

APPENDIX A – AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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Public and Agency Comments

Per requirements specified in 40 CFR 1500-1508 and DHS MD 023-01, after completion of the draft EA, a Notice of Availability (NOA) was published indicating that the draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were available for public review. An NOA was published in local newspapers (Cut Bank Pioneer Press and Glacier Reporter) on March 14, 2012 to inform the public that the draft EA and draft FONSI were available for review. A notice was also published in the State of Montana Public Notice website informing interested parties that the draft EA and FONSI were available for review. The NOA identified a point of contact to obtain more information regarding the NEPA process, identified means of obtaining a copy of the draft EA and draft FONSI for review, listed several public libraries (Glacier County Library, 21 1st Avenue SE, Cut Bank, Montana; Browning Public Library, 9 2nd Street NW, Browning, Montana; East Glacier Public Library, Highway #2, East Glacier Park, Montana) where paper copies of the EA and draft FONSI could be reviewed, and advised the public that an electronic version of the EA and draft FONSI were available for download at the following website: <http://www.PieganHousingEA.com>.

A 30-day review period (starting with publication of the NOA) was established to provide all agencies, organizations, and individuals with the opportunity to comment on the EA and draft FONSI. At the end of the 30-day public review period, CBP considered any comments submitted by individuals, agencies, groups, or organizations on the draft EA and/or draft FONSI. CBP published a second NOA to announce the availability of the Final EA and FONSI that includes CBP's response to comments received during the public review period. The second NOA also publicizes CBP's approval of the Final FONSI, and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. Throughout this process, the public was able to obtain information on the status and progress of the proposed action and the EA through:

Piegan Housing EA
Post Office Box 1962
Rowlett, Texas 75030-1139
E-mail: info@PieganHousingEA.com

Public & Agency Review Comments. At the end of the public review period, four letters had been received regarding the draft EA and Draft FONSI from four different groups, agencies or organizations. These letters are included in **Appendix A-1, Tab 6 – Public Review Comments**. These letters and how they were addressed are included in the following table:

No.	Comment Date	Comment Type	Commentor	Organization	Comment Summary	Response
1	3/16/12	Letter	Mr. Eric LaPointe	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	General acknowledgement of receipt of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI. They had yet to determine if they had any concerns.	No other letter has been received from BIA and it assumed that they have no concerns. No further response by CBP was determined to be required.
2	4/5/12	Letter	Jean A Riley, P.E., Transportation Planning Engineer	Montana Department of Transportation (MTD)	MDT determined that the proposed work is adjacent to U.S. 89, which is under the jurisdiction of the MDT. They requested that if any new approaches are needed for construction, to please contact the MDT Havre Area Office. MDT had no other comments.	No further response by CBP was determined to be required at this time.
3	4/18/12	Letter	Aaron Anderson, Environmental Science Specialist	Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	DEQ has determined that further remedial action, which includes installation of monitoring wells, groundwater and soil sampling as well as verification of the Old Port Building's building structure, is required before the site may receive a "No Further Corrective Action" letter.	GSA is currently conducting this investigation and results are pending.
4	4/30/12	Letter	Mr. John Murray, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana	Signed off on concurrence with the effect determinations for undertakings at the Piegan LPOE, Glacier County.	No further response by CBP was determined to be required.

5	2/1/13	Letter	Mr. John Murray, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana	Mr. Murray deferred to Ms. Jo'Etta Buckhouse's effect determinations for the construction of the proposed water tower.	No further response by CBP was determined to be required pending receipt of concurrence from BIA.
6	2/7/13	Letter	Ms. Jo'Etta Plumage Buckhouse, Regional Archaeologist	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Signed off on concurrence with the effect determinations for the construction of the proposed water tower.	No further response by CBP was determined to be required.

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A.1 U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE - THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Mark Wilson
Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Land Acquisition, Construction, and Operation of Housing Units for the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The General Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are planning to acquire property and construct and operate new housing for personnel at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Montana. The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important for the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate/near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. The CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and 4 employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is sixteen, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of eleven housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of sixteen residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for sixteen housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA, which are as follows:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
2. **Alternative Action:** CBP/GSA would construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses, at the existing government-owned Piegan LPOE. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
3. **No Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct 4 units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office Online Endangered Species List was referenced to determine the federally listed endangered or threatened species occurring in the counties listed above. Please see the enclosed document that reviews the species found in Glacier County.

The purpose of this letter is to request a response with any information from your Agency regarding potential impacts on endangered and threatened species associated with the Proposed Actions, as well as information regarding reasonable and prudent measures necessary for a No Adverse Effect or a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination from a Proposed Action.

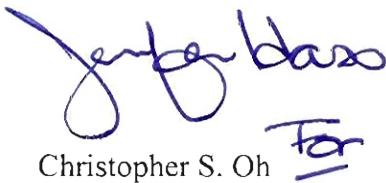
If it is determined that a No Adverse Effect or a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect would occur from a Proposed Action, would you please respond stating that this determination has been made.

Mr. Mark Wilson

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CBP looks forward to receiving your response on this project. Your office will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA for further review and comment prior to the issuance of the decision document for this project. We look forward to working through the NEPA process with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Chief, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Hass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division

GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY



Species Description: Grizzly bears are generally larger and more heavily built than other bears. Grizzly bears can be distinguished from black bears, which also occur in the lower 48 States, by longer, curved claws, humped shoulders, and a face that appears to be concave. A wide range of coloration from light brown to nearly black is common. Spring shedding, new growth, nutrition, and coat conditions all affect coloration. Guard hairs are often pale in color at the tips; hence the name "grizzly." In the lower 48 States, the average weight of grizzly bears is generally 400 to 600 pounds for males and 250 to 350 pounds for females. Grizzly bears are long lived mammals and generally live to be around 25 years old.

Background: When Lewis and Clark explored the West in the early 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed between the Pacific Ocean and the Great Plains, across vast stretches of open and unpopulated land. But when pioneers moved in, bears were persecuted and their numbers and range drastically declined. As European settlement expanded over the next hundred years, towns and cities sprung up, and habitat for these large omnivores--along with their numbers--shrank drastically. Today, with the western United States inhabited by millions of Americans, only a few small corners of grizzly country remain, supporting about 1,200 - 1,400 wild grizzly bears. Of 37 grizzly populations present in 1922, 31 were extirpated by 1975.

In 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the Lower 48 States under the Endangered Species Act, placing the species under federal protection.

Locations: Today, grizzly bear distribution is primarily within but not limited to the areas identified as Recovery Zones including--the Yellowstone area in northwest Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and southwest Montana (9,200 square miles (sq mi)) at more than 580 bears; the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem of north central Montana (9,600 sq mi) at more than 400 bears; the North Cascades area of north central Washington (9,500 sq mi) at less than 20 bears; the Selkirk Mountains area of northern Idaho, northeast Washington, and southeast British Columbia (2,200 sq mi) at approximately 40 to 50 bears; and the Cabinet Yaak area of northwest Montana and northern Idaho (2,600 sq mi) at approximately 30 to 40 bears. There is an additional Recovery Zone known as the Bitterroot Recovery Zone in the Bitterroot Mountains of east central Idaho and western Montana (5,600 sq mi) but this area does not contain any grizzly bears at this time. The San Juan Mountains of Colorado also were identified as an area of possible grizzly bear occurrence, but no evidence of grizzly bears has been found in the San Juan Mountains since a bear was killed there in 1979.

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Recovery: In 1981, the Service hired a grizzly bear recovery coordinator to direct recovery efforts and to coordinate all agency efforts on research and management of grizzly bears in the lower 48 States. Recovery of the grizzly bear covers four states and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regions. The initial Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was completed in 1982. A revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan included additional tasks and new information that increased the focus and effectiveness of recovery efforts. The national grizzly bear recovery coordinator contact information:

Dr. Chris Servheen
University Hall, Room 309
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
telephone 406-243-4903
fax 406-329-3212

Recent Actions: On July 28, 1975, the grizzly bear was designated as threatened on the conterminous (lower 48) United States (40 FR 31734-31736).

On March 22, 2007, the Service announced that the Yellowstone Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of grizzly bears is a recovered population no longer meeting the ESA's definition of threatened or endangered. For more information on this announcement visit [Yellowstone grizzly bear webpage](#).

On April 18, 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the initiation of a 5-year review of grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) (as listed in the lower 48 States excluding the Greater Yellowstone Area population) and 8 other species (72 FR 19549). We conducted reviews to ensure that our classification of each species as threatened or endangered on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is accurate. A 5-year review is an assessment of the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review.

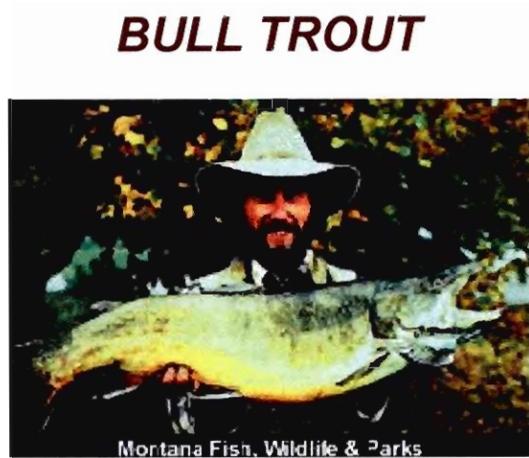
CANADA LYNX



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that changing the boundaries of the Endangered Species Act listing for the Canada lynx to include the State of New Mexico is warranted; however, the action is precluded at this time by the need to complete other listing actions of a higher priority.

- Federal Register Notice: December 17, 2009 [12-month Finding on a Petition To Change the Final Listing of the Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx To Include New Mexico](#)
- Press Release: December 16, 2009 [Protection for Canada Lynx in New Mexico Is Warranted](#)

On March 24, 2000, the contiguous United States population of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This site provides access to various sources of information on the Canada lynx, including documents about recovery planning, critical habitat, the listing decision, section 7 consultations, research, archives, and other informational web sites.



NCTC Makes Scarce Bull Trout Photos Available – No Bull!

The Fish and Wildlife Service has revised the 2005 critical habitat designation for bull trout, a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The range of the bull trout includes Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

In Montana, the Service designated as critical habitat approximately 3,056 stream miles and approximately 221,471 acres of lakes or reservoirs in Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties.

Under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management considerations or protection. A critical habitat designation does not affect land ownership or set up a preserve or refuge and only applies to situations where federal funding, permitting, or land is involved.

Meltwater Lednian Stonefly



Photo by Joe Giersch

The meltwater lednian stonefly (*Lednia tumana*) is an aquatic insect in the order Plecoptera (stoneflies). Stoneflies are primarily associated with clean, cool streams and rivers. Juvenile meltwater lednian stoneflies are found in snow-melt runoff streams in high elevation, alpine and subalpine streams, most typically in locations closely linked to glacial runoff. The species is generally restricted to streams with mean summer water temperature less than 10 degrees Celsius (oC) or 50 degrees Fahrenheit (oF). The meltwater lednian stonefly is found in only a few locations within Glacier National Park, Montana.

The lednian meltwater stonefly has three distinct life stages – the aquatic egg and nymph – and the terrestrial adults. Stoneflies spend most of their lifespan in the egg and nymph forms and may complete their life cycles in a single year or in 2 to 3 years. Adults are short-lived and emerge from the water to mate on vegetation along the stream by July or August. The females then deposit their eggs in the stream. The nymph is dark red-brown on its dorsal (top) surface and pink on the ventral (lower) surface, with light grey-green legs. Mature nymphs range in size from 0.18 to 0.26 inches. Adults are small also, ranging in size from 0.16 to 0.24 inches.

Recent Actions

August 18, 2009: After an initial review of a petition submitted by the WildEarth Guardians, the Service determined that the Bearmouth mountainsnail, Byrne Resort mountainsnail, and meltwater lednian stonefly may be warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act. With that determination, the Service commenced status reviews for the three species.

Status Review Results

April 5, 2011: The Service completed a 12-month status review of the meltwater lednian stonefly and determined that the meltwater lednian stonefly is warranted for listing, but is precluded by higher priority actions. The species listing priority number (LPN) is 4, meaning the identified threats to the species are high in magnitude but the immediacy of the threats is non-imminent.

In the same 12-month finding, we also found that the Bearmouth and Byrne Resort mountainsnails do not warrant protection under the Act. The Bearmouth mountainsnail and Byrne Resort mountainsnail are terrestrial mollusks commonly called “mountainsnails.” Because these mountainsnails are not recognized as species by the scientific community, they are not listable entities as defined by the ESA. Since we have concluded that the two petitioned mountainsnails are not listable entities, an analysis of threats is not required under the ESA. Therefore, we will take no further action with these species at this time.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT



Photo: Bob Gress

The Sprague's pipit is a relatively small passerine endemic to the North American grasslands. It has a plain buff colored face with a large eye-ring. The Sprague's pipit is a ground nester that breeds and winters on open grasslands. It feeds mostly on insects and spiders and some seeds.

The Sprague's pipit is closely tied with native prairie habitat and breeds in the north-central United States in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota as well as south-central Canada. Wintering occurs in the southern States of Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Recent Actions The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the conservation status of Sprague's Pipit to determine whether the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. The status review found that listing Sprague's Pipit as threatened or endangered is warranted, but that listing the species at this time is precluded by the need to complete other listing actions of a higher priority. To ensure this review was comprehensive, the Service solicited information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the Sprague's pipit and its habitat.

Past Actions Following a review of a petition to list the Sprague's pipit as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating a status review of the species to determine if listing is warranted.

The petition finding does not mean that the Service has decided it is appropriate to give the Sprague's pipit federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Rather, this finding is the first step in a long process that triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information available.

To ensure this review is comprehensive, the Service is soliciting information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the Sprague's pipit and its habitat. Comments will be received until February 1, 2010.



Photo Credit: Steve Kroschel

The wolverine is the largest terrestrial member of the family Mustelidae. Adult males weigh 12 to 18 kilograms (26 to 40 pounds) and adult females weigh 8 to 12 kilograms (17 to 26 pounds). The wolverine resembles a small bear with a bushy tail. It has a broad, rounded head; short, rounded ears; and small eyes. Each foot has five toes with curved, semi-retractile claws used for digging and climbing.

