone. In that conversation, Ms. Pablo stated that they have no concerns with the proposed project. Coordination with the resource agencies occurred as detailed in the Environmental Assessment. No adverse comments concerning the proposed project were received from the resource agencies. The proposed project will result in long-term social benefits and the adverse environmental effects are minor/short-term construction related. The minor impacts associated with this project will be well outweighed by the overall long-term benefits associated with an improved wastewater system.

Section 9: AFFECTED ENVIRONMEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

A wide variety of resources along with the related environmental, economic and social effects were considered during the development and evaluation of project alternatives. These include: noise levels; air quality; water quality; vegetation; fish and wildlife; threatened and endangered species; wetlands; agricultural lands, geological resources; growth patterns; archaeological and historical resources; esthetics; health and safety; and environmental justice.

Primary resources of concern identified during the evaluation included: noise levels; air quality; water quality; vegetation; fish and wildlife; threatened and endangered species; wetlands; riparian and aquatic vegetation; geologic resources; archeological and historical resources; and esthetics. The proposed project is not expected to affect any other resources.

Noise levels

This resource is institutionally important because of the Noise Control Act of 1972. The act establishes a national policy to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare. A sound-level meter is used to measure noise and the outputs are "decibels." For instance, a diesel truck at 50 feet produces a sound level of 85 decibels, a gas lawn mower at 3 feet produces a sound level of 95 decibels and normal speech at three feet is 65 decibels.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would result in minor short term construction related noise impacts. These impacts would result from the operation of heavy machinery during project construction. These noise levels would be in addition to that normally produced in this area. No residences, businesses, churches, park areas or other areas sensitive to increased noise levels were identified in the project area. There is a remote chance that the noise from project construction could disturb persons participating in outdoor recreation on lands adjacent to the project area. Construction activities would be conducted during normal business hours and, therefore, would not be considered significant.

No Action

The "No Action" alternative would produce no additional noise as construction would not occur.

Air Quality

This resource is considered institutionally important because of the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1963, as amended. Air quality is technically important because of the status of regional ambient air quality in relation to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It is publicly important because of the desire for clean air expressed by virtually all citizens.

In accordance with the CAA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for pollutants considered harmful to the environment and public health. The six principal pollutants, also known as "criteria" pollutants, are: ozone, lead, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. The proposed project

is located in a non-attainment county for PM 10 (particulate matter less than 10 micrometers), where the Air Quality Index in 2008 measured 226 days in the "good" range, 76 days in the "moderate" range, and only one day in the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" range. It is that one day that placed the county in the non-attainment category.

PM-10 includes dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets directly emitted into the air by sources such as factories, power plants, cars, construction activity, fires and natural windblown dust. Particles formed in the atmosphere by condensation or the transformation of emitted gases such as SO2 and Volatile Organic Compounds are also considered particulate matter. PM exposure can affect breathing, aggravate existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense system against foreign materials, and damage lung tissue, contributing to cancer and premature death. Individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, asthmatics, the elderly and children are most sensitive to the effects of PM. Flathead County's one day of "unhealthy for sensitive groups" status was caused by "miscellaneous sources."

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would result in minor short term construction related contributions to PM-10. These contributions would result from the operation of heavy machinery, increases in dust in the project area during construction operations, and wind-blown particles stemming from stock-piled construction materials. This increase in PM-10 levels would be in addition, but similar, to that produced by urban activity which occurs in the project area. There is a remote chance that the increase in PM-10 from project construction could adversely affect individuals sensitive to air-borne particles or persons with breathing disabilities. Techniques to minimize PM-10 particles would be employed during construction activities. These techniques may include, but would not be limited to, wetting the construction area to minimize dust, avoiding idling of construction machinery when not performing needed tasks, and covering or mulching staging areas during or following construction activities. The temporary construction related impacts to air quality are not expected to be significant.

No Action

The "No Action" alternative would produce no increase in adverse air quality levels in the project area over that of existing conditions.

Water Quality

This resource is institutionally important because of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Clean Water Act). The objective of this act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and non-point pollution sources, providing assistance to publicly owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands. Water quality is technically important because of the need for a reliable drinking water supply, for swimming and recreating, for fish and shellfish consumption, for adequate agricultural supply, and for habitat for fish and wildlife. It is publicly important because of the desire for clean water expressed by virtually all citizens.

Surface Water

The project area is located in the Upper Flathead River Basin. Major surface waters include Whitefish Lake, Blanchard Lake, the Whitefish River and its tributaries. Whitefish Lake encompasses a surface area of five square miles and is up to 220 feet deep. It is 5.7 miles long and 1.4 miles wide and has approximately 15 miles of shoreline. It is used primarily for recreation and is a major source of drinking water for the City of Whitefish. Water quality in Whitefish Lake is characterized by low hardness and negligible iron, manganese, and dissolved minerals. It is consistent in seasonal water quality, other than potential algae blooms.

The Whitefish River flows southerly from Whitefish Lake to join the Stillwater River near U.S. Highway 2 east of Kalispell. The river then flows a short distance to Flathead Lake. The Whitefish River and Flathead Lake are both Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) listed bodies of water. Major tributaries of the Whitefish River include Haskill Creek, Walker Creek, and Trumbull Creek. Haskill Creek is a major source of drinking water for the City of Whitefish. Water quality in Haskill Creek is generally quite good and is low in turbidity, hardness, and dissolved inorganics. Seasonal runoff, from snowmelt or thunderstorms, can temporarily increase turbidity.

Ground Water

Groundwater in the project area often has a tendency to be "hard" due to limestone bedrock and glacial deposits and may also be relatively high in iron and/or manganese content. Groundwater aquifers in the immediate Whitefish area are significantly variable due to several glacial moraines. Formations are discontinuous in the shallower regions, based on well logs. A study of groundwater alternatives completed as part of the 1996 Water Master Plan Update concluded that an adequate supply of quality groundwater would be difficult to obtain for use in serving the City of Whitefish public water system. This study led to the construction of a surface water treatment plant to treat Whitefish Lake and Haskill Creek supplies.

Floodplains

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps show the existence of a 100-year floodplain along the Whitefish River in the project area. This floodplain exists in a narrow band (100 – 200 feet wide) that parallels the river channel. Floodplains associated with smaller tributary streams are restricted to or closely follow the permanent stream channel. Narrow floodplains also exist along the shores of Whitefish Lake. The majority of the proposed work does not occur within the established floodplain.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would have no construction related adverse impacts to water quality. Water quality in the area would actually improve due to the proposed project upgrades concerning disinfection. The proposed project would prevent water quality standards violations and provide better treatment of area wastewater. The effects to water quality, surface water and ground water from the proposed project would be better than existing conditions. The floodplain would not be affected.

No Action

The "No Action" alternative would likely result in violations of water quality standards.

