

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA
AUGUST 2008

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to evaluate the effects of the construction of a proposed community activity center (CAC) at Malmstrom Air Force Base (Base). The project involves construction of a state-of-the art CAC with stormwater management through Low Impact Development (LID), and demolition of the existing club facilities.

Five alternatives were considered: (1) construct the CAC at Site 1; (2) construct the CAC at Site 1, with LID (**Recommended Plan**); (3) construct the CAC at Site 2; (4) construct the CAC at Site 2 with LID; and (5) no action. The recommended plan involves the construction and operation of a new CAC and demolition of the existing club facilities. In addition, the Base proposes to incorporate stormwater management into the site design through LID. The LID would consist of construction of a detention basin, rain gardens, dispersion beds, bio-swales, or a combination of these as determined to be effective under final design. The no Federal action alternative was not selected because it would not provide a means to provide an updated CAC or increased stormwater management.

The recommended plan will replace the existing substandard Club with a new community activity center that is properly sized and configured to meet Base needs and provide unit-cohesiveness. The formulation of alternatives for accomplishing the goal of providing a new state-of-the-art facility has taken place in the form of official and unofficial communication between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Air Force 341 Civil Engineer Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The environmental consequences of the proposed action on the physical, biological, and cultural resources were evaluated. The factors that were influential in my review included (a) the project will provide a much needed CAC; (b) the project will incorporate stormwater management into the design of the facility; (c) no long-term significant adverse impacts to cultural or natural resources are anticipated to occur; (d) all applicable Federal and state regulations will be met prior to contract award; and (e) public comments received during the review period identified no significant environmental issues. Any comments that were received have been addressed or incorporated into the project as appropriate.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process regulations contained in 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 989, an assessment of the environmental effects has been completed for the Community Activity Center construction at Malmstrom AFB. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

MICHAEL E. FORTNEY, Colonel, USAF
Commander