In North America, wolverines occur within a wide variety of habitats, primarily boreal forests, tundra, and western mountains throughout Alaska and Canada; however, the southern portion of the range extends into the contiguous United States.

Currently, wolverines appear to be distributed in two regions in the lower 48 states: the northern Cascades in Washington, and the northern Rocky Mountains in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Wolverines were extirpated in historical times from the Sierra Nevada and the southern Rocky Mountains.

Research indicates that wolverines either did not exist as established populations or were extirpated prior to settlement and to the compilation of historical records in the Great Lakes region, possibly due to climate changes that occurred through the 1800s and 1900s. The widely scattered records from this region are consistent with dispersing individuals from a Canadian population that receded north early in the 1800s. The possibility that wolverines existed as established populations prior to the onset of trapping in this area cannot be ruled out, but we have no evidence that they did. No evidence in the historical records suggests that wolverines were ever present as established populations in the Great Plains, Midwest, or Northeast.

The delineation of wolverine historical and present distribution is inherently difficult for several reasons. Wolverines tend to live in remote and inhospitable places away from human populations. Wolverines naturally occur at low densities and are rarely and unpredictably encountered where they do occur. Wolverines often move long distances in short periods of time when dispersing from natal ranges, making it difficult or impossible to distinguish with confidence between occurrence records that represent established populations and those that represent short-term occupancy without the potential for establishment of home ranges and reproduction. These natural attributes of wolverines make it difficult to determine their present range, or trends in range expansion or contraction that may have occurred in the past.

Breeding generally occurs from late spring to early fall. Females undergo delayed implantation until the following winter to spring, when active gestation lasts from 30 to 40 days. Litters are born between February and April, containing one to five kits, with an average in North America of between 1 and 2 kits.

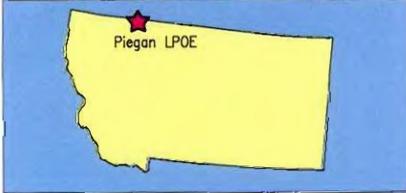
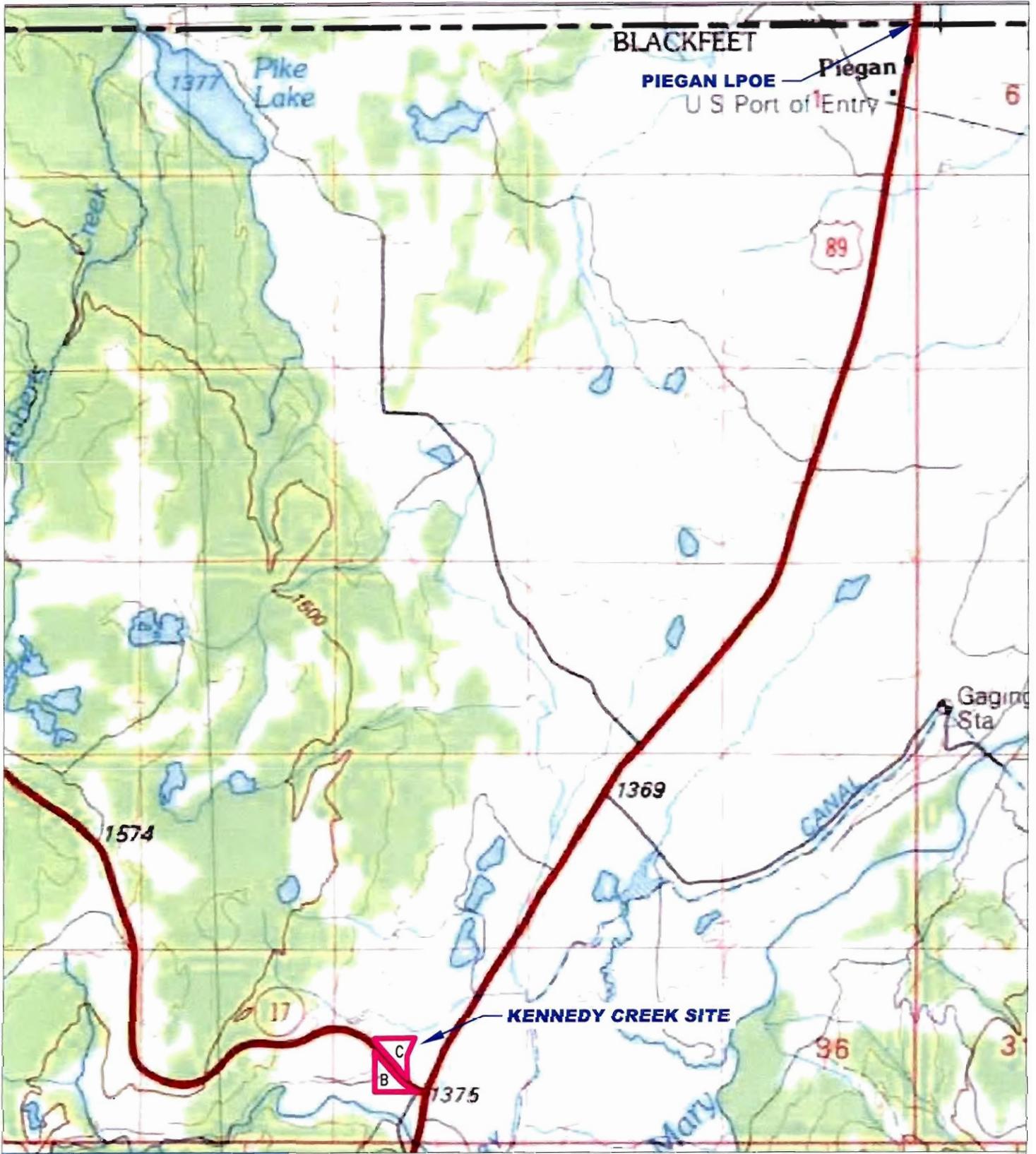
Female wolverines use natal (birthing) dens that are excavated in snow. Persistent, stable snow greater than 1.5 meters (5 feet) deep appears to be a requirement for natal denning, because it provides security for offspring and buffers cold winter temperatures.

Wolverines are opportunistic feeders and consume a variety of foods depending on availability. They primarily scavenge carrion, but also prey on small animals and birds, and eat fruits, berries, and insects. Wolverine have an excellent sense of smell that enables them to find food beneath deep snow.

Wolverines require a lot of space; the availability and distribution of food is likely the primary factor in determining wolverine movements and home range size. Wolverine travel long distances over rough terrain and deep snow, and adult males generally cover greater distances than females. Home ranges of wolverines are very large, but vary greatly depending on availability of food, gender, age, and differences in habitat. These home range sizes are large for mammals of the size of wolverines and may indicate that wolverines occupy a relatively unproductive niche.

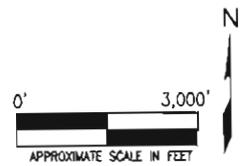
Recent Actions: After a thorough review of all the available science, the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the contiguous United States population of wolverine should be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, the rulemaking to propose ESA protections for the wolverine will be delayed while we work on listing proposals for other species in greater need. The wolverine will be added to the list of candidates for ESA protection. As a candidate species, the wolverine will not receive protection under the ESA; however, we will review its status annually and will continue to work with landowners and partners to implement voluntary conservation measures.

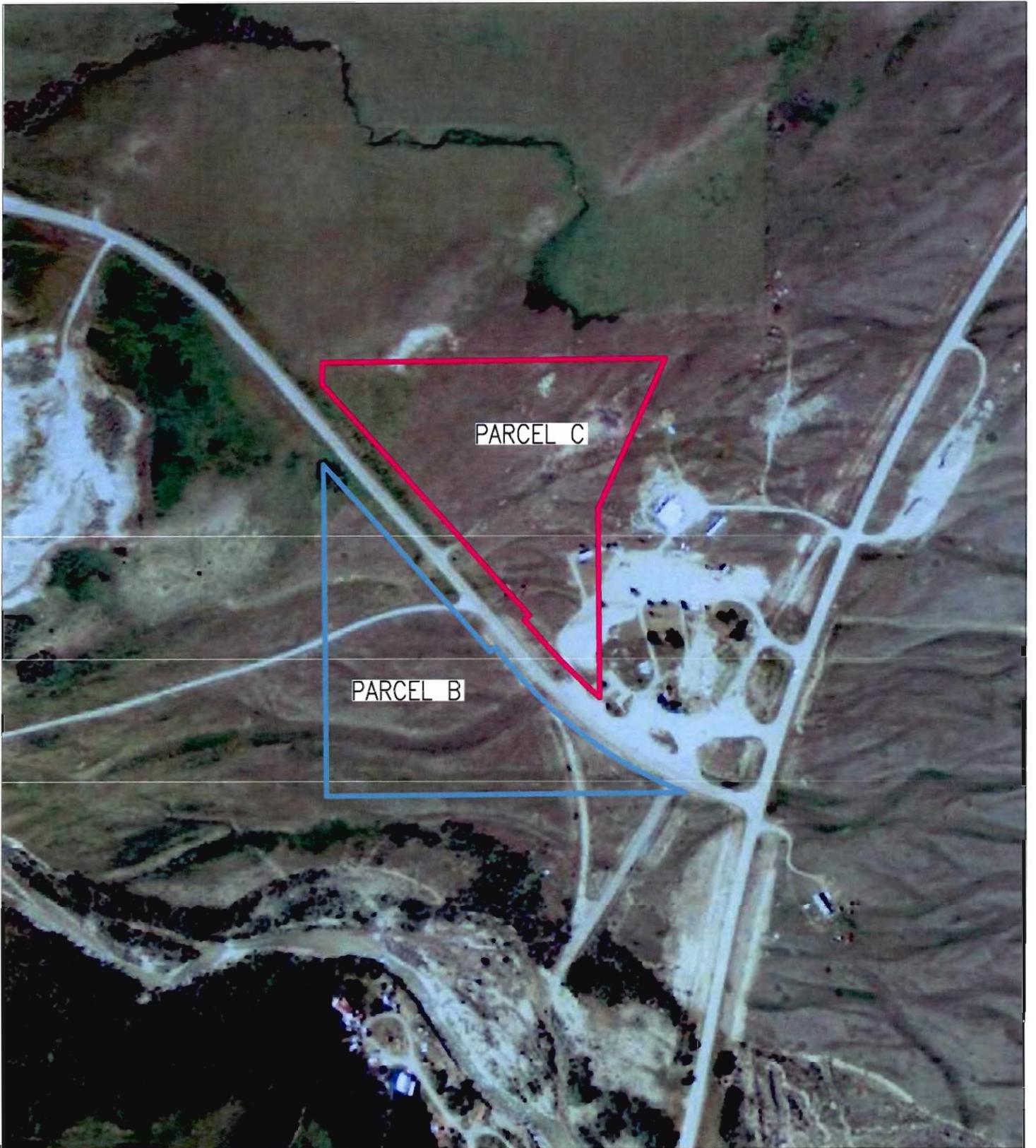
The results of status review indicate that climate warming is the primary threat to wolverine. Our evaluation found that the effects of climate warming are serious but so far have not resulted in any detectable population effects to the species. Because the threat of climate warming is not imminent, we will use our resources to work on listing determinations for species at greater risk of extinction.



Piegán Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegán Port of Entry

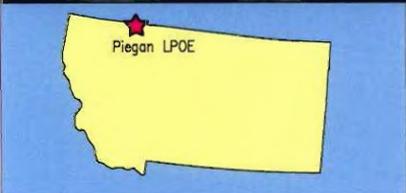
Date: September 2011
Source: USGS Map Dated 1985





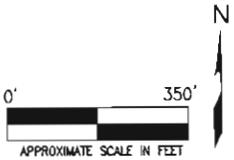
PARCEL C

PARCEL B



Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

Date: September 2011
Source: Google Earth Map Dated 2009



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**A.2 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106
CONSULTATION**

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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

DEC 11 2012

Mr. John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
620 All Chief Road
Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

REFERENCE: Additional Section 106 Consultation for Design-Build Infrastructure and Housing Project at the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Murray,

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is planning a housing and infrastructure enhancement project at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE), near Babb, Montana. This multi-phased design-build project involves the upgrade and replacement of the current infrastructure, including the sewer and water treatment systems, and the construction of up to 16 new housing units located at the existing Piegan LPOE site. The original Piegan Border Station and Quarters, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will continue to be used as supplemental housing for CBP employees and there will be no changes to that building.

Due to the immediate needs for adequate housing, CBP has proposed that up to sixteen stand-alone family housing units be constructed in infill areas of existing housing at the LPOE site. The new housing units will be constructed in phases over a period of several years.

On January 27, 2011, CBP sent you a letter requesting concurrence for a 'no adverse effect' determination based on information at the time regarding potential impacts to the original Border Station and Quarters. We received concurrence from you on April 30, 2012. The original letter is enclosed (Enclosure D).

As explained in the previous letter, infrastructure capacity at the LPOE site is at its current limits and to accommodate new housing the current infrastructure sewage and water treatment plants need to be upgraded or removed and replaced with an upgraded system to accommodate the demands of the new housing units.

Since the time of the original consultation letter, construction plans have changed somewhat and CBP is planning to add a water tower to the LPOE. The water tower will be located in the far northwest corner of the LPOE property, and will be approximately 140 feet in height. There are no other changes to the undertaking.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties (Section 106)," this letter and enclosures are being transmitted to re-open consultation, identify historic properties, and to assess potential adverse impacts pursuant to the addition of the proposed water tower.

Proposed Water Tower

Given the relatively flat terrain around Piegan, an elevated tank style will be used. Assuming a minimum desired static pressure of 50 psi at the high point of the distribution system, the overflow elevation of the new tank will be about 4,615 feet, resulting in a total tank height of approximately 140 feet. A small building will also be constructed near the base of the tank to house pumps which will continuously recirculate water through the storage tank to help mitigate freezing and stagnant water issues. In addition to meeting American Water Works Association (AWWA) D100 (Standard for Welded Carbon Steel Tanks for Water Storage) requirements, the new tank will also be required to meet the applicable requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 22 (Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection).