Terrestrial Vegetation, Fisheries, and Wildlife

These resources are institutionally important because of Section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended. Forests are technically important because they provide necessary habitat for a wide variety of species, they often provide a variety of wetland functions and values, are an important source of lumber and other commercial forest products, and provide various consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities. Forests also are important because the general public highly values them for aesthetic, recreational, and commercial uses. Wildlife and fisheries are technically important because they are a critical element of many valuable terrestrial and aquatic habitats; provide indicators of the health of various terrestrial and aquatic habitats; and many of the species are important commercial resources. Wildlife and fisheries are publicly important because of the high priority that the public places on their aesthetic, recreational, and commercial value.

Terrestrial Vegetation

Vegetation in the Study Area is categorized by agriculture, coniferous forest, deciduous woodlands, and riparian zone vegetation. Agricultural lands, located predominantly to the south and east of Whitefish, are used to grow wheat, barley, oats, rye, and hay. They also are used for pasture. Plants associated with pasture land are various clovers, timothy, fescue and bluegrass. Vegetation in riparian zones along the Whitefish River and in wetlands typically consists of cottonwoods, willows, alders, and dogwoods with an understory of numerous forbs and grasses. Deciduous woodlands may be found in upland and riparian areas and often contain vegetation similar to that found in riparian zones. Upland areas may contain aspen, larch and cottonwood. The understory vegetation in deciduous woodlands also may include various shrubs. Coniferous forest is scattered throughout the Study Area. Species common to these areas are white spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, with an understory of grasses and shrubs.

Recommended Plan

Minor impacts to grasses and trees would occur throughout the proposed project site during construction activities. All disturbed areas would be top-soiled and seeded with a native seed mixture to prevent erosion and the establishment of weedy species. Thus, impacts to terrestrial vegetation from the proposed project would not be considered significant.

No Action

The "No Action" alternative would not cause any impacts to vegetation as no construction would occur.

Wildlife and Fish

The project area supports a variety of wildlife species. Increased human development has placed considerable pressure on habitat in the project area. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks has mapped critical habitats for several wildlife species in the Whitefish Study Area. According to this mapping, winter range for White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, and Elk exists along the south and west edges of the Study Area and north of the upper half of Whitefish Lake.

Winter range is considered critical for these species. The table below contains wildlife species common to the project area.

Wildlife Resources in the Whitefish Area			
Wildlife Group	**Common Representative Species**		**Associated Habitats**
Large Mammals	White-tailed Deer Mule Deer Elk Moose		Coniferous forest Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands
Small Mammals	Deer Mouse Skunk Raccoon Weasel		Coniferous forest Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands Urban/developed Lands
Furbearers	Coyote Beaver Muskrat Marten	Wolverine Fisher Lynx	Coniferous forest Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands Urban/developed Lands
Waterfowl	Canada Goose Redheads Wood Duck Merganser Lesser Scaup Grebe	Mallard Goldeneye Widgeon Teal Red-necked	Riparian Wetlands Aquatic
Upland Game Birds	Turkeys Ring-neck Pheasants Hungarian Partridge		Coniferous forest Riparian Agricultural Lands
Raptors	Osprey Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel Swainson's Hawk		Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands
Songbirds/passerine	Yellow Warbler Vesper Sparrow Meadowlark Eastern Kingbird Black-billed Magpie		Coniferous forest Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands Urban/developed Lands Wetlands
Reptiles/Amphibians	Common Garter Snake Bull Snake Painted Turtle Leopard Frog		Deciduous Woodlands Riparian Agricultural Lands Wetlands Urban/developed Lands

Bald Eagle. The bald eagle was de-listed by the USFWS on August 9, 2007. Even though the bald eagle was delisted, it is still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. Bald eagles are yearlong residents in the project area. Bald eagles prefer nesting sites on the top of large, mature trees that are near lakes, rivers, and other water bodies and prefer areas with limited human activity and not within the City limits. Dead trees are strongly preferred as daytime perches, with the tallest trees being utilized most often. Bald eagles feed primarily on crippled waterfowl and fish, but will take upland game birds, other birds, rodents, and carrion.

Fish in Montana consist of brown trout, mountain whitefish, rainbow trout, largescale sucker, longnose dace, longnose sucker, northern pike minnow, peamouth, pumpkinseed, redside shiner, sculpin, kokanee, westslope cutthroat trout, largemouth bass, and yellow perch. Illegal fish introductions include northern pike, brook stickleback, and central mud minnow, all which pose threats to the native fish populations.

Whitefish Lake contains six species of trout, kokanee salmon, and fifteen other species of fish. Swift Creek, a major tributary of Whitefish Lake, is rated as a high priority fisheries resource according to a ranking system established by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Lazy Creek, Haskill Creek, and the Whitefish River are rated as moderate fisheries resources. Use of the Whitefish River by fish is limited due to the high amount of sediment present in the stream. However, this stream serves as migration route for bull and west slope cutthroat trout moving between tributaries of the rivers and Flathead Lake.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would result in incremental benefits to fishery resources and minor, temporary, construction related adverse impacts to wildlife resources. The benefits to fishery resources would be related to the water quality improvements achieved in meeting the Department of Environmental Quality's mandate on reduced bacterial concentrations. The impacts to wildlife resources would be related to noise and visual disturbance during the construction activity. Because the construction would be temporary, impacts to wildlife are not considered significant. The proposed construction activities are largely confined to areas within the incorporated City of Whitefish and no nests are known to exist within the city limits. Thus, impacts to nesting bald eagles are not likely occur and if found, human activity will be minimized from February through May.

No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would not provide future benefits to fishery resources. No impacts to area wildlife would result as no construction would occur.

Threatened and Endangered Species

These resources are institutionally important because of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Endangered or threatened species are technically important because the status of such species provides an indication of the overall health of an ecosystem. These species are publicly important because of the desire of the public to protect them and their habitats.

Flathead County contains several listed species. These species include the threatened grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), the threatened Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*), the

threatened Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and the threatened bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). Critical habitat also has been designated for the lynx and bull trout.

Grizzly Bear

The grizzly bear was listed as a Threatened species in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act on March 11, 1967. Grizzly bear populations have declined because of human-caused mortalities and habitat loss. Loss of habitat displaces bears to other areas, increasing their risks of encountering humans or human food attractants. Other impacts on grizzly bears are caused by open roads and an associated increase in poaching and accidental hunter harvests. Bears will use road areas, but their level of avoidance increases with higher levels of traffic.

An area adjacent to the project site encompasses occupied grizzly bear habitat. This area is known as the Northern Continental Divide (NCD) Grizzly Bear recovery zone, and encompasses approximately 9,600 square miles in northwestern Montana. The area is contiguous to Canadian grizzly bear populations and interchange of bears has been documented. Because of the proximity of the NCD recovery zone to the Canadian bear population, the large land area supported by these two zones, and the high proportion of designated wilderness and national park lands, the NDC recovery zone offers some of the best long-term prospects of supporting a viable grizzly bear population among the six areas designated as grizzly bear recovery zones in the U.S.

