
CHAPTER 2: ENVIRONMENTAL

Introduction

The Environmental elements of this Supplemental Planning Study will focus on two specific areas required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These are specific studies of Wetlands and Cultural Resources that are affected by the alternatives being examined in this planning study. Appropriate environmental documentation in accordance with FAA Order 5050.4B, *NEPA Instructions for Airport Actions* and FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures* is required to be completed prior to commencing with project actions.

Key environmental resources are described for the existing airport area. **Figure 2-1: Environmental Overview Map** provides a graphical depiction of the existing environmental conditions described in this chapter.

Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires that federally funded projects be evaluated for the effects on historic and cultural properties included in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 provides for the survey, recovery, and preservation of significant scientific, prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontological data when such data may be destroyed or irreparably lost due to a federal, federally licensed, or federally funded project.

The airport was reviewed during an April 2023 Class III cultural resource inventory that included a file search of the Montana SHPO files for a one-mile radius around the study area. The file search indicated that there were nine previously recorded cultural resources. One of these, 24PE0267, a historic irrigation system, is in the study area and was revisited during Class III inventory. All previously recorded resources are historical era sites and include bridges, irrigation systems, schools, roads, and commercial developments. One resource, a historic school (24PE0268), is listed on the National Register. Two other resources (24PE0845 and 24PE0846), both commercial developments, are recommended Eligible for National Register listing. The six remaining resources are *Unevaluated* or recommended *Not Eligible* for the NRHP. There were three new cultural resources, and four new isolated finds encountered and recorded during the inventory. One site (24PE0855) is a historical era foundation. One site (24PE0856) is a historical material scatter, and the last site (24PE0857) is a prehistoric lithic material scatter. All of the new sites, and all of the isolates, are recommended Not Eligible for listing on the National register of Historic Places. The revisited resource, 24PE0267, is previously recommended Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A full copy of the Class III Inventory is available in **Detail Report Cultural Resources**.

Before a project that involves land disturbance is implemented, an analysis to identify the potential for cultural resources would need to be conducted for the project. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be necessary for projects involving land disturbance. Additionally, any project affecting buildings that have the potential to be listed in the NRHP would require coordination with SHPO. Further analysis is required prior to project implementation.

Water Resources

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined in Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, as those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency to support, and under normal circumstances does or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Three parameters that define a wetland as outlined in the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual are hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology.

Wetlands in the area would serve a variety of functions, including groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment removal, and nutrient cycling. A wetland delineation was conducted in May 2023, please refer to **Exhibit 2-1: Environmental Overview Map** that illustrates the results of this delineation. Eleven wetlands totaling approximately 5.90 acres were delineated within the 550-acre study area. In addition, four ditches were identified within the study area. Coordination with applicable resource agencies would be necessary prior to project implementation for projects affecting the identified resources. Information from this delineation would be incorporated into future environmental determination documents during project implementation.

A full copy of the Aquatic Resource Delineation Report is in **Detail Report – Aquatic Resources Delineation** for further details.

Conclusion

The information collected and documented in this Inventory chapter provides a baseline foundation to update the Terry Airport long-range plan. This information will feed into future sections to determine how facilities will meet the projected airport needs based on aviation activity forecasts.

Figure 2-1: Environmental Overview Map