One of the more significant applicable provisions of NFPA22 will be the requirement to install a tank heating system to prevent potential freezing issues during winter months. The two most viable elevated tank styles for a 120,000 gallon tank are the Multi-Column and the Single Pedestal Spheroidal. Both styles are of welded steel construction. Please see the enclosures for photographs of both styles.

Determination and Documentation of the Area of Potential Effects

Per NHPA Sections § 800.4(a)(1) and § 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking at Piegan LPOE was determined for both above-ground and archaeological (below-ground) historic properties.

Above-Ground Resources

The APE for above-ground resources consists of the LPOE within the project area. The visual APE was determined to encompass the view shed of the project area in which the indirect, visual effects of the property might affect above-ground historic properties, if any were located there. All proposed new housing units, water tower, and infrastructure will be located within the existing LPOE.

Archaeological Resources

The APE for archaeological resources consists of the entire LPOE, where ground disturbance might directly affect archaeological resources, should any be located within the project area. No indirect impacts are anticipated.

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties

As with the original consultation letter, the identification and evaluation of historic properties at the LPOE, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4, is based in part on cultural resources surveys that were conducted for DHS' U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, in anticipation of improvements to LPOEs along the U.S. international borders. One statewide architectural history report, *Evaluation of Buildings and Structures at the Land Ports*

of Entry in Montana (Michael Baker, 2007) was completed and is on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Relevant excerpts were provided in the January 27, 2012 letter and are enclosed here as well. An archaeological survey was also completed for the LPOE, and is also on file at the SHPO.

Above-Ground Resources: The Piegan LPOE was originally established in 1933 and the original port building, which is still standing, was constructed at that time. The 1933 border inspection station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 12, 2006. Other than the 1933 border station building, there are no historic-age (pre-1960) structures in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE. Enclosure D includes a portion of the Historic Buildings and Structures report that was completed for the Montana LPOEs as part of DHS's US-VISIT program. The excerpt includes a detailed description of the historic building, and modifications that have been made to the structure.

Archaeological Resources: A Class III archaeological survey of the LPOE was conducted in 2004 (Michael Baker, Jr., Inc, 2007, *Archaeological Survey of the Piegan (PIE) Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana*). Other than the original 1933 Piegan LPOE port building, no other potential historic properties were observed in the project area. No prehistoric or Native American cultural resources were observed in the Piegan LPOE project area. The archaeological sensitivity of the Piegan LPOE project area is low due to its location and previous impacts from construction of the LPOE facility. No further cultural resources work at the Piegan LPOE was recommended based on the archaeological survey.

Determination of Impacts

Archaeological Resources: Due to the previously disturbed land at the LPOE site, CBP has determined that the construction of the proposed water tower and associated structures at the existing LPOE site will have no effect on archaeological resources.

Above-Ground Resources: The water tower will be located in the northwest portion of the LPOE property, approximately 1,500 feet from the Old Port Building, as shown below in Enclosure A. The Old Port building sits adjacent to modern one-story residences, and a new port, with 2-story structures, was constructed in 2001 by GSA. Because the water tower will be barely visible and if so only from the view towards the northwest, CBP has determined that construction of the proposed water tower and associated structures at the existing LPOE will have no adverse effect on historic resources.

By copy of this letter, CBP is sending a complete package to the Montana SHPO.

CBP requests concurrence from the Blackfeet Tribe THPO with this determination. A signature line below is provided to facilitate your response. Alternatively, if you typically scan consultation exchanges, we request that you consider returning the signed document via email to Dr. Paula Bienenfeld at Paula.F.Bienenfeld@cbp.dhs.gov.

Mr. John Murray
Page 4

Please let me know within 30 days if you agree with this determination. If I do not hear back from you within the 30-day time frame, we will proceed with the project as designed.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this project, I can be reached at 202-344-1929 or by email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov. I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



Jennifer D. Hass
Director
Environmental and Energy Division

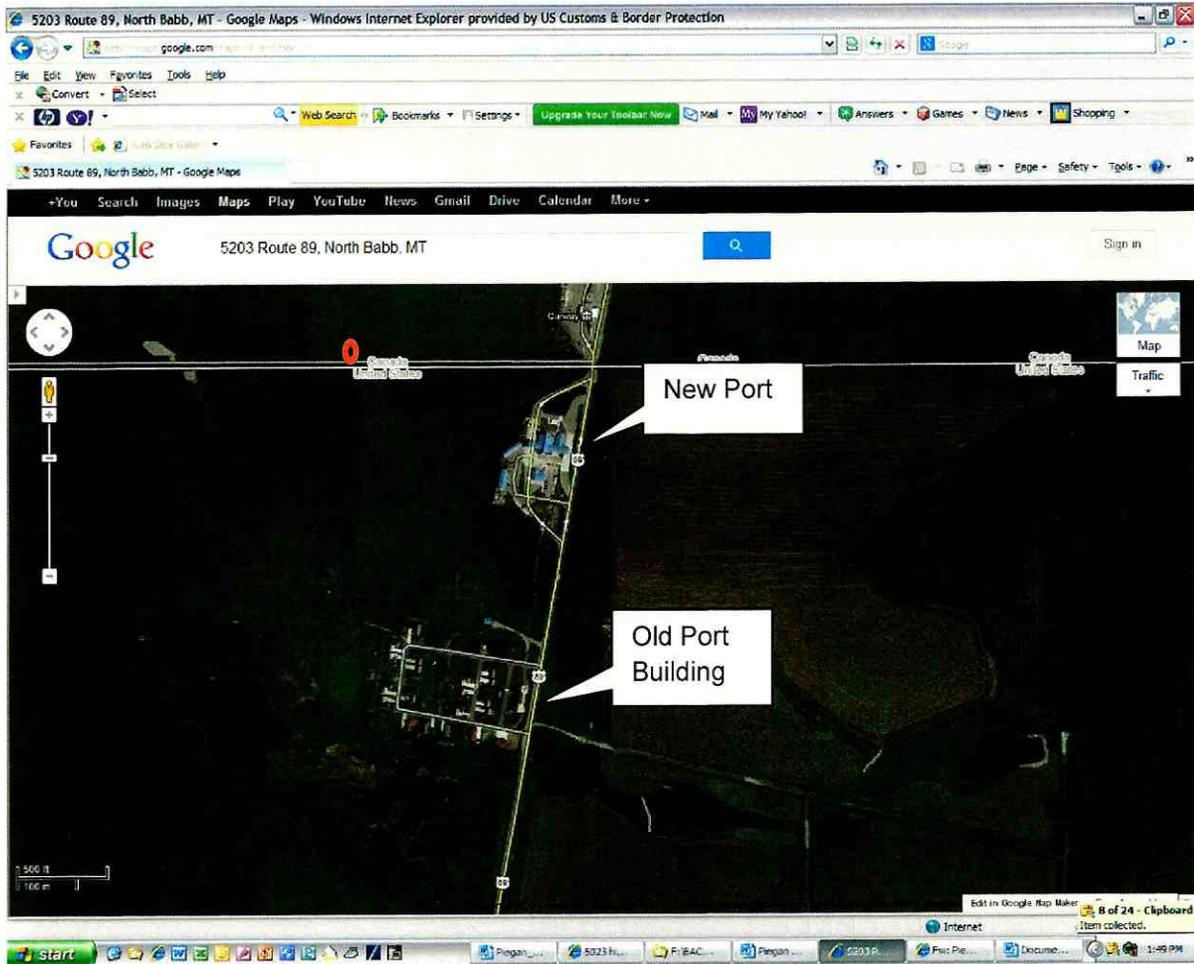
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Pete Brown, Architecture Specialist/Historian Montana SHPO
Jeff Cole – GSA Region 8 Project Manager

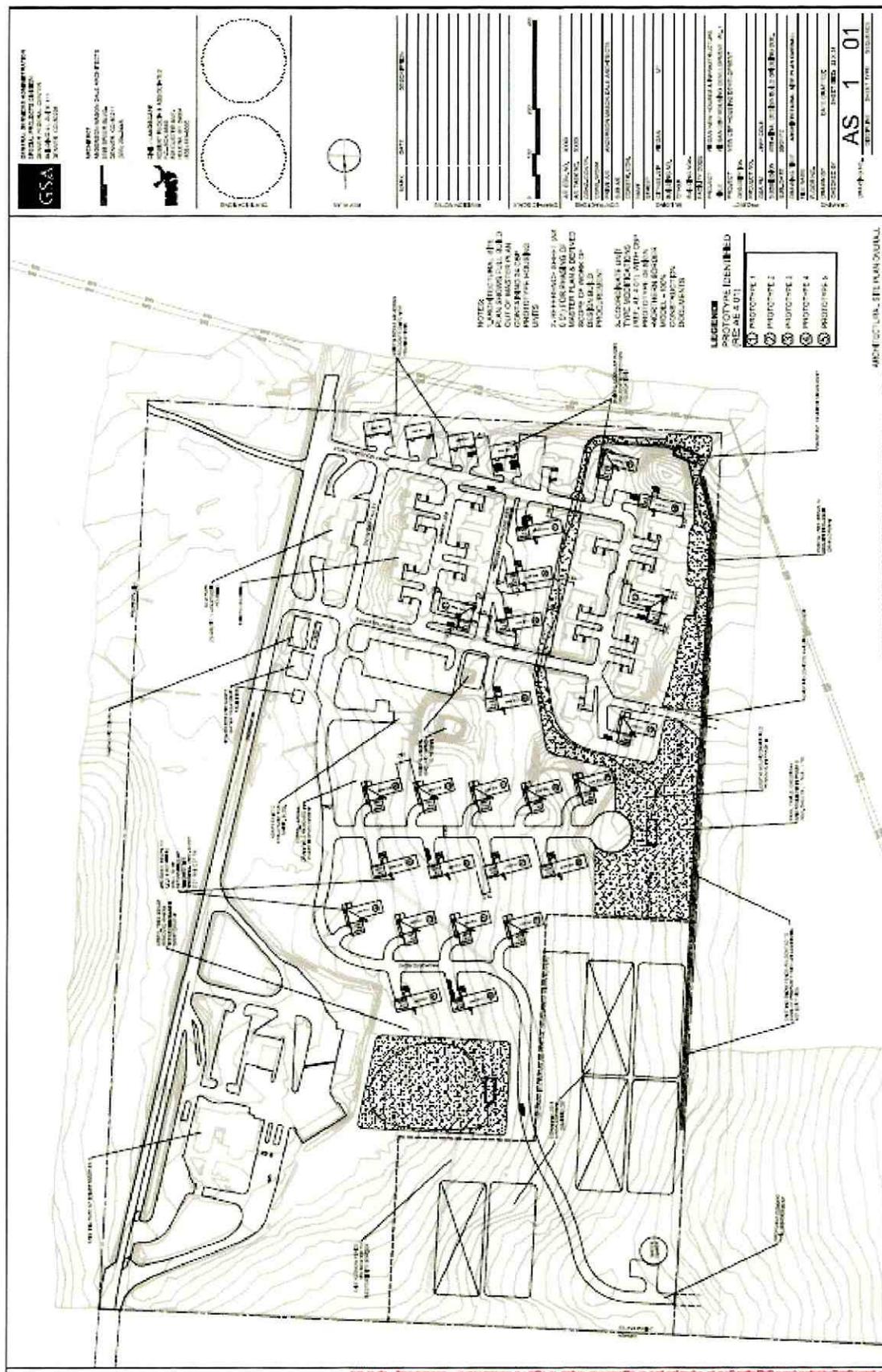
CONCURRENCE WITH THE EFFECT DETERMINATIONS FOR UNDERTAKINGS AT
THE PIEGAN LPOE, GLACIER COUNTY

Mr. John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

DATE



Location of Original Piegan Border Station, New Port, and Proposed Water Tower Location (red circle).

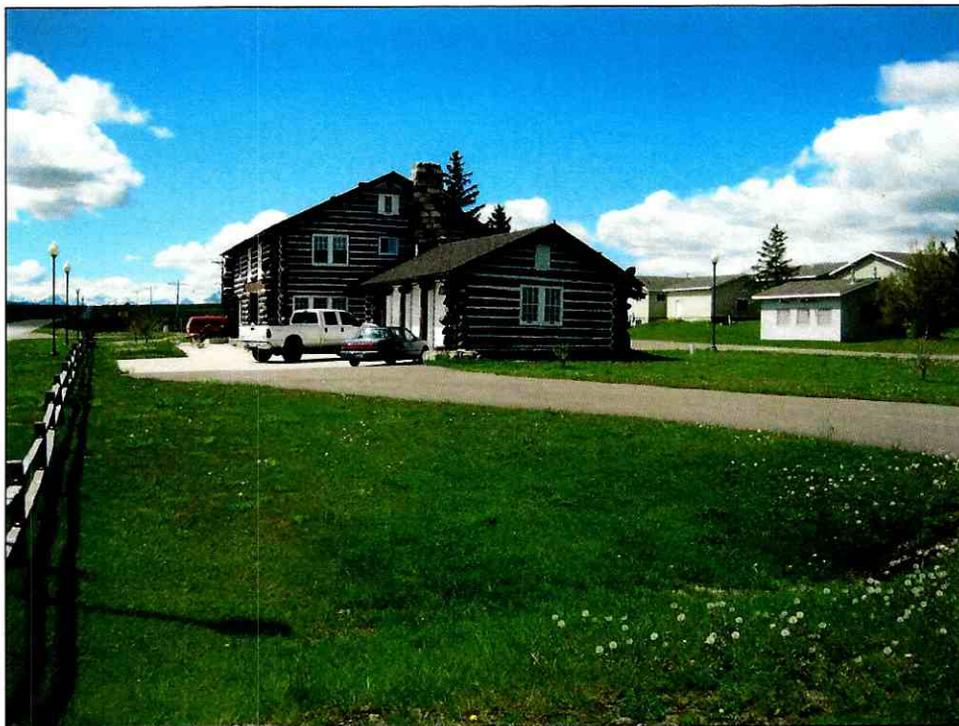


Construction Plans showing Water Tower in upper northwest part of Project Area.