The likelihood of encountering bears within the project area is extremely low. Generally, bears avoid areas where humans are present provided the bear hears human disturbance (talking or singing) and the area is free of attractants (food, garbage, etc.). Bear sightings have been reported within the county. Therefore, all individuals entering the project area during construction should be educated on proper sanitation to avoid encounters with bears. Appendix III contains a list of "Bear Avoidance Measures" that should be reviewed by all construction workers. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. With employment of proper sanitation techniques and review and implementation of the Bear Avoidance Measures, no impacts to grizzly bears are expected to occur during project construction.

Spalding's Catchfly

The Spalding's catchfly was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act on October 10, 2001. Impacts associated with habitat loss due to human development, habitat degradation associated with adverse grazing and trampling by domestic livestock and wildlife, and invasion of aggressive nonnative plants have caused the species decline. In addition, a loss of genetic fitness (the loss of genetic variability and effects of inbreeding) for many small, fragmented populations where genetic exchange is limited also has occurred. Other impacts include changes in fire frequency and seasonality, off-road vehicle use, and herbicide spraying and drift. This species likely does not occur in the project area due to the predominance of residential land use and therefore, no impacts are expected occur.

Canada Lynx

Canada lynx was listed as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act on March 24, 2000. Human alterations of forests, over-harvesting of the species, and increasing human numbers in previously untouched lynx habitat, has adversely affected its population. Although habitat conditions for the lynx are well established in the county of Flathead, lynx within the project area are likely non-existent due to the residential land-use that occurs. No significant impacts to lynx or its critical habitat are expected to occur.

Bull Trout

The USFWS listed the bull trout as a threatened species on November 1, 1999. Bull trout have the most specific habitat requirements of any salmonid. Bull trout require the coldest water temperatures of any northwest salmonid; the cleanest stream substrates for spawning and rearing; complex habitats, including streams with riffles and deep pools, undercut banks and lots of large logs; and the need for connection from the main river to headwater streams for annual spawning and feeding migrations. No construction is proposed in any water body. Therefore, no impacts to bull trout or its critical habitat are expected occur.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would have no effect on any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided concurrence with that determination in an email to the Corps dated September 2, 2010 (Appendix II).

No Action

The "No Action" alternative would have no adverse effects on the Federally-listed threatened or endangered species.

Wetlands, Riparian, and Aquatic Vegetation

These resources are institutionally important because of the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended and Executive Order 11990 of 1977 (Protection of Wetlands). Wetlands and riparian areas are important because they provide habitat for various species of plants, fish, and wildlife, serve as ground water recharge areas, provide storage areas for storm and flood waters, serve as natural water filtration areas, provide protection from wave action, erosion, and storm damage, and provide various consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities. Wetlands and riparian areas are publicly important because of the high value the public places on the functions and values that these habitats provide.

Wetlands are protected by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and work in wetlands may require coordination with both federal and state water quality agencies and the issuance of a permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands are important and sensitive environmental areas that serve many beneficial functions including ground water recharge, flood control, filtering of surface water runoff, and providing essential wildlife habitat.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would have no impacts on wetlands as no construction is planned within wetlands. No impacts to aquatic vegetation are anticipated.

No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would result in no impacts to wetlands.

Geology

The area surrounding the project area is comprised of uplifted ancient sediments that created mountains, glacial deposits, and subsequently weather erosion of exposed materials. Materials likely to be encountered include glacial deposits, alluvium and Precambrian sedimentary rock of the Belt series.

Soils

According to soils maps of the area, the predominant soils types within the project area consist of lacustrine silt, clay, gravel, glacial drift, and alluvial fan materials covering the majority of the project area. These materials may be found in level to gently rolling terrain that exists across much of the upper Flathead Valley. Alluvium is found along streams and borders the Whitefish River. The alluvium typically consists of silt, sand, gravel, and cobbles eroded from bedrock or glacial outwash deposits. The Belt series sedimentary rocks (typically limestones, dolomites, and argillites) underlie the Flathead Valley and form the mountains that surround the project area.

The groups of soils that dominate the project area include the Whitefish association, the Half Moon-Depew-Stryker association, the Creston-Flathead-Blanchard, the Mires-Blanchard association, and Half Moon-Haskill association. These soils are generally deep, well drained, and have textures ranging from loamy to sandy or gravelly. Soils in the planning area were developed in glacial till, outwash, or alluvium under forest or grass cover. With the exception of Whitefish soils, which are found on moderate to steep terrain, most soils occur on level to gently-sloping lands.

Soils information suggests that a large portion of the planning area south and east of Whitefish Lake has soils with limitations for septic system. The Half Moon silt loam soils, which cover most of the immediate Whitefish area, have severe restrictions for septic system due to slow permeability. Excessive slopes, shallow bedrock, and shallow groundwater may limit the use of conventional septic system on lands north of the City to the east and west of Whitefish Lake.

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would result in permanent construction related impacts to soils as a result of the proposed project. Earth-moving equipment would be used to dig, grade, trench, and

shape the soils during construction activities. Following construction activities, disturbed areas would be seeded with ornamental-type grasses for easy maintenance. This, over time, would likely incrementally change the characteristics of the soils within the proposed project area. Ground disturbing activities would be kept to a minimum. Because significant amounts of these soils occur throughout the project area and because the soils in the proposed project area have been disturbed in the past for construction of the existing wastewater system, impacts to soils would be considered minor and not significant.

No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would result in no impacts to native soils.

Archeological and Historical Resources

These resources are considered institutionally important because of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Cultural resources are technically important because they are irreplaceable parts of the common heritage of humanity; preserve our invaluable heritage for the benefit of the future generations, and provide a greater understanding of our past. They are publicly important because they belong to all citizens and enhance our shared sense of humanity that enriches our existence.

Recommended Plan

Based on coordination with the Montana State Historical Preservation Office, the recommended plan would have a low likelihood of impacting cultural resources. Mr. Damon Murdo, Cultural Records Manager with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, conducted a cultural resource file search and determined the low likelihood of occurrence, and stated, in a letter dated April 28, 2008, that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time (Appendix II). This information was shared with Ms. Sandra Barnum, Archeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. Ms. Barnum stated that, based on the information received, the proposed project will have no potential to affect historic properties and recommended approval for the project. Additionally, in an email dated November 9, 2010 from Ms. Sherri Baccaro, Assistant to the Public Works Director of the City of Whitefish, to the Corps of Engineers, Ms. Baccaro informed the Corps that Ms. Marcia Pablo, Director of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, expressed in a phone conversation that the tribes had "no concerns" (Appendix II).

If in the unlikely event that archeological material is discovered during project construction, work in the area of discovery will cease, the discovery would be investigated by a qualified archeologist, and the find would be coordinated with the SHPO and the Tribes.

No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would result in no effects to archaeological or historical resources.

Esthetics

Recommended Plan

The recommended plan would result in minor and temporary adverse esthetic impacts associated with the construction activity. The human population that could potentially be affected by the activity would be expected to be very low and restricted to individuals passing by the project area. To minimize esthetic impacts, any disturbed area would be top-soiled, planted with vegetation, and mulched to minimize erosion and the establishment of weedy species following construction. Construction and component replacement would use like materials to blend in with existing structures. As such, the impacts on esthetics would not be considered significant.