Enclosure B. Photographs of Original Piegan Border Station and Quarters.



Northwest View of Original Border Station showing front (east) façade.

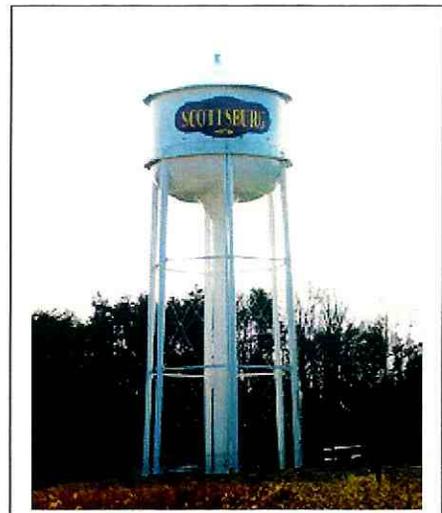


View of Original Border Station facing southwest, with modern structures visible. Route 89 is to left.

Enclosure C. Water Tower Types.



Single Pedestal Spheroidal Tank



Multi-Column Tank

Mr. John Murray
Page 10

Enclosure D. January 27, 2011 letter and original enclosures.



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JAN 27 2012

Mr. John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
620 All Chief Road
Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

REFERENCE: Section 106 Consultation for Design-Build Infrastructure and Housing Project at the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Murray:

This letter is to inform you that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is planning a housing and infrastructure enhancement project at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE) near Babb, Montana. This multiphase, design-build project involves an upgrade and replacement of the current infrastructure, including the sewer and water treatment systems, and the construction of up to 16 new housing units located at the existing Piegan LPOE. The Piegan Border Station and Quarters, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is not within this scope of work and will not be affected by this project. The Piegan Border Station and Quarters will continue to be supplemental housing for CBP employees.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties (Section 106)," this letter and enclosures are being transmitted to initiate consultation, to identify historic properties, and to assess potential adverse impacts pursuant to these undertakings.

The General Services Administration (GSA) is the current owner of the housing units and the historic Piegan Border Station and Quarters building located at the LPOE property. In 2003 and 2004, GSA built 16 new housing units for CBP, located on land adjacent to the historic Border Station and Quarters building. In addition, three duplex units were constructed in 2009, for a total of 22 housing units. These housing units and the Piegan Border Station and Quarters building will be transferred within the month from GSA to CBP, and they are not part of this project undertaking.

CBP has a need for a total of 16 additional housing units for the employees at the existing Piegan LPOE. Currently, the amount of available housing is insufficient to accommodate the growing number of employees for CBP at the Piegan LPOE. This undertaking is for the construction and operation of these additional units.

Mr. John Murray

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As part of the planning process for this project, Dougherty Sprague Environmental, Inc. was hired to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the project and its alternatives. The draft EA is currently in development and will be forwarded to you within the next month. As described in the EA, CBP is considering two actions:

- The Preferred Action includes the construction and operation of up to 16 new in-fill housing units and infrastructure upgrades to the existing LPOE housing units.
- The second alternative is the No Action Alternative, under which no changes would be made, including no construction of new housing units and no infrastructure upgrades. The current housing and operations would remain as it currently exists.

Due to the immediate need for adequate housing, CBP has proposed that up to 16 stand-alone family housing units be constructed at in-fill areas of existing housing at the Piegan LPOE. The new housing units will be constructed in phases.

As explained earlier and in more detail below, infrastructure capacity at the LPOE is at its current limits. In order to accommodate new housing, the current infrastructure sewage and water treatment plants and infrastructure need to be upgraded or removed and replaced with an upgraded a system to accommodate the demands of the new housing units. In February 2010, a Civil and Geotechnical Engineering report was completed by HNTB Corporation to assess the current infrastructure issues and future operational and housing needs at the Piegan LPOE. A copy of this report is available from GSA upon request.

The report evaluated the existing infrastructure issues that include widespread flooding and sewage backup, typically in the spring months during the rain and snowmelt seasons. The report stated that the "effects of the high groundwater table prevent the leach fields from operating properly," thus causing flooding and the lack of proper sewage drainage. HNTB's report evaluated the proposed housing recommendations based on the 2009 Housing Feasibility Study completed by Garrison Architects. Based on the number of new housing units needed and the existing infrastructure issues, HNTB's report evaluated the existing sanitary sewer system and determined that it lacks the capacity for handling any additional housing units. To meet the future infrastructure needs, the report stated that two wastewater treatment plants and other supporting infrastructure would need to be constructed at an estimated cost of \$3.3 million.

Determination and Documentation of the Area of Potential Effects

Per NHPA Sections § 800.4(a)(1) and § 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effects (APE), for the undertaking at the Piegan LPOE, was determined for both above-ground and archaeological (below-ground) historic properties.

Above-Ground Resources

The APE for above-ground resources consists of the LPOE within the project area. The visual APE was determined to encompass the view shed of the project area in which the indirect, visual effects of the property might affect above-ground historic properties, if any were located there. All proposed new housing units and infrastructure will be located within the existing LPOE.

Mr. John Murray

Page 3

Archaeological Resources

The APE for archaeological resources consists of the entire LPOE, where ground disturbance might directly affect archaeological resources, should any be located within the project area. No indirect impacts are anticipated.

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties

The identification and evaluation of historic properties at the LPOE, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4, is based in part on cultural resource surveys that were conducted for the DHS's U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, in anticipation of improvements to LPOEs along U.S. borders. One architectural history report, *Evaluation of Buildings and Structures at the Land Ports of Entry in Montana* (Michael Baker, 2007), was completed and is on file at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Relevant excerpts are provided in the enclosures. An archaeological survey was also completed for the Piegan LPOE and is on file there as well.

Above-Ground Resources

The Piegan LPOE was originally established in 1933 and the Piegan Border Station and Quarters, which is still standing, was constructed at that time. The 1933 building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 12, 2006. Other than the 1933 border station building, there are no historic-age (pre-1960) structures in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE. Enclosed is a portion of the Historic Buildings and Structures report that was completed for the Montana LPOEs as part of DHS's US-VISIT program. The excerpt includes a detailed description of the historic building and modifications that have been made to the structure.

Archaeological Resources

A Class III archaeological survey of the LPOE was conducted in 2004 (Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. 2007, *Archaeological Survey of the Piegan (PIE) Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana*). Other than the original 1933 Piegan Border Station and Quarters, no other potential historic properties were observed in the project area. No prehistoric or Native American cultural resources were observed in the Piegan LPOE project area. The archaeological sensitivity of the Piegan LPOE project area is low due to its location and previous impacts from construction of the LPOE facility. No further cultural resource work at the Piegan LPOE was recommended based on the archaeological survey.

Due to the previously disturbed land at the LPOE site, CBP has determined that the construction of the in-fill housing units and the infrastructure upgrades at the existing LPOE site will have no adverse effect on historic properties or cultural resources, including the view shed from the Piegan Border Station and Quarters.

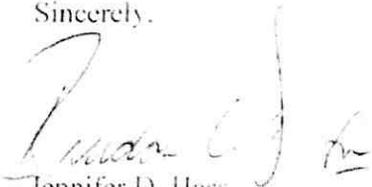
By copy of this letter, CBP is sending a complete package to the Montana SHPO. CBP requests concurrence from the Blackfeet Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) with this determination. A signature line below is provided to facilitate your response. Alternatively, if you typically scan consultation exchanges, we request that you consider returning the signed document via email to me at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov. Please let me know within 30 days if you agree with this determination.

Mr. John Murray

Page 4

If you have any comments or questions regarding this project, I can be reached at 202-344-1929 or by email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov. If I do not hear back from you within the 30-day time frame, we will proceed with the project as designed.

Sincerely,

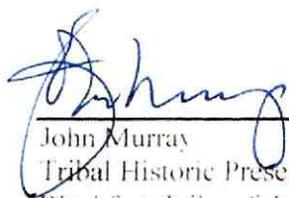


Jennifer D. Hass
Director
Environmental and Energy Division

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Pete Brown, Architecture Specialist/Historian Montana SHPO
Ms. Heather Korth - GSA Region 8 Project Manager

CONCURRENCE WITH THE EFFECT DETERMINATIONS FOR UNDERTAKINGS AT
THE PIEGAN LPOE, GLACIER COUNTY



John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana

April 30, 2012
DATE

From: John
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 12:03 PM
To: BIENENFELD, PAULA F.
Subject: Re: Piegan new housing undertaking

Paula:
As we discussed... Your report has to be submitted to Regional BIA Archaeologist, Jo'Etta Plumage . I will concur with her findings.
John Murray

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2013, at 11:36 AM, "BIENENFELD, PAULA F." wrote:

Ok, thanks, we will look for the letter then.
Paula

Paula Bienenfeld, Ph.D.
Environmental and Energy Division (CTR)
US Customs and Border Protection
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 1525N-14
Washington, DC 20229

From: John
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:35 PM
To: BIENENFELD, PAULA F.
Subject: Re: Piegan new housing undertaking

I will not be back in office until late next week

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2013, at 10:23 AM, "BIENENFELD, PAULA F." wrote:

Hi John,
After we spoke I forwarded the information you had about the possible need for a tribal monitor for the new construction at Piegan to the project managers, so that seems fine, depending on your direction. I understand there had already been a tribal monitor during the archaeology survey at Kennedy Creek, when CBP was considering that property, as you said.

You had given verbal concurrence of no adverse effect on the revised undertaking (with the installation of the water tower); could please email me the concurrence letter, I would greatly appreciate it (not sure if you had mailed it out already).

Thanks,
Paula

Paula Bienenfeld, Ph.D.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Rocky Mountain Regional Office
316 North 26th St.
Billings, Montana 59101

FEB 07 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO: Environmental, Cultural & Safety (620)

John Murray
Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 850
Browning, Montana 59417

Dear Mr. Murray:

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has reviewed this project and submits it for your review;

*Additional Section 106 Consultation for Design-Build Infrastructure and Housing Project at the
Piegan Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana (BF13-3055)*

United States Customs Border Protection (CBP) proposes to constructed new housing and infrastructure enhancement at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). Infrastructure proposed for upgrade and replacement include the sewer and water treatment systems. New construction consists of construction of a new water tower and 16 new housing units. These new houses will be built within the LPOE existing campus situated between existing residential houses.

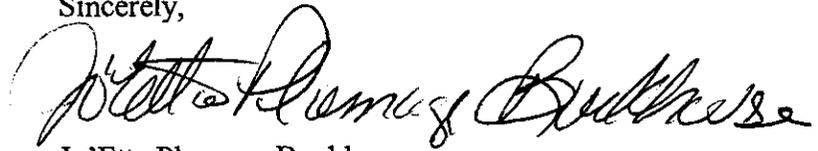
One historic property, Piegan Border Station and Quarters known as the Old Port Building is located at Piegan LPOE. Constructed in 1933 the Border Station and Quarters is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This building will continue to function as a residence.

In the event of an inadvertent discovery during construction work in the area shall halt immediately and discovery secured. The Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), BIA and CBP staffs shall be contacted immediately, discovery secured and protected. BIA in consultation with the Blackfeet THPO will have the discovery evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Work may commence when inadvertent discovery is properly care for.

This letter is submitted in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. As defined in the 36 CFR 800.4(d) (1), the BIA has concluded that this **project does not have the potential to affect** historic properties. This project **may proceed.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (406) 247-7911.

Sincerely,



Jo'Etta Plumage Buckhouse
Regional Archaeologist

Enclosures

cc: Stan Wilmoth, SHPO, 1410 8th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-1202 (w/o enclosure)
Stephen Pollock, Superintendent, Blackfeet Agency, (w/o enclosure)
Paula Bienenfeld, US Customs and Border Protection, (w/o enclosure)

BUCKHOUSE: BF13-3055THPOletter2.7.2013
Bcc: 620 subject/reading file 100 reading file

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A.3 OTHER AGENCY LETTERS

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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Joe Maurier
Director
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Post Office Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Land Acquisition, Construction, and Operation of Housing Units for the Piegan Land
Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The General Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are planning to acquire property and construct and operate new housing for personnel at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Montana. The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important for the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate/near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. The CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and 4 employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is sixteen, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of eleven housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of sixteen residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for sixteen housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA, which are as follows:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
2. **Alternative Action:** CBP/GSA would construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to sixteen 16 houses, at the existing government-owned Piegan LPOE. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
3. **No Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct 4 units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office Online Endangered Species List was referenced to determine the federally listed endangered or threatened species occurring in the counties listed above. Please see the enclosed document that reviews the species found in Glacier County.

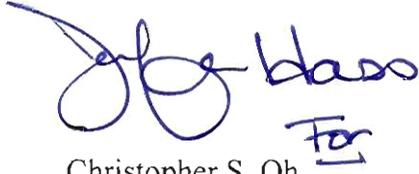
The purpose of this letter is to request a response with any information from your Agency regarding potential impacts on endangered and threatened species associated with the Proposed Actions, as well as information regarding reasonable and prudent measures necessary for a No Adverse Effect or a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination from a Proposed Action.

CBP looks forward to receiving your response on this project. Your office will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA for further review and comment prior to the issuance of the decision document for this project. We look forward to working through the NEPA process with you. If

Mr. Joe Maurier
Page 3

you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Chief,
at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Oh" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division

GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY



Species Description: Grizzly bears are generally larger and more heavily built than other bears. Grizzly bears can be distinguished from black bears, which also occur in the lower 48 States, by longer, curved claws, humped shoulders, and a face that appears to be concave. A wide range of coloration from light brown to nearly black is common. Spring shedding, new growth, nutrition, and coat conditions all affect coloration. Guard hairs are often pale in color at the tips; hence the name "grizzly." In the lower 48 States, the average weight of grizzly bears is generally 400 to 600 pounds for males and 250 to 350 pounds for females. Grizzly bears are long lived mammals and generally live to be around 25 years old.