No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would result in no esthetic related impacts to the community.

Section 10: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE NON-RECOMMENDED PLANS

The alternatives considered but not selected have not been recommended because although they would meet the project purpose and need, they were generally more expensive and were generally less technically advanced. The alternatives considered but not selected had similar benefits/impacts on the environment as the recommended plan.

The "No Action" Alternative has not been recommended because it would not meet the project purpose and need of up-grading failing components and addressing the Department of Environmental Quality's mandates. The "No Action" alternative would have no permanent or temporary construction related impacts. Escalating maintenance costs associated with the repair of out-dated components would continue.

Section 11: CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The combined incremental effects of human activity are referred to as cumulative impacts (40CFR 1508.7). While these incremental effects may be insignificant on their own, accumulated over time and from various sources, they can result in serious degradation to the environment. The cumulative impact analysis must consider past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the study area. The analysis also must include consideration of actions outside of the Corps, to include other State and Federal agencies. As required by NEPA, the Corps has prepared the following assessment of cumulative impacts related to the alternatives being considered in this EA.

Historically, the principal economic activity in Whitefish was logging. With word that the Great Northern Railway would be built through what is now Whitefish, tree clearing increased to make room for the new town and provide materials for the construction that would follow. Tree clearing substantially affected the vegetative and wildlife resources in the area.

Currently, Whitefish is a tourist destination due to its proximity to Glacier National Park, the Big Mountain Ski Area, and the Whitefish River. The boom of "trophy homes" in the area likely affected area wetlands, forests, flood plain values, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. However, it is fish and wildlife and their pristine habitats that attract tourists. Thus, those resources will be protected to ensure increased tourism.

Of the reasonably foreseeable projects and associated impacts that would be expected to occur, further urbanization of the area will probably have the greatest impact on the previously mentioned resources. The possibility of wetland conversion and the clearing of forests and riparian habitat are ever present, and these activities tend to further impact valuable resources.

The adverse effects associated with the proposed project are short term/minor associated with project construction. These minor adverse effects would be greatly offset by improving the out-dated components of Whitefish's wastewater system. The proposed project would incrementally contribute to growth of the area as the wastewater system is improved.

Section 12: MITIGATION MEASURES

Measures under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) and Best Management Practices, such as minimizing ground disturbance, washing off-road equipment prior to entering construction sites, and seeding, mulching, and fertilizing of disturbed areas to reduce weed establishment and prevent erosion will be implemented. Bear avoidance measures will be followed. All other permits will be obtained prior to project construction. As such, no additional mitigation is proposed or warranted.

Section 13: COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATUTES

Compliance with Designated Environmental Quality Statutes that have not been specifically addressed earlier in this report is covered in Appendix II.

Section 14: CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis of the proposed alternative, it is concluded that the recommended plan would best satisfy the projects purpose and need and result in the least amount of environmental impacts. The recommended plan would not result in any adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species. The recommended plan would result in no impacts to any properties listed, proposed for listing, eligible for listing, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Areas within the proposed project site would be temporarily disturbed by construction activity. The adverse effects associated with the proposed project are short term and minor. These minor adverse effects would be greatly offset by improving the out-dated components of the Whitefish wastewater system and meeting the Department of Environmental Quality's mandates.

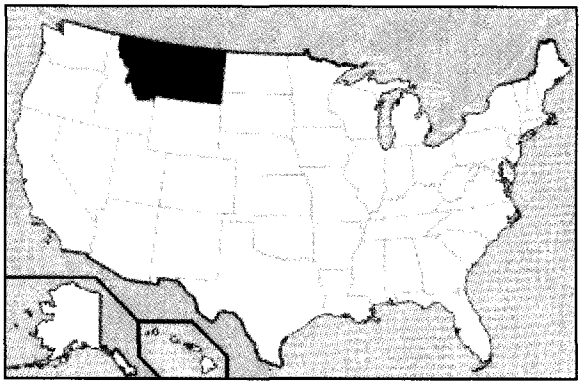
Based on coordination with the public and resource agencies, as documented in this EA, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that this project would have no significant impacts

on the human environment including natural and cultural resources and Federally-listed threatened and endangered species. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared.

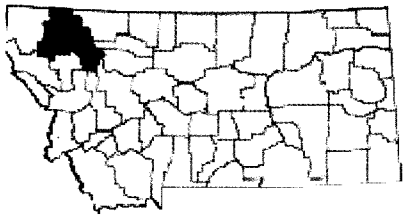
Section 15: PREPARER

This EA and the associated FONSI were prepared by Mr. Matthew D. Vandenberg (Environmental Resource Specialist). The address of the preparer is: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; PM-AC, 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102.

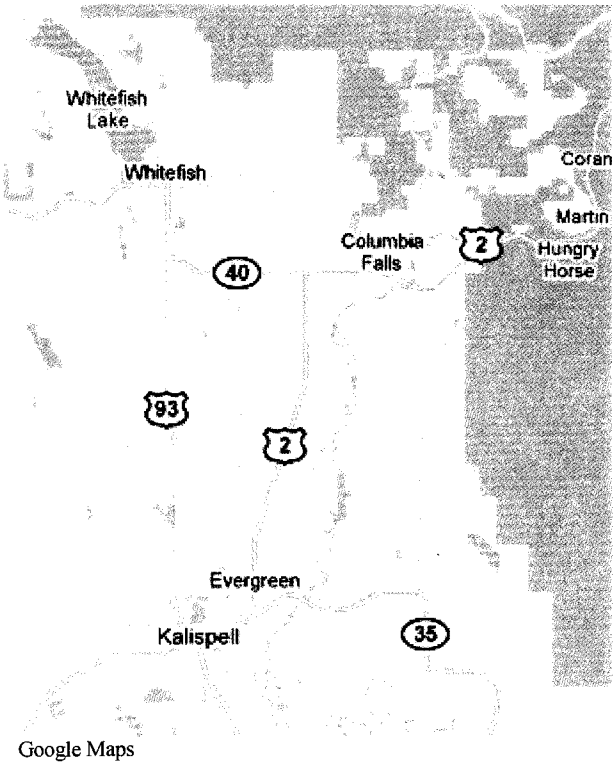
APPENDIX I – PROJECT MAP



Montana



Flathead County



Location Map

SECTION 595 of WRDA 99
CITY OF WHITEFISH
WASTEWATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WHITEFISH, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