Background: When Lewis and Clark explored the West in the early 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed between the Pacific Ocean and the Great Plains, across vast stretches of open and unpopulated land. But when pioneers moved in, bears were persecuted and their numbers and range drastically declined. As European settlement expanded over the next hundred years, towns and cities sprung up, and habitat for these large omnivores--along with their numbers--shrank drastically. Today, with the western United States inhabited by millions of Americans, only a few small corners of grizzly country remain, supporting about 1,200 - 1,400 wild grizzly bears. Of 37 grizzly populations present in 1922, 31 were extirpated by 1975.

In 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the Lower 48 States under the Endangered Species Act, placing the species under federal protection.

Locations: Today, grizzly bear distribution is primarily within but not limited to the areas identified as Recovery Zones including--the Yellowstone area in northwest Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and southwest Montana (9,200 square miles (sq mi)) at more than 580 bears; the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem of north central Montana (9,600 sq mi) at more than 400 bears; the North Cascades area of north central Washington (9,500 sq mi) at less than 20 bears; the Selkirk Mountains area of northern Idaho, northeast Washington, and southeast British Columbia (2,200 sq mi) at approximately 40 to 50 bears; and the Cabinet Yaak area of northwest Montana and northern Idaho (2,600 sq mi) at approximately 30 to 40 bears. There is an additional Recovery Zone known as the Bitterroot Recovery Zone in the Bitterroot Mountains of east central Idaho and western Montana (5,600 sq mi) but this area does not contain any grizzly bears at this time. The San Juan Mountains of Colorado also were identified as an area of possible grizzly bear occurrence, but no evidence of grizzly bears has been found in the San Juan Mountains since a bear was killed there in 1979.

Recovery: In 1981, the Service hired a grizzly bear recovery coordinator to direct recovery efforts and to coordinate all agency efforts on research and management of grizzly bears in the lower 48 States. Recovery of the grizzly bear covers four states and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regions. The initial Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was completed in 1982. A revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan included additional tasks and new information that increased the focus and effectiveness of recovery efforts. The national grizzly bear recovery coordinator contact information:

Dr. Chris Servheen
University Hall, Room 309
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
telephone 406-243-4903
fax 406-329-3212

Recent Actions: On July 28, 1975, the grizzly bear was designated as threatened on the conterminous (lower 48) United States (40 FR 31734-31736).

On March 22, 2007, the Service announced that the Yellowstone Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of grizzly bears is a recovered population no longer meeting the ESA's definition of threatened or endangered. For more information on this announcement visit [Yellowstone grizzly bear webpage](#).

On April 18, 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the initiation of a 5-year review of grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) (as listed in the lower 48 States excluding the Greater Yellowstone Area population) and 8 other species ([72 FR 19549](#)). We conducted reviews to ensure that our classification of each species as threatened or endangered on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is accurate. A 5-year review is an assessment of the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review.

CANADA LYNX



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that changing the boundaries of the Endangered Species Act listing for the Canada lynx to include the State of New Mexico is warranted; however, the action is precluded at this time by the need to complete other listing actions of a higher priority.

- Federal Register Notice: December 17, 2009 [12-month Finding on a Petition To Change the Final Listing of the Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx To Include New Mexico](#)
- Press Release: December 16, 2009 [Protection for Canada Lynx in New Mexico Is Warranted](#)

On March 24, 2000, the contiguous United States population of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This site provides access to various sources of information on the Canada lynx, including documents about recovery planning, critical habitat, the listing decision, section 7 consultations, research, archives, and other informational web sites.

BULL TROUT



NCTC Makes Scarce Bull Trout Photos Available – No Bull!

The Fish and Wildlife Service has revised the 2005 critical habitat designation for bull trout, a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The range of the bull trout includes Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

In Montana, the Service designated as critical habitat approximately 3,056 stream miles and approximately 221,471 acres of lakes or reservoirs in Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties.

Under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management considerations or protection. A critical habitat designation does not affect land ownership or set up a preserve or refuge and only applies to situations where federal funding, permitting, or land is involved.

Meltwater Lednian Stonefly



Photo by Joe Giersch

The meltwater lednian stonefly (*Lednia tumana*) is an aquatic insect in the order Plecoptera (stoneflies). Stoneflies are primarily associated with clean, cool streams and rivers. Juvenile meltwater lednian stoneflies are found in snow-melt runoff streams in high elevation, alpine and subalpine streams, most typically in locations closely linked to glacial runoff. The species is generally restricted to streams with mean summer water temperature less than 10 degrees Celsius (oC) or 50 degrees Fahrenheit (oF). The meltwater lednian stonefly is found in only a few locations within Glacier National Park, Montana.

The lednian meltwater stonefly has three distinct life stages – the aquatic egg and nymph – and the terrestrial adults. Stoneflies spend most of their lifespan in the egg and nymph forms and may complete their life cycles in a single year or in 2 to 3 years. Adults are short-lived and emerge from the water to mate on vegetation along the stream by July or August. The females then deposit their eggs in the stream. The nymph is dark red-brown on its dorsal (top) surface and pink on the ventral (lower) surface, with light grey-green legs. Mature nymphs range in size from 0.18 to 0.26 inches. Adults are small also, ranging in size from 0.16 to 0.24 inches.

Recent Actions

August 18, 2009: After an initial review of a petition submitted by the WildEarth Guardians, the Service determined that the Bearmouth mountainsnail, Byrne Resort mountainsnail, and meltwater lednian stonefly may be warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act. With that determination, the Service commenced status reviews for the three species.

Status Review Results

April 5, 2011: The Service completed a 12-month status review of the meltwater lednian stonefly and determined that the meltwater lednian stonefly is warranted for listing, but is precluded by higher priority actions. The species listing priority number (LPN) is 4, meaning the identified threats to the species are high in magnitude but the immediacy of the threats is non-imminent.

In the same 12-month finding, we also found that the Bearmouth and Byrne Resort mountainsnails do not warrant protection under the Act. The Bearmouth mountainsnail and Byrne Resort mountainsnail are terrestrial mollusks commonly called "mountainsnails." Because these mountainsnails are not recognized as species by the scientific community, they are not listable entities as defined by the ESA. Since we have concluded that the two petitioned mountainsnails are not listable entities, an analysis of threats is not required under the ESA. Therefore, we will take no further action with these species at this time.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT



Photo: Bob Gress

The Sprague's pipit is a relatively small passerine endemic to the North American grasslands. It has a plain buff colored face with a large eye-ring. The Sprague's pipit is a ground nester that breeds and winters on open grasslands. It feeds mostly on insects and spiders and some seeds.

The Sprague's pipit is closely tied with native prairie habitat and breeds in the north-central United States in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota as well as south-central Canada. Wintering occurs in the southern States of Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Recent Actions The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the conservation status of Sprague's Pipit to determine whether the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. The status review found that listing Sprague's Pipit as threatened or endangered is warranted, but that listing the species at this time is precluded by the need to complete other listing actions of a higher priority. To ensure this review was comprehensive, the Service solicited information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the Sprague's pipit and its habitat.

Past Actions Following a review of a petition to list the Sprague's pipit as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating a status review of the species to determine if listing is warranted.

The petition finding does not mean that the Service has decided it is appropriate to give the Sprague's pipit federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Rather, this finding is the first step in a long process that triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information available.

To ensure this review is comprehensive, the Service is soliciting information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the Sprague's pipit and its habitat. Comments will be received until February 1, 2010.

WOLVERINE



Photo Credit: Steve Kroschel

The wolverine is the largest terrestrial member of the family Mustelidae. Adult males weigh 12 to 18 kilograms (26 to 40 pounds) and adult females weigh 8 to 12 kilograms (17 to 26 pounds). The wolverine resembles a small bear with a bushy tail. It has a broad, rounded head; short, rounded ears; and small eyes. Each foot has five toes with curved, semi-retractile claws used for digging and climbing.

In North America, wolverines occur within a wide variety of habitats, primarily boreal forests, tundra, and western mountains throughout Alaska and Canada; however, the southern portion of the range extends into the contiguous United States.

Currently, wolverines appear to be distributed in two regions in the lower 48 states: the northern Cascades in Washington, and the northern Rocky Mountains in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Wolverines were extirpated in historical times from the Sierra Nevada and the southern Rocky Mountains.

Research indicates that wolverines either did not exist as established populations or were extirpated prior to settlement and to the compilation of historical records in the Great Lakes region, possibly due to climate changes that occurred through the 1800s and 1900s. The widely scattered records from this region are consistent with dispersing individuals from a Canadian population that receded north early in the 1800s. The possibility that wolverines existed as established populations prior to the onset of trapping in this area cannot be ruled out, but we have no evidence that they did. No evidence in the historical records suggests that wolverines were ever present as established populations in the Great Plains, Midwest, or Northeast.

The delineation of wolverine historical and present distribution is inherently difficult for several reasons. Wolverines tend to live in remote and inhospitable places away from human populations. Wolverines naturally occur at low densities and are rarely and unpredictably encountered where they do occur. Wolverines often move long distances in short periods of time when dispersing from natal ranges, making it difficult or impossible to distinguish with confidence between occurrence records that represent established populations and those that represent short-term occupancy without the potential for establishment of home ranges and reproduction. These natural attributes of wolverines make it difficult to determine their present range, or trends in range expansion or contraction that may have occurred in the past.

Breeding generally occurs from late spring to early fall. Females undergo delayed implantation until the following winter to spring, when active gestation lasts from 30 to 40 days. Litters are born between February and April, containing one to five kits, with an average in North America of between 1 and 2 kits.

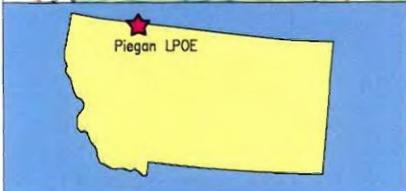
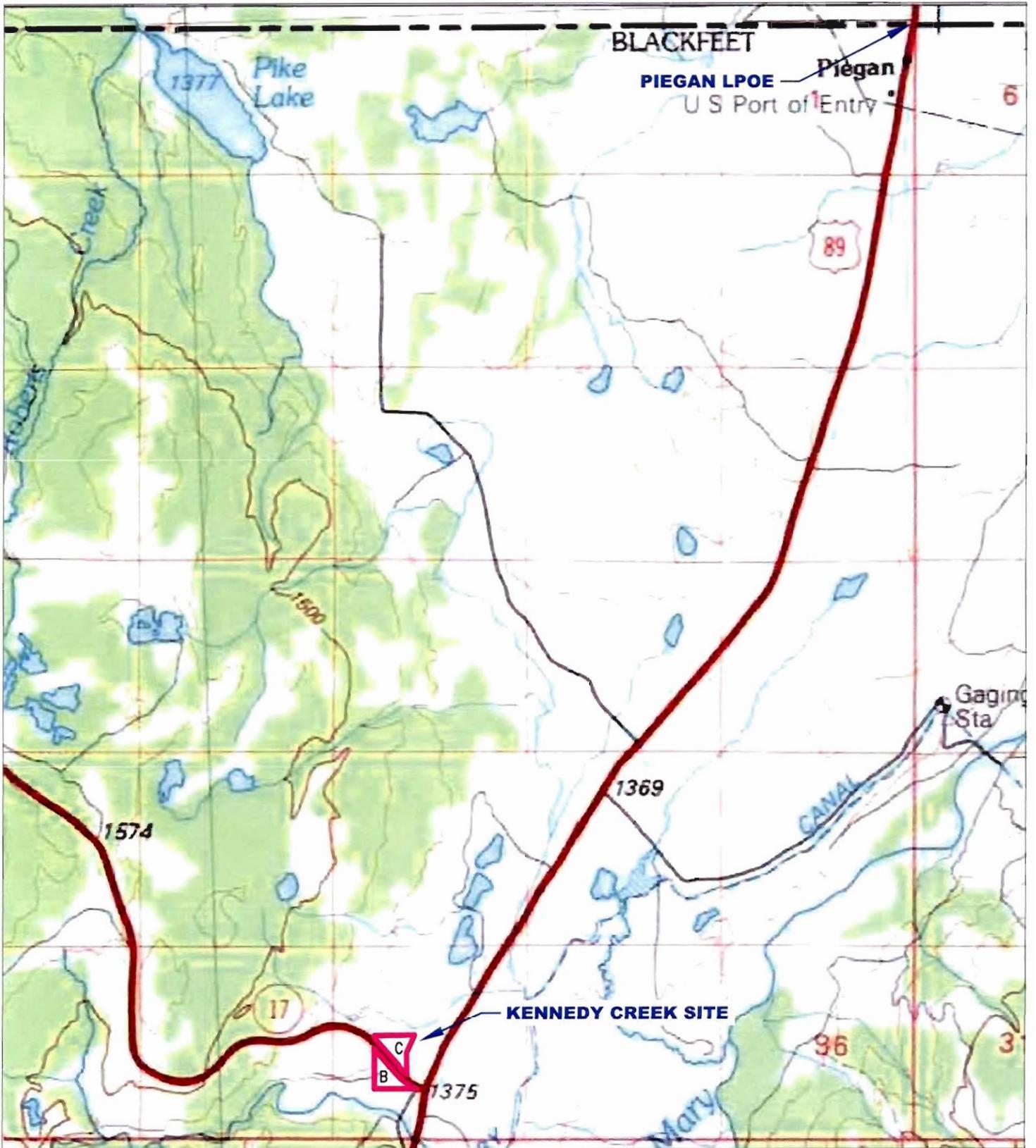
Female wolverines use natal (birthing) dens that are excavated in snow. Persistent, stable snow greater than 1.5 meters (5 feet) deep appears to be a requirement for natal denning, because it provides security for offspring and buffers cold winter temperatures.

Wolverines are opportunistic feeders and consume a variety of foods depending on availability. They primarily scavenge carrion, but also prey on small animals and birds, and eat fruits, berries, and insects. Wolverine have an excellent sense of smell that enables them to find food beneath deep snow.

Wolverines require a lot of space; the availability and distribution of food is likely the primary factor in determining wolverine movements and home range size. Wolverine travel long distances over rough terrain and deep snow, and adult males generally cover greater distances than females. Home ranges of wolverines are very large, but vary greatly depending on availability of food, gender, age, and differences in habitat. These home range sizes are large for mammals of the size of wolverines and may indicate that wolverines occupy a relatively unproductive niche.