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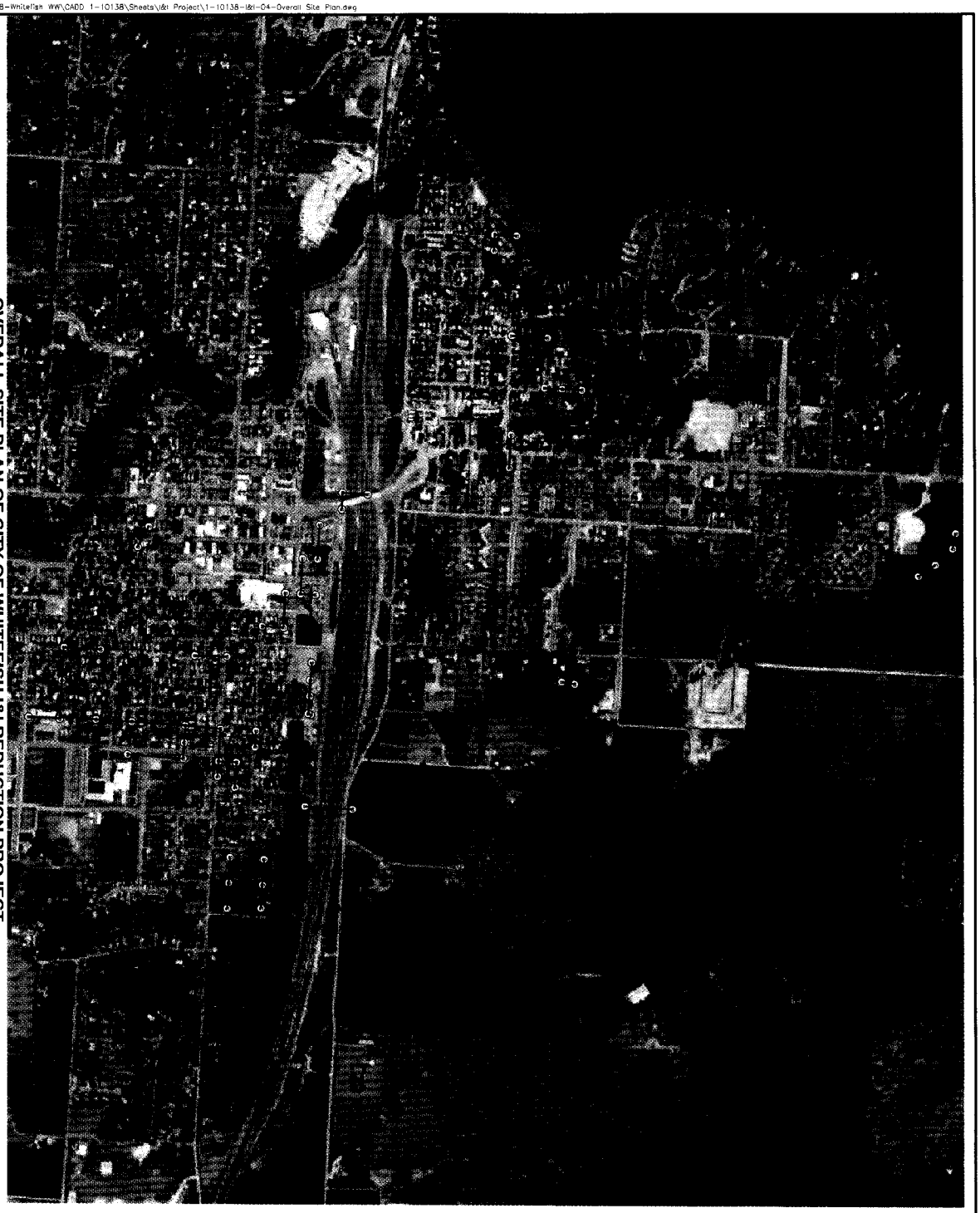

OVERALL SITE PLAN OF CITY OF WHITEFISH I&I REDUCTION PROJECT

0 500 1000
SCALE IN FEET

NORTH

SHEET NO. 3 OF ---

CITY OF WHITEFISH
2010 WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
I&I REDUCTION PROJECT

OVERALL SITE PLAN

GreatWest engineering
2501 BELT VIEW DRIVE
HELENA, MT 59601
(406)449-8627

DRAFT

PROJECT: 1-10138	
DESIGNED: AMD	
DRAWN: AMD	
CHECKED: ---	
APPROVED: CRP	
DATE: NOVEMBER 2010	

NO.	REVISION DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

APPENDIX II – NEPA REVIEW

Compliance of Preferred Alternative with Environmental Protection Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements
and
Agency Coordination

SECTION 595 of WRDA 99
CITY OF WHITEFISH
WASTEWATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WHITEFISH, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

Compliance of Preferred Alternative with Environmental Protection Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668, 668 note, 669a-668d. *In compliance*. This Act prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles, with limited exceptions for the scientific or exhibition purposes, for religious purposes of Indian tribes, or for the protection of wildlife, agriculture or preservation of the species. The Corps has, and will continue, to coordinate with the Service and the appropriate state agencies to avoid taking the species during construction activities, and will follow the Service's guidelines regarding eagle nests. There are no known bald or golden eagle nests within the proposed project area and therefore, this project likely will have no affect on bald or golden eagles.

Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 185711-7. et seq. *In compliance*. The purpose of this Act is to protect public health and welfare by the control of air pollution at its source. Some temporary emission releases are expected during construction activities; however, *de minimis* levels would not be exceeded and air quality is not expected to be impacted to any measurable degree.

Clean Water Act, as amended. (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq. *In compliance*. The objective of this Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (33 U.S.C. 1251). The Corps regulates the discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This permitting authority applies to all waters of the U.S., including navigable waters and wetlands. The selection of disposal sites for dredged or fill material is done in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, which were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (see 40 CFR Part 230). General permits are a type of authorization that is issued on a nationwide or regional basis for a category of activities. Activities that are authorized under general permits must be substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual or cumulative adverse affects on the aquatic environment. Nationwide permits are a type of general permit that authorize certain specified activities nationwide that have been authorized after meeting requirements of NEPA and extensive coordination with the EPA and other federal agencies. No impacts to wetlands would result from the proposed action. Water quality will likely be improved upon completion of the project.

Endangered Species Act, as amended. 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq. *In compliance*. Section 7 (16 U.S.C. 1536) states that all Federal agencies shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, ensure that any action authorized, funded, or otherwise carried out by them do not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The Corps has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana concurred with the Corps "no effect" determination in an email dated September 2, 2010.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898). *In compliance*. Federal agencies shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs,

policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. The project does not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations.

Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 U.S.C. 4201. Et seq. *In compliance*. Farmland will not be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et.seq. *In compliance*. The Act establishes the policy that consideration be given to the opportunities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement in the investigating and planning of any Federal navigation, flood control, reclamation, hydroelectric, or multi-purpose water resource project, whenever any such project can reasonably serve either or both purposes consistently. No coordinated use with existing or planned Federal, state or local public recreation development was considered when the existing wastewater system was originally constructed, and improvements will not increase or decrease any recreational use.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. 16 U.S.C., 661 et seq. *In compliance*. The FWCA requires governmental agencies, including the Corps, to coordinate activities so that adverse affects of fish and wildlife will be minimized when water bodies are proposed for modification. No modifications to any water bodies are proposed as part of this project.