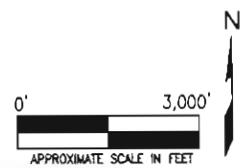
Recent Actions: After a thorough review of all the available science, the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the contiguous United States population of wolverine should be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, the rulemaking to propose ESA protections for the wolverine will be delayed while we work on listing proposals for other species in greater need. The wolverine will be added to the list of candidates for ESA protection. As a candidate species, the wolverine will not receive protection under the ESA; however, we will review its status annually and will continue to work with landowners and partners to implement voluntary conservation measures.

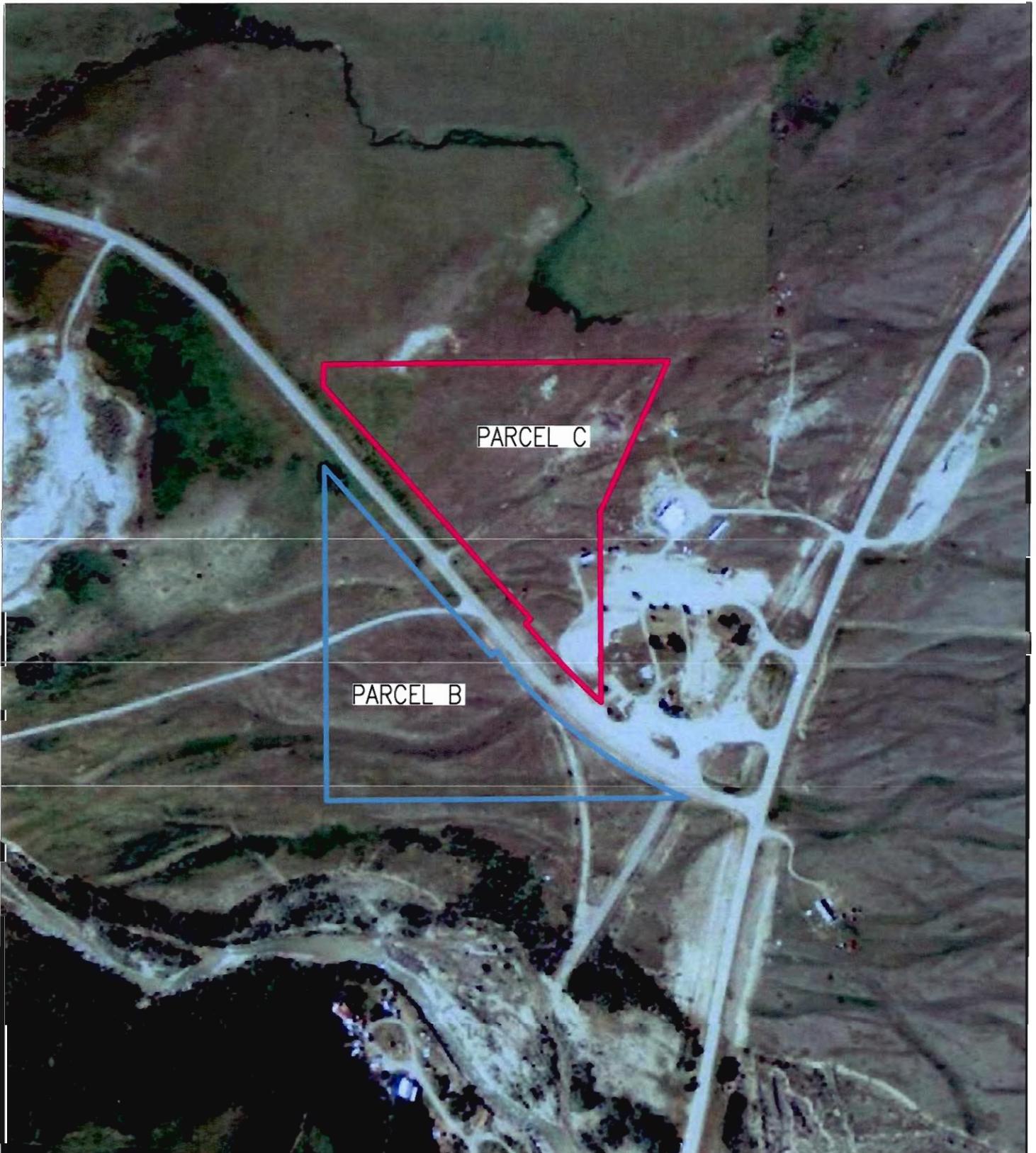
The results of status review indicate that climate warming is the primary threat to wolverine. Our evaluation found that the effects of climate warming are serious but so far have not resulted in any detectable population effects to the species. Because the threat of climate warming is not imminent, we will use our resources to work on listing determinations for species at greater risk of extinction.



Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

Date: September 2011
Source: USGS Map Dated 1985





PARCEL C

PARCEL B



Piegan LPOE

Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

Date: September 2011
Source: Google Earth. Map Dated 20109



APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Neil Snow
Director
Montana Natural Heritage Program
1515 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Re: Land Acquisition, Construction, and Operation of Housing Units for the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The General Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are planning to acquire property and construct and operate new housing for personnel at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Montana. The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important for the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate/near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. The CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and 4 employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

Mr. Neil Snow

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The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is sixteen, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of eleven housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of sixteen residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for sixteen housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA, which are as follows:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
2. **Alternative Action:** CBP/GSA would construct 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses, at the existing government-owned Piegan LPOE. In addition, CBP would construct 4 new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace 4 apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
3. **No Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct 4 units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office Online Endangered Species List was referenced to determine the federally listed endangered or threatened species occurring in the counties listed above. Please see the enclosed document that reviews the species found in Glacier County.

The purpose of this letter is to request a response with any information from your Agency regarding potential impacts on endangered and threatened species associated with the Proposed Actions, as well as information regarding reasonable and prudent measures necessary for a No Adverse Effect or a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination from a Proposed Action.

CBP looks forward to receiving your response on this project. Your office will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA for further review and comment prior to the issuance of the decision document for this project. We look forward to working through the NEPA process with you.

Mr. Neil Snow

Page 3

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Chief, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Hass" in a cursive style, with the word "For" written below it in a similar cursive style.

Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division

GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY



Species Description: Grizzly bears are generally larger and more heavily built than other bears. Grizzly bears can be distinguished from black bears, which also occur in the lower 48 States, by longer, curved claws, humped shoulders, and a face that appears to be concave. A wide range of coloration from light brown to nearly black is common. Spring shedding, new growth, nutrition, and coat conditions all affect coloration. Guard hairs are often pale in color at the tips; hence the name "grizzly." In the lower 48 States, the average weight of grizzly bears is generally 400 to 600 pounds for males and 250 to 350 pounds for females. Grizzly bears are long lived mammals and generally live to be around 25 years old.

Background: When Lewis and Clark explored the West in the early 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed between the Pacific Ocean and the Great Plains, across vast stretches of open and unpopulated land. But when pioneers moved in, bears were persecuted and their numbers and range drastically declined. As European settlement expanded over the next hundred years, towns and cities sprung up, and habitat for these large omnivores--along with their numbers--shrank drastically. Today, with the western United States inhabited by millions of Americans, only a few small corners of grizzly country remain, supporting about 1,200 - 1,400 wild grizzly bears. Of 37 grizzly populations present in 1922, 31 were extirpated by 1975.

In 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the Lower 48 States under the Endangered Species Act, placing the species under federal protection.

Locations: Today, grizzly bear distribution is primarily within but not limited to the areas identified as Recovery Zones including--the Yellowstone area in northwest Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and southwest Montana (9,200 square miles (sq mi)) at more than 580 bears; the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem of north central Montana (9,600 sq mi) at more than 400 bears; the North Cascades area of north central Washington (9,500 sq mi) at less than 20 bears; the Selkirk Mountains area of northern Idaho, northeast Washington, and southeast British Columbia (2,200 sq mi) at approximately 40 to 50 bears; and the Cabinet Yaak area of northwest Montana and northern Idaho (2,600 sq mi) at approximately 30 to 40 bears. There is an additional Recovery Zone known as the Bitterroot Recovery Zone in the Bitterroot Mountains of east central Idaho and western Montana (5,600 sq mi) but this area does not contain any grizzly bears at this time. The San Juan Mountains of Colorado also were identified as an area of possible grizzly bear occurrence, but no evidence of grizzly bears has been found in the San Juan Mountains since a bear was killed there in 1979.

Mr. Neil Snow

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Recovery: In 1981, the Service hired a grizzly bear recovery coordinator to direct recovery efforts and to coordinate all agency efforts on research and management of grizzly bears in the lower 48 States. Recovery of the grizzly bear covers four states and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regions. The initial Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was completed in 1982. A revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan included additional tasks and new information that increased the focus and effectiveness of recovery efforts. The national grizzly bear recovery coordinator contact information:

Dr. Chris Servheen
University Hall, Room 309
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
telephone 406-243-4903
fax 406-329-3212

Recent Actions: On July 28, 1975, the grizzly bear was designated as threatened on the conterminous (lower 48) United States (40 FR 31734-31736).

On March 22, 2007, the Service announced that the Yellowstone Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of grizzly bears is a recovered population no longer meeting the ESA's definition of threatened or endangered. For more information on this announcement visit [Yellowstone grizzly bear webpage](#).

On April 18, 2007, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the initiation of a 5-year review of grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) (as listed in the lower 48 States excluding the Greater Yellowstone Area population) and 8 other species ([72 FR 19549](#)). We conducted reviews to ensure that our classification of each species as threatened or endangered on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is accurate. A 5-year review is an assessment of the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review.

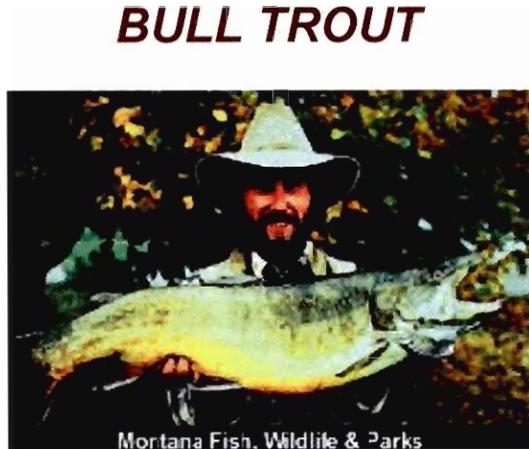
CANADA LYNX



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that changing the boundaries of the Endangered Species Act listing for the Canada lynx to include the State of New Mexico is warranted; however, the action is precluded at this time by the need to complete other listing actions of a higher priority.

- Federal Register Notice: December 17, 2009 [12-month Finding on a Petition To Change the Final Listing of the Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx To Include New Mexico](#)
- Press Release: December 16, 2009 [Protection for Canada Lynx in New Mexico Is Warranted](#)

On March 24, 2000, the contiguous United States population of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This site provides access to various sources of information on the Canada lynx, including documents about recovery planning, critical habitat, the listing decision, section 7 consultations, research, archives, and other informational web sites.



NCTC Makes Scarce Bull Trout Photos Available – No Bull!

The Fish and Wildlife Service has revised the 2005 critical habitat designation for bull trout, a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The range of the bull trout includes Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

In Montana, the Service designated as critical habitat approximately 3,056 stream miles and approximately 221,471 acres of lakes or reservoirs in Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties.

Under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management considerations or protection. A critical habitat designation does not affect land ownership or set up a preserve or refuge and only applies to situations where federal funding, permitting, or land is involved.

Meltwater Lednian Stonefly



Photo by Joe Giersch

The meltwater lednian stonefly (*Lednia tumana*) is an aquatic insect in the order Plecoptera (stoneflies). Stoneflies are primarily associated with clean, cool streams and rivers. Juvenile meltwater lednian stoneflies are found in snow-melt runoff streams in high elevation, alpine and subalpine streams, most typically in locations closely linked to glacial runoff. The species is generally restricted to streams with mean summer water temperature less than 10 degrees Celsius (oC) or 50 degrees Fahrenheit (oF). The meltwater lednian stonefly is found in only a few locations within Glacier National Park, Montana.

The lednian meltwater stonefly has three distinct life stages – the aquatic egg and nymph – and the terrestrial adults. Stoneflies spend most of their lifespan in the egg and nymph forms and may complete their life cycles in a single year or in 2 to 3 years. Adults are short-lived and emerge from the water to mate on vegetation along the stream by July or August. The females then deposit their eggs in the stream. The nymph is dark red-brown on its dorsal (top) surface and pink on the ventral (lower) surface, with light grey-green legs. Mature nymphs range in size from 0.18 to 0.26 inches. Adults are small also, ranging in size from 0.16 to 0.24 inches.

Recent Actions

August 18, 2009: After an initial review of a petition submitted by the WildEarth Guardians, the Service determined that the Bearmouth mountainsnail, Byrne Resort mountainsnail, and meltwater lednian stonefly may be warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act. With that determination, the Service commenced status reviews for the three species.

Status Review Results

April 5, 2011: The Service completed a 12-month status review of the meltwater lednian stonefly and determined that the meltwater lednian stonefly is warranted for listing, but is precluded by higher priority actions. The species listing priority number (LPN) is 4, meaning the identified threats to the species are high in magnitude but the immediacy of the threats is non-imminent.

In the same 12-month finding, we also found that the Bearmouth and Byrne Resort mountainsnails do not warrant protection under the Act. The Bearmouth mountainsnail and Byrne Resort mountainsnail are terrestrial mollusks commonly called "mountainsnails." Because these mountainsnails are not recognized as species by the scientific community, they are not listable entities as defined by the ESA. Since we have concluded that the two petitioned mountainsnails are not listable entities, an analysis of threats is not required under the ESA. Therefore, we will take no further action with these species at this time.