Flood Plain Management (E.O. 11988) 42 CFR 26951. *In compliance*. The purpose of this Order is that each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains in carrying out its responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing. and disposing of Federal lands and facilities; (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities. The proposed project would have no impact on flood plain management.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712) as amended. *In compliance*. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of shared migratory bird resources. The MBTA governs the taking, killing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA's regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over-utilization. Executive Order 13186 (2001) directs executive agencies to take certain actions to implement the Act. Migratory birds will likely not be impacted as a result of the proposed project.

National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470a, et seq. *In compliance*. Federal agencies having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking shall take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In a letter dated April 28, 2008, Mr. Damon Murdo, Cultural Records

Manager, advised Mr. Paul Montgomery of Anderson-Montgomery Consultants that because the project will be occurring within previously disturbed ground, there is a low likelihood that cultural resources will be impacted. Mr. Murdo also stated that a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. Additionally, in an email dated November 9, 2010 from Ms. Sherri Baccaro, Assistant to the Public Works Director of the City of Whitefish, to the Corps of Engineers, Ms. Baccaro informed the Corps that Ms. Marcia Pablo, Director of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, expressed in a phone conversation that the tribes had "no concerns." However, the potential for recovering cultural resources always exists. Thus, caution will be exercised during all phases of work in order to minimize any disturbance to cultural resources. All contractors will be explicitly warned about this possibility of discovery and instructed that if any resources are found, he or she shall stop work and contact the Corps immediately.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq. *In compliance.* This Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the proposed action. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Noise Control Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4901 to 4918. *In compliance.* This Act establishes a national policy to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare. Federal agencies are required to limit noise emissions to within compliance levels. Noise emission levels at the project site will temporarily increase above current levels due to construction; however, appropriate measures will be taken to keep the noise level within compliance levels (e.g., performing construction during daylight hours, avoiding idling of machinery when not in use, etc.).

Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 401, et seq. *Not applicable.* A Section 10 Permit is not required as no work would occur in a designated waterway.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq. *In compliance.* The area with in which the proposed project would occur is not designated as a wild or scenic river.

Vandenberg, Matthew D NWO

From:	Robert_M_Lee@fws.gov
Sent:	Thursday, September 02, 2010 11:48 AM
To:	Vandenberg, Matthew D NWO
Cc:	Tim_Bodurtha@fws.gov; Mark_Wilson@fws.gov
Subject:	Whitefish, Montana, Section 595 Wastewater Systems Improvement
Attachments:	pic14798.gif; graycol.gif; ecblank.gif

Mr. Vandenberg,

This responds to your August 27, 2010, email request for comments on the Whitefish Wastewater System Improvement project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your request via email on August 27, 2010.

The Service reviewed the project description and rationale for the effects determination and agrees with your determination that the proposed project will have "no effect" on any of the currently listed or proposed species. Our concurrence is based, in part, on the following: 1) work will take place within existing facilities and not in water bodies; and 2) on-site activities will be closely monitored.

This concludes Section 7 consultation for this project. We value the dialogue between our offices that seeks to minimize impacts to listed species and aid their recovery. If you have further questions about this letter or your responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, please contact Bob Lee in our Kalispell SubOffice at 406-758-6879.

Bob Lee

Robert M. Lee, III
US Fish & Wildlife Service
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-758-6879
Robert_M_Lee@fws.gov

Inactive hide details for Tim Bodurtha/R6/FWS/DOITim Bodurtha/R6/FWS/DOI

"Vandenberg, Matthew D NWO" <Matthew.D.Vandenberg@usace.army.mil>

08/27/2010 12:47 PM

To

"Murdo, Damon" <dmurdo@mt.gov>, <bob_lee@fws.gov>, <Mark_Wilson@fws.gov>

cc

Subject

Whitefish, Montana Section 595 Wastewater Systems Improvement

Gentlemen:

The City of Whitefish, Montana is proposing updates to its Wastewater System. Whitefish is located on the western side of the continental divide, near Glacier National Park, in the County of Flathead.

The recommended plan includes construction of an ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection facility and cured-in-place rehabilitation of approximately 6,160 lineal feet of 8-inch through 18-inch sewage collection pipe, replacement of approximately 4,160 lineal feet of 8-inch, 12-inch and 18-inch pipe, and rehabilitation or replacement of up to 44 manholes. All work will be conducted within the incorporated city limits and within current rights-of-way.

The proposed project is not expected to result in any impacts to cultural resources; however, should any be discovered, construction shall cease and the proper agencies notified.

Additionally, the proposed project is not expected to impact the threatened grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis), the threatened Spalding's catchfly (Silene spaldingii), the threatened Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis), or the threatened bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus). Critical habitat also has been designated for the lynx and bull trout ; however, no modification or destruction to these areas would occur.

The attached DRAFT Environmental Assessment provides additional information on the project. Please contact the Corps if you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed project. Additionally, please inform this office if you feel no adverse impacts would result from its implementation. Thanks,

<<WhitefishEA.docx>>

Matthew D. Vandenberg

Environmental Resources Specialist

Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

1616 Capitol Avenue

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4901

Phone: (402) 995-2694

Fax: (402) 995-2697

[attachment "WhitefishEA.docx" deleted by Robert M Lee/R6/FWS/DOI]

P.O. Box 158 • Whitefish, MT 59937 • (406) 863-2400 • Fax: (406) 863-2419

October 5, 2010

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Marcia Pablo, Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

SUBJECT: Request for knowledge of, or concerns with, Historic Properties for the proposed 2010 Whitefish Wastewater Improvement I&I and Disinfection Project

Dear Ms. Pablo:

The City of Whitefish plans to construct certain improvements to their wastewater collection and treatment facilities at, Whitefish, Flathead County, Montana. The proposed work includes the installation of disinfection and monitoring equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (see the location of the Whitefish Wastewater Treatment Plant on the attached map) and the repair and replacement of approximately 10,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer collection mains, along with related manholes and wet wells. All construction associated with the disinfection facilities will occur in or immediately adjacent to existing structures at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. All work on main lines, manholes and wet wells in the sewage collection system will occur in or immediately adjacent to existing City streets and alleys. The City of Whitefish is assessing potential effects on cultural resources as part of our planning process.

To further identify historic properties, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA or the Act) of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800.4 [a] [3]), requires sponsors of federally funded projects to seek information from tribes likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties within the project's area of potential affect (APE). We are specifically seeking assistance in identifying properties that may be of religious or cultural significance and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP). Specific guidance concerning the Corps' obligation to contact your tribe regarding this issue is found at 36 CFR 800.4(a) (4), which states the the agency official shall:

> (4) Gather information from any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization identified pursuant to Sec. 800.3(f) to assist in identifying properties, including those located off tribal lands, which may be of religious and cultural significance to them and may be eligible for the National Register, recognizing that an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization may be reluctant to divulge specific information regarding the location, nature, and activities associated with such sites. The agency official should address concerns raised about confidentiality pursuant to Sec. 800.11(c).

We appreciate any assistance you can provide us in our efforts to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please be assured that the City of Whitefish will treat any information you decide to share with us with the degree of confidentiality that is required in Section 800.11(c) of the Act, or with any other special restrictions you may require. In order to fulfill these obligations we request that you provide comments at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 406-863-2455 or by e-mail at jwilson@cityofwhitefish.org.

Sincerely,

John C. Wilson
Public Works Director
City of Whitefish


File Edit View Tools Add Help
Bothell, WA
Whitefish
E Edgewood Dr
Whitefish Wastewater Treatement Plant
© 2010 Europa Technologies
Image USDA Farm Service Agency
© 2010 Google
Google
Imagery Date: May 24, 2004
48°25'39.85" N 114°21'41.82" W elev 3011 ft
Eye alt 33304 ft

Soule, Lester E NWS

From: Wetzler, Lynn NWS
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 8:16 AM
To: Soule, Lester E NWS
Subject: FW: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

From: Sherri Baccaro [mailto:publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2010 6:36 AM
To: Wetzler, Lynn NWS
Cc: 'John Wilson'
Subject: RE: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

Good Morning Lynn:

I left a voice mail message on Friday, November 5th & Monday, November 8th and I actually just talked with Marcia (11/9/10 @ 7:36 am) and she said they have no concerns on our project.

Thank you,

Sherri L. Baccaro
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Web Administrator
Public Works Department
City of Whitefish
(406) 863-2460
publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org
www.whitefish.govoffice.com

From: Wetzler, Lynn NWS [mailto:Lynn.Wetzler@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, November 08, 2010 4:46 PM
To: Sherri Baccaro; Vandenberg, Matthew D NWO
Subject: RE: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks Sherri. What are the dates that you attempted to reach Marcia?

Matt, Can we put this in the EA and move forward to route for signature?

Thanks,
Lynn

From: Sherri Baccaro [mailto:publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org]
Sent: Monday, November 08, 2010 2:38 PM
To: Wetzler, Lynn NWS
Cc: 'John Wilson'
Subject: RE: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

Lynn:

Just wanted to let you know I have left two voice mail messages for Marcia Pablo, Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, with no response. I hope to hear back from her but either way I will keep you in the loop.

Thank you,

Sherri L. Baccaro
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Web Administrator
Public Works Department
City of Whitefish
(406) 863-2460
publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org
www.whitefish.govoffice.com

From: Wetzler, Lynn NWS [mailto:Lynn.Wetzler@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, November 08, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Sherri Baccaro
Cc: John Wilson
Subject: RE: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

Sherri,
As long as we can document that an attempt was made to follow up, that is helpful for our NEPA documents. Or if you talk with someone and they give a verbal response, you can email that to me and we can include that.

Thanks, Lynn

From: Sherri Baccaro [mailto:publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org]
Sent: Friday, November 05, 2010 7:54 AM
To: Wetzler, Lynn NWS
Cc: 'John Wilson'
Subject: RE: response from tribe? (UNCLASSIFIED)

Lynn:

Sorry, I have been trying to keep up with everything this week for John and I, but realized I hadn't responded to this email. We haven't heard from anyone at the Tribe as yet, but I will look into it and get back to you.

Thank you,

Sherri L. Baccaro
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Web Administrator
Public Works Department
City of Whitefish
(406) 863-2460
publicworks@cityofwhitefish.org
www.whitefish.govoffice.com

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
225 North Roberts ❖ P.O. Box 201201 ❖ Helena, MT 59620-1201
❖ (406) 444-2694 ❖ FAX (406) 444-2696 ❖ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ❖

April 28, 2008

Paul W. Montgomery
Anderson~Montgomery
1064 N. Warren
Helena MT 59601

RE: CITY OF WHITEFISH WASTEWATER PROJECT. SHPO Project #: 2008042507

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 25, T31N R22W. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

We feel that because the project will be occurring within previously disturbed ground there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: DEQ/AIR&WATER WASTE MNG/2008

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ❖ 1410 8th Ave ❖ P.O. Box 201202 ❖ Helena, MT 59620-1202
❖ (406) 444-7715 ❖ FAX (406) 444-2696 ❖ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo ❖

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Whitefish will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 7:10 p.m., in the Whitefish City Council Chambers at 418 E. Second St. for the purpose of obtaining public comments regarding proposed grant applications for a proposed project that will address: clear water infiltration into the City's sanitary sewer collection system; structural problems with specific segments of the collection system and pending disinfection requirements for the City's treated wastewater. At the public hearing, the proposed project will be explained, including the purpose and proposed location of the project, activities, budget, possible sources of funding, and any costs that may result for local citizens as a result of the project. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to ask questions and to express their opinions regarding this proposed project.

Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing.

Anyone who would like more information or who wants to submit suggestions should Contact John Wilson, P.E., Whitefish City Engineer @ 863-2455 or Anderson-Montgomery Consulting Engineers @ 449-3303.

are currently developed with commercial, office and residential uses and are zoned WR-3 (Low Density Multi-Family Residential District) and WB-1 (Limited Business District). The property is located at 631 Denver Street and can be legally described as Lot 1AA in Whitefish Townsite Company Five Acre Tracts, Part of Lot 1 Block 6 in Section 25, Township 31N, Range 22W, P.M.M., Flathead County. [WPUD08-20] Compton-Ring 5. A request by Robert Galbraith to rezone 15.26 acres from WA (Agricultural District) to WCR (Country Residential District). The property is currently unaddressed but accessed off of Snowghost Drive and can be legally described as Tract 7A, in Section 17, Township 31N, Range 21W, P.M.M., Flathead County, Montana. [WZC-08-15] Bond

Documents pertaining to these agenda items are available for review at the Whitefish Planning & Building Department, 1005 C Baker Avenue, Whitefish, Montana 59937 during regular business hours. Inquiries are welcomed. Interested parties are invited to attend the hearing and make known their views and concerns. Comments in writing may be forwarded to the Whitefish Planning and Building Department at the above address prior to the hearing or via email: dtaylor@cityofwhitefish.org. For questions or further information regarding any these proposals, phone 406-863-2410.

WHITEFISH CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Frank Sweeny, Chair
#1681 Publish April 24, 2008

#1673 NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The Whitefish City Council will be holding a public hearing on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 7:10 p.m., in the Whitefish City Council Chambers at 418 E. Second St. for the purpose of obtaining public comments regarding proposed grant applications for a proposed project that will address: clear water infiltration into the City's sanitary sewer collection system; structural problems with specific segments of the collection system and pending disinfection requirements for the City's treated wastewater. At the public hearing, the proposed project will be explained, including the purpose and proposed location of the project, activities, budget, possible sources of funding, and any costs that may result for local citizens as a result of the project. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to ask questions and to express their opinions regarding this proposed project

Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing to the City Clerk, PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937

Anyone who would like more information or who wants to submit suggestions should Contact John Wilson, P.E., Whitefish City Engineer @ 406-863-2460 or Anderson-Montgomery Consulting Engineers @ 406-449-3303
#1673 Publish April 17, April 24, 2008

date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to said personal representative at the above stated address, return receipt requested or filed with the Clerk of the above titled Court at 800 South Main, Kalispell, MT 59901.