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WOLVERINE



Photo Credit: Steve Kroschel

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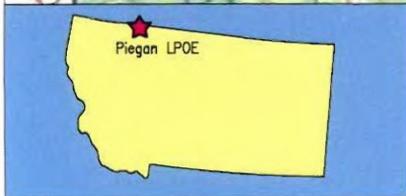
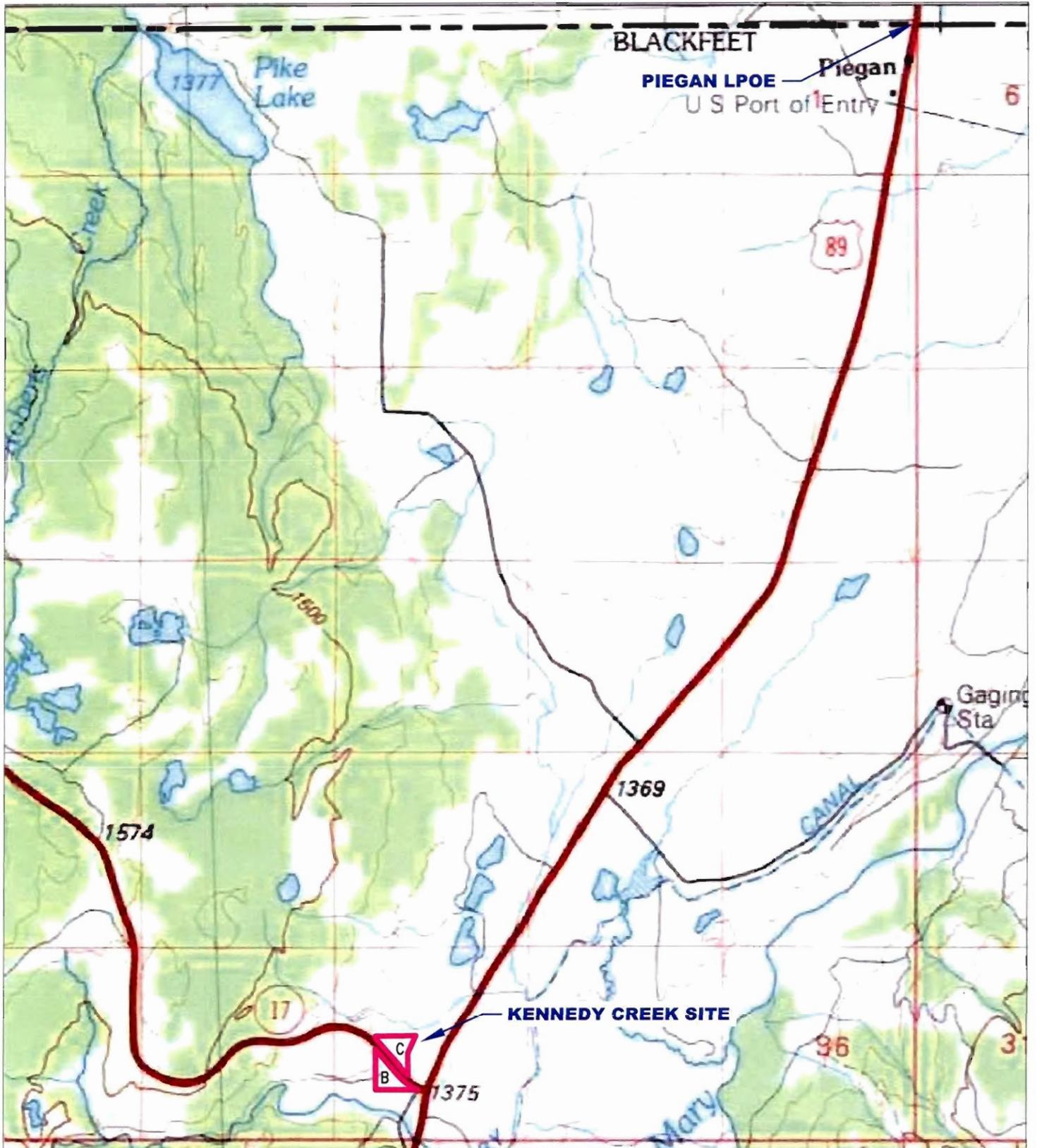
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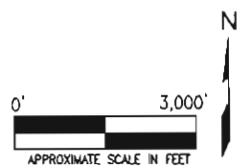
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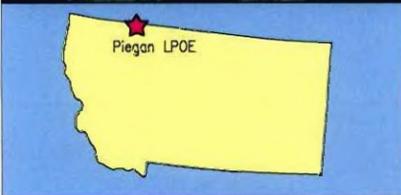
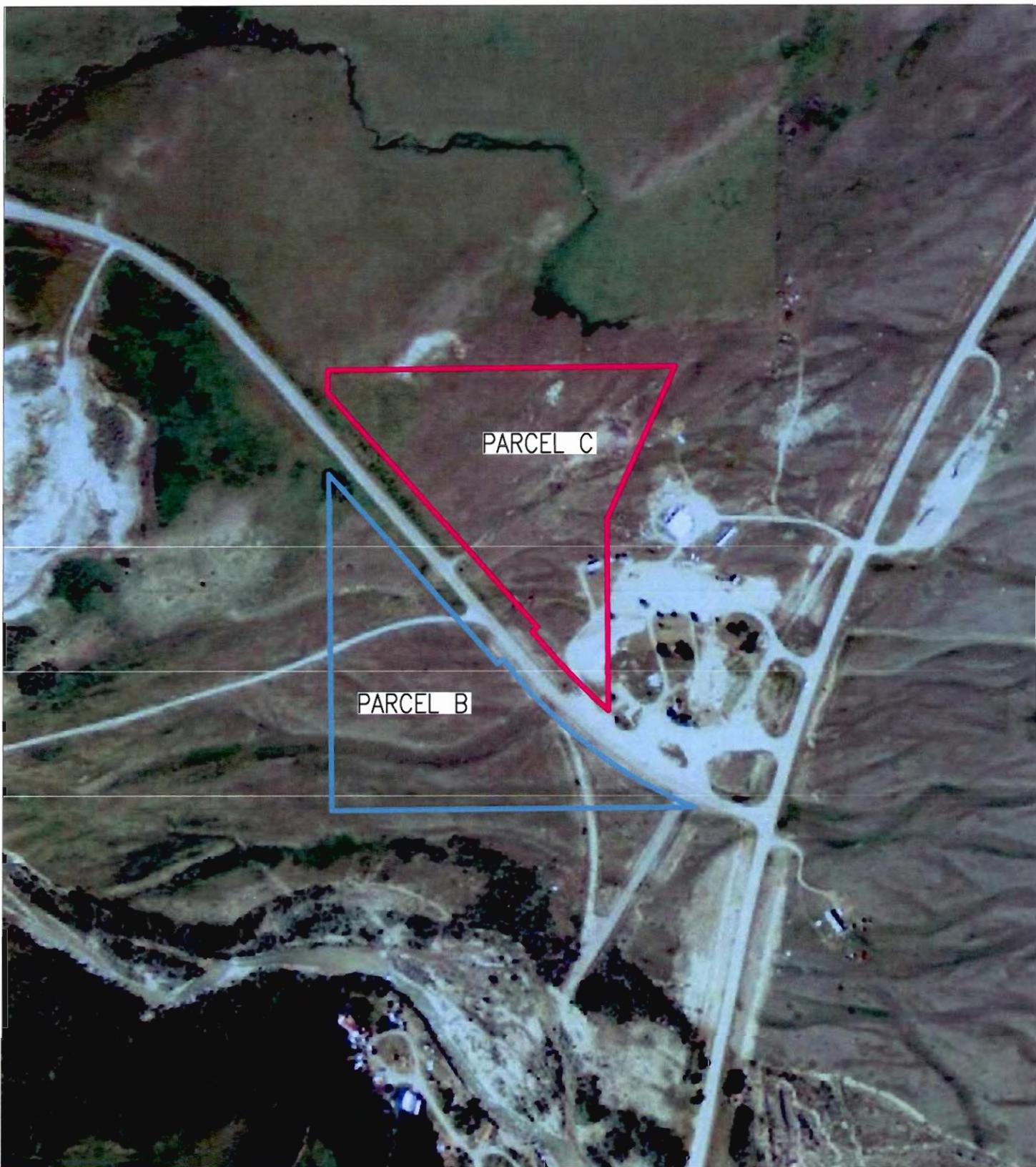
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Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

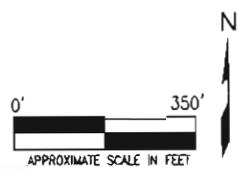
Date: September 2011
Source: USGS Map Dated 1985





Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

Date: September 2011
Source: Google Earth Map Dated 2009



21 November 2011

RECEIVED
NOV 28 2011

Deborah Farris, C.E.I.
Project Manager
Doutherty Sprague Environmental, Inc.
3902 Industrial Street, Suite A
Rowlett, TX 75088

Dear Ms. Farris,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 1 November 2011 regarding dse Project No. 2530910-02, entitled "Existing Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Housing", a proposed project located in Babb, Montana.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is a data-neutral, non-regulatory Program. As such, we are unable to comment on whether we are "in general concurrence" regarding your firm's determination of "no effect" on species of concern, such as (from your letter) Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, Bull Trout, Meltwater Leñnian Stonefly, Spague's Pipit, and Wolverine.

May I recommend that your firm also be in contact with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, since they are the Montana state agency that regulates and monitors the species indicated above? The appropriate regional office is FWP Region 4 at <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/r4/>.

With best regards,



Neil Snow, Ph.D.
Director
Montana Natural Heritage Program
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800





**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Michael Jandreau
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Jandreau:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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to accommodate the 16 housing units and supporting facilities and infrastructure. In addition, CBP has an immediate need to construct four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original port building. These four units are in poor condition.

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The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

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The Honorable Michael Jandreau

Page 3

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Roger Trudell
Santee Sioux Nation
108 Spirit Lake Avenue West
Niobrara, NE 68760-7219

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Trudell:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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The Honorable Roger Trudell

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Mike DesRosier
Glacier County Courthouse
512 East Main Street
Cut Bank, MT 59427

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. DesRosier:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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Mr. Mike DesRosier

Page 3

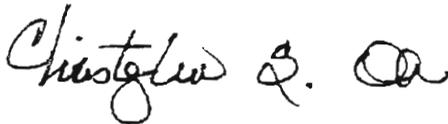
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Marcus D. Wells
Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
404 Frontage Road
New Town, ND 58763

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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The Honorable Marcus D. Wells
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Ed Tinsley
Department of Homeland Security
Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division
1956 MT Majo Street
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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Mr. Ed Tinsley

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Mr. Ed Tinsley
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Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Michael Johnson
Department of Transportation
District 3
200 Smelter Avenue NE
Great Falls, MT 59403-1359

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

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Mr. Michael Johnson
Page 3

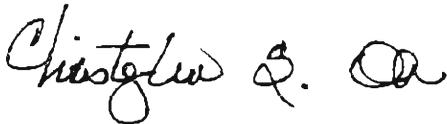
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. James Martin
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street, MC - 8RA
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Martin:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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Mr. James Martin

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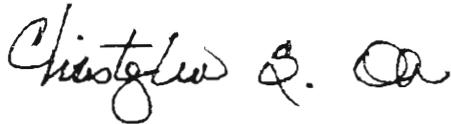
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 27 2011

Mr. Larry Svoboda
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8
NEPA Compliance and Review
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Svoboda:

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There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Mr. Larry Svoboda

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Peter Brown
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Section 106 Review and Compliance Coordinator
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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Mr. Peter Brown
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Richard Opper
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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Mr. Richard Opper

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Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Keith Beartusk
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Billings Area Office
316 N. 26th Street
Billings, MT 59101

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Beartusk:

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There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

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Mr. Keith Beartusk

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Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable John Morales Jr.
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
Post Office Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Morales:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The Honorable John Morales, Jr.

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Albert LeBeau
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. LeBeau:

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Mr. Albert LeBeau

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Quanah Matheson
Coeur D'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 408
Plummer, ID 83851

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Matheson:

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Mr. Quanah Matheson

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Ms. Marcia Pablo
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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Ms. Marcia Pablo