DATED: February 5, 2008.
Bonnie I. Naethe, Personal Representative
Wendell B. Dunn, Attorney for Personal Representative
#1654 Publish on March 6, March 13 and March 20, 2008.

#1676 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

After recording please return to:
Morrison & Frampton, PLLP
341 Central Ave.
Whitefish, MT 59937

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Notice of the sale of real property which is secured by a Deed of Trust is hereby given by Ryan D. Purdy, of the law firm of Morrison & Frampton, PLLP, Successor Trustee, pursuant to the provisions of the 'Small Tract Financing Act of Montana' (Section 71-1-301, et. seq., Montana Code Annotated).

The names of the Grantor(s), Trustee, any successor Trustee(s), the Beneficiary in the Deed of Trust and any of the Successor(s) in Interest to the Beneficiary, are:

Grantor:
Dan B Taylor and Melissa R Taylor
Trustee:

ee and Successor Trustee may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid in cash. The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed. After said sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

Right to Cure: The grantor, successor in interest to the grantor or any other person having an interest in the aforesaid property, at any time prior to the trustee's sale, may pay to the beneficiary or the successor in interest to the beneficiary the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and thereby cure the default theretofore existing.

Postponement: The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation for up to 15 days for any reason, and in the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

DATED this ____ day of January, 2008.

_____
Ryan D. Purdy, Successor Trustee
STATE OF MONTANA)
:ss
County of Flathead)

On this ___ day of _____, 2008, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Montana, personally appeared Ryan D. Purdy, known to me to be the person whose

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to be leashed. Dogs running loose are a health and safety problem that can be solved by dog owners leashing their pets throughout their visits, said Tally Lake District Recreation Resource Assistant Becky Smith-Powell. Violators may be fined $75 up to $5,000.

Family fishing

Nearly all the family fishing ponds in Northwest Montana have been planted. This includes ponds at Troy, Eureka

far less funding.
While the base budget did see a sizable boost, trails and other projects, which fall under different funding categories, will see significantly less funding.
For example, the Park's trails budget will not get $248,000, building maintenance will not get $300,000 and visitor-use area maintenance will not get $300,000

some divisions seeing hiring increases while others will see

That's not good news for a Park with 700-plus miles of trails, several historic structures and roads that get pounded by the weather. Some trails funding, for example, comes from the base budget, but not all of it.
Speaking privately, some Park employees likened it to a shell game, where one section of the Park budget benefited, while others fared poorly. For example, several Park divisions will actually see increases

sonal positions. Visitor and resource protection divisions will hire two biological technicians, one fire forestry technician, one permanent non full-time ranger and three seasonal rangers. Additionally, 16 rangers will work longer seasons.
Funding was also provided for a new volunteer coordinator.
There were also additional operational increases for interpretation, including hiring an education specialist as a permanent non full-time position

April 28, 2008 Public Hearing Announcement

APPENDIX III – BEAR AVOIDANCE MEASURES

SECTION 595 of WRDA 99
CITY OF WHITEFISH
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WHITEFISH, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

Bear Avoidance Measures

Camp setup

- First: be aware of your surroundings – look at them from a bear's perspective. Investigate your site before setting up camp and then establish a clean camp that is free from odors.
- Avoid camping next to trails or streams as bears and other wildlife use these as travel routes.
- Avoid camping near natural bear food sources such as berries.
- Never camp near an animal carcass, garbage, or bear sign such as tracks, scat, or tree scratchings.
- Remember the 100 yard rule: locate your cook area and food cache at least 100 yards downwind from your tent.
- Pitch tents facing your cook area in case a bear enters camp from that direction. Arrange tents so that a bear has a clear escape route out of camp.

Food storage

- Never leave food unattended in your campsite, unless it is properly stored.
- Do not bring food or odorous non-food items into your tent. This includes chocolate, candy, wrappers, toothpaste, perfume, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, insect repellent, and lip balm.
- Avoid canned foods with strong odors such as tuna.
- Place food in bear-resistant storage containers or store it in your vehicle.
- Where this is not possible, cache your food by placing it inside several layers of sealed plastic bags (to reduce odor) and a stuff-sac (waterproof 'dry-bags' work well). Then hang it as described below.
- Find two trees that are 20 feet apart and hang the bags between them using nylon cord and a karabiner. Bags must be at least 15 feet from the ground. Some campgrounds provide communal bear wires for this purpose.
- If two trees are not available, sling your bags over the branch of one tree. Bags must be at least fifteen feet from the ground, five feet out from the tree trunk, and five feet below any branch that can support a bear's weight.
- Don't forget! When caching your food and garbage you'll need: 100 feet of strong nylon accessory cord (1/8 inch minimum) and a karabiner to attach bags to cord.
- Remember to hang pots, utensils, cosmetics, used feminine hygiene products, toiletries, and any other odorous items with your food and garbage.
- Another option is a portable bear resistant food container (BRFC). These can be borrowed from some National Park and Forest Service offices, or purchased at outdoor recreation stores.
- Livestock feed should be stored in the same way as human food.

Cooking

- Locate your cooking area at least 100 yards downwind from your tent.
- Never cook or eat in your tent. Food smells may attract bears and other wildlife.

- Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods.
- Wash all dishes and cans immediately after eating. Wash the dishes and dump the dishwater at least 100 yards from your campsite.
- If possible, remove the clothing you wore while cooking before going to sleep. Store these clothes in your vehicle or with your food and garbage (see above).

Garbage disposal/storage

- Never leave garbage unattended, unless it is properly stored.
- Do not bury your garbage. Animals will easily dig it up.
- Garbage should be deposited in bear-resistant garbage cans or stored in your vehicle until it can be dumped.
- Where this is not possible, hang garbage in the same way as food (see above).
- Remember: "pack it in, pack it out". This includes ALL garbage (including biodegradable items such as fruit peel)

Hiking and horse packing

- Think ahead and be prepared. It is possible to avoid a bear confrontation by being knowledgeable and alert.
- Travel in a group and during daylight hours.
- Talk or sing songs as you walk, especially in dense brush where visibility is limited, near running water, or when the wind is in your face. Bears may feel threatened if surprised. Your voice will help a bear to identify you as human. If a bear hears you coming, it will usually avoid you.
- Learn about and watch for bear sign. Overturned rocks or broken-up, rotten logs can be a sign that a bear has been foraging for grubs or insects. Claw marks on trees, scats, tracks in the dirt or snow, berries on the ground, plant root diggings, or fur on the bark of trees are all signs that a bear has been in the area.
- Stay away from abundant food sources and dead animals. Bears may be foraging in the area or protecting a carcass.
- Avoid wearing scented cosmetics and hair products.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control. Dogs may fight with bears and lead them back to you.
- Never approach or feed a bear, or any other wildlife.
- Consider carrying a bear pepper spray as a bear deterrent. It may help in an encounter with a potentially aggressive bear.