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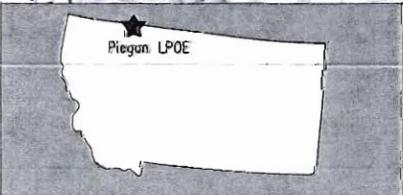
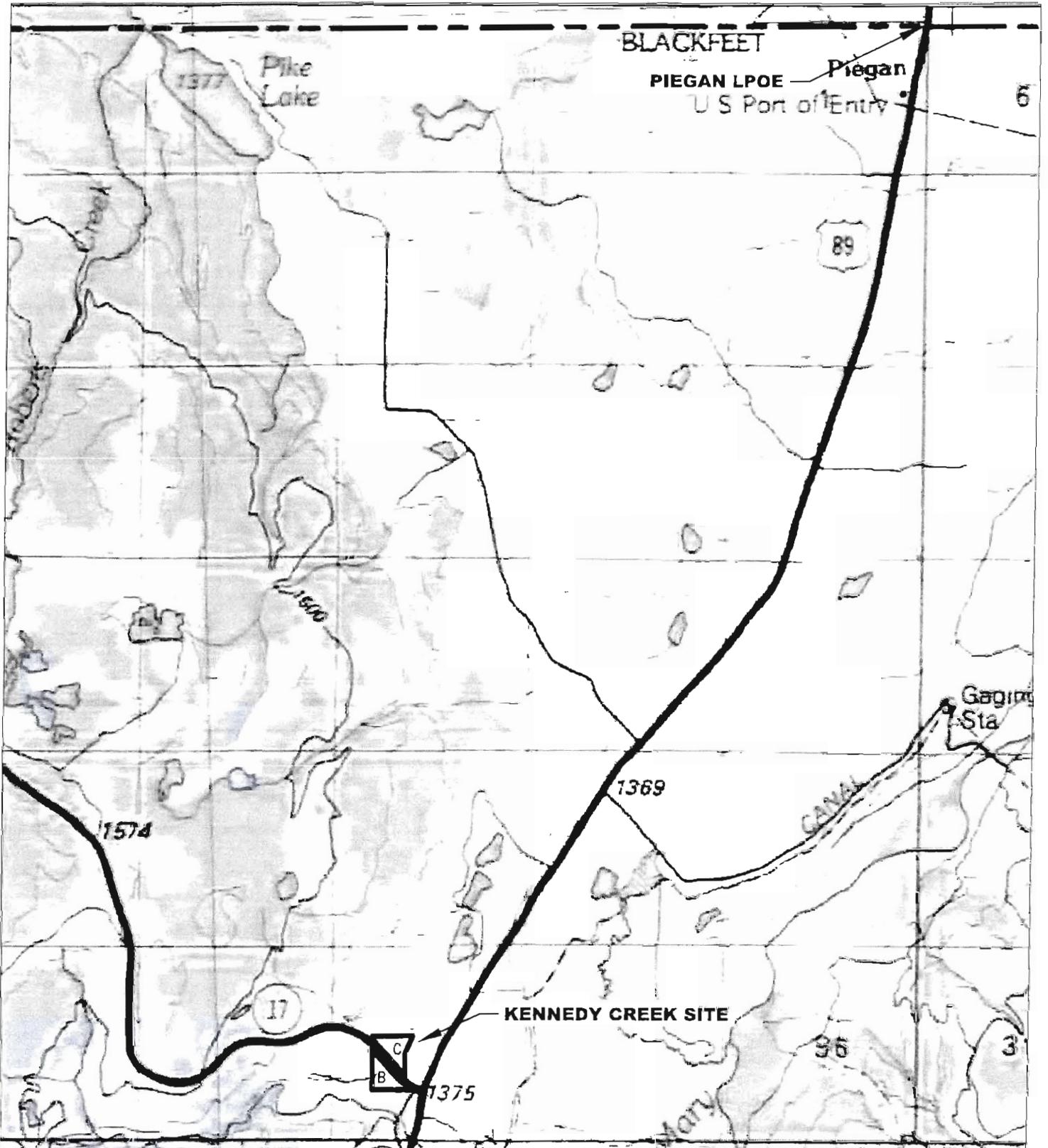
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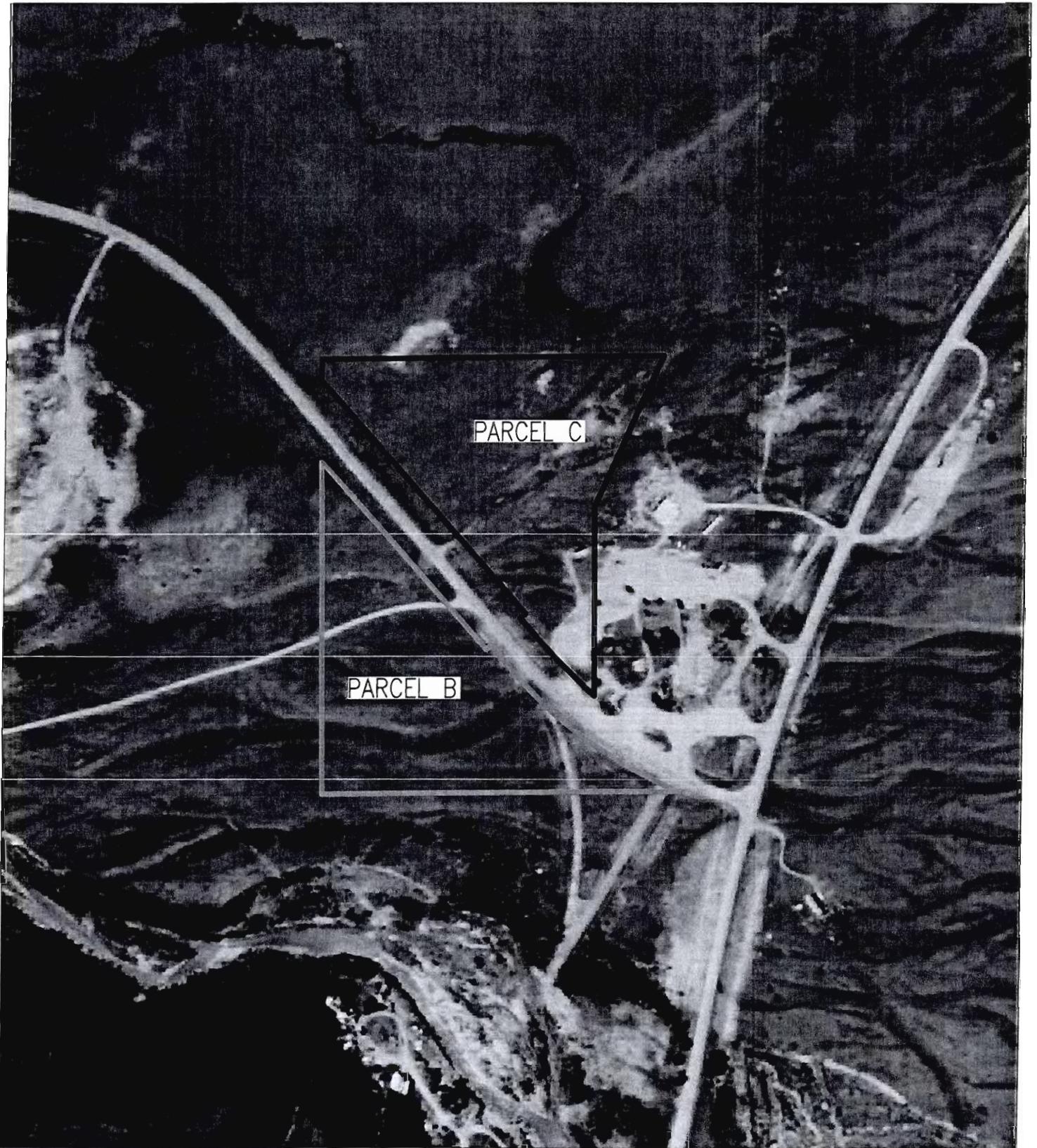
Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



Date: September 2011
Source: USGS Map Dated 1985

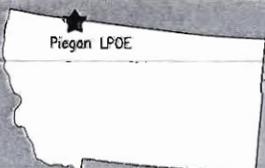
Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry





PARCEL B

PARCEL C



Piegan LPOE

Piegan Housing Environmental Assessment
Glacier County, Montana
Piegan Port of Entry

Date: September 2011
Source: Google Earth Map Dated 2009



APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Dale Old Horn
Crow Tribe of Montana - The Crow Tribe of Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Old Horn:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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GSA is proposing to address this need for additional housing by acquiring land and constructing housing units for CBP employees in the vicinity of Piegan/Babb, Montana. The project will be phased and start with the construction of 11 housing units, and later phases will result in a total

of 16 housing units as funding becomes available. The site acquisition will include enough space to accommodate the 16 housing units and supporting facilities and infrastructure. In addition, CBP has an immediate need to construct four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original port building. These four units are in poor condition.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

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Mr. Dale Old Horn

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Lester Thompson
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation
Post Office Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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The Honorable Lester Thompson
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Glen Nenema
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation
Post Office Box 39
Usk, WA 99180-0039

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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The Honorable Glen Nenema

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Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Jennifer Porter
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Post Office Box 1269
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805-1269

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

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The Honorable Jennifer Porter

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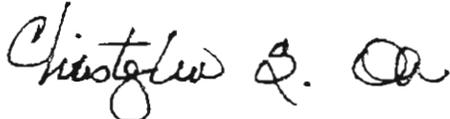
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Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Josiah Pinkham
Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540-0365

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Pinkham:

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Mr. Josiah Pinkham

Page 3

3. **No-Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct four units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Conrad Fisher
Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Fisher:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important to the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate, near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

GSA is proposing to address this need for additional housing by acquiring land and constructing housing units for CBP employees in the vicinity of Piegan/Babb, Montana. The project will be phased and start with the construction of 11 housing units, and later phases will result in a total

of 16 housing units as funding becomes available. The site acquisition will include enough space to accommodate the 16 housing units and supporting facilities and infrastructure. In addition, CBP has an immediate need to construct four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original port building. These four units are in poor condition.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA. These are:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct and operate 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct and operate four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
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Mr. Conrad Fisher

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Russell Eagle Bear
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 809
Rosebud, SD 57570

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Eagle Bear:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Mr. Russell Eagle Bear

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Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Kyle Prior
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
Post Office Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Prior:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The Honorable Kyle Prior
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Alonzo Coby
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho
Post Office Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Coby:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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The Honorable Alonzo Coby

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Ivan D. Posey
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
Post Office Box 217
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Posey:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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The Honorable Ivan D. Posey

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Tim Mentz
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Mentz:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important to the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate, near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

GSA is proposing to address this need for additional housing by acquiring land and constructing housing units for CBP employees in the vicinity of Piegan/Babb, Montana. The project will be phased and start with the construction of 11 housing units, and later phases will result in a total

of 16 housing units as funding becomes available. The site acquisition will include enough space to accommodate the 16 housing units and supporting facilities and infrastructure. In addition, CBP has an immediate need to construct four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original port building. These four units are in poor condition.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA. These are:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct and operate 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct and operate four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
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Mr. Tim Mentz
Page 3

3. **No-Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct four units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable John Yellow Bird Steele
Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Post Office Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Yellow Bird Steele:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The Honorable John Yellow Bird Steele

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Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Governor Brian Schweitzer
Office of the Governor
Montana State Capitol Building, Post Office Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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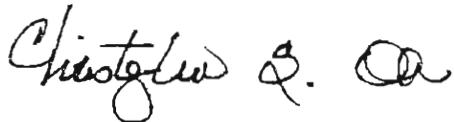
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer - Blackfeet Nation
620 All Chief Road, Post Office Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Murray:

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Mr. John Murray
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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Julia Doney
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
RR 1, Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Ms. Doney:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

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The Honorable Julia Doney

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Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Willie Sharp
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
1 Agency Square
Browning, MT 59417

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Sharp:

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to accommodate the 16 housing units and supporting facilities and infrastructure. In addition, CBP has an immediate need to construct four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original port building. These four units are in poor condition.

There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

The new off-site housing project will be built in two or more phases. The total number of housing units needed is 16, however, current funding will only allow for the construction of 11 housing units in the initial phase. In later phases and as funding becomes available, housing units will be built to reach the total build-out of 16 residential housing units. The additional site area and utility infrastructure capacity for 16 housing units will be included as part of Phase 1.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CBP and GSA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this undertaking, to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Three alternatives will be discussed in the EA. These are:

1. **Preferred Action:** CBP/GSA would acquire land at Kennedy Creek and construct and operate 11 new housing units, with infrastructure developed to accommodate up to 16 houses. In addition, CBP would construct and operate four new homes on “infill” sites at the existing Piegan LPOE housing development site to replace four apartment units in the original Port Building. There would no longer be a need for housing in the Port Building and it would be demolished.
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The Honorable Willie Sharp

Page 3

3. **No-Action Alternative:** The existing housing situation would be continued. CBP would not acquire land and construct new employee housing nor would it construct four units of infill housing at the Piegan LPOE. The old Port Building would remain for housing.

We will also be submitting the Draft NEPA EA to your office for review.

As part of these efforts, we are initiating correspondence with state and local government agencies, officials, and representatives as appropriate regarding these locations in Montana. We are also initiating National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer and with federally recognized tribes that may have an interest in these locations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher S. Oh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Alvin Windy Boy
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
RR 1 #544
Box Elder, MT 59521

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of
Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services
Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. Windy Boy:

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I am writing regarding the above-referenced project.

There is currently insufficient housing available to accommodate CBP employees that work at the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The LPOE at Piegan is located ten miles north of the City of Babb, Montana. Babb is a small unincorporated community in Glacier County, Montana, United States, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The LPOE is located on the Reservation. The LPOE is a 63-acre site and contains the Piegan LPOE, the St. Mary Substation and employee housing. There are 27 government housing units on this site including 16 single family houses, one manufactured home, four units in the converted historic Old Port Building and six urgent-needs duplex units. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently owns and operates these housing facilities but is transferring ownership and operation to CBP. The majority of the housing was built in 2000-2005 with the exception of the Old Port Building which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ability to provide quality housing options to CBP personnel is important to the recruitment and retention of staff. The number of housing units proposed in the current project is limited by available funding and is thus focused on immediate/near-term needs. This project is not intended to satisfy the needs of the projected personnel staffing level; it is intended to provide housing in sufficient quantity to meet immediate, near-term needs—approximately 11 units. Housing provided by this project would be available to CBP staff at market rental rates. The housing makeup would be a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes depending on the staff demographic at the time of construction. There would be no requirement or mandatory directive for personnel to rent government-owned housing. CBP does not designate where staff members reside or require staff members to occupy government-owned housing. Should any government-owned housing be unoccupied, the units would not be available to the general public for rent.

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There is insufficient nearby housing available to accommodate CBP personnel who currently work at the Piegan, Montana LPOE. With the projected increase of additional personnel, the demand for suitable housing will also increase. Existing government-owned housing available for CBP employees adjacent to the LPOE is substandard. Other housing options for CBP employees in the vicinity of the Piegan LPOE are limited due to a scarcity of quality available rental properties. Approximately 29 port personnel currently staff the Piegan LPOE. The staffing projections for the next several years are expected to approach approximately 32 employees. Currently 25 employees utilize the existing housing and four employees commute on a daily basis, living in the existing area housing market. Daily commutes are between 10 and 80 miles each way, with one employee driving home on the weekends with a one-way commute of 130 miles. This lack of sufficient housing has resulted in staff retention issues, financial costs, and additional stress from extended round-trip commute times, especially with the regular inclement weather in the area.

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Mr. Alvin Windy Boy
Page 3

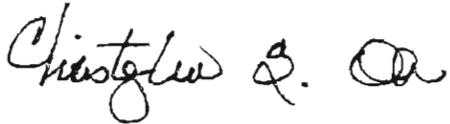
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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

SEP 21 2011

Mr. Eric LaPointe
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Blackfeet Agency
Box 880
Browning, MT 59417

Reference: National Environmental Policy Act for the Land Acquisition and Construction of Housing Units for U.S. Customs and Border Protection/General Services Administration Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. LaPointe:

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Mr. Eric LaPointe

Page 3

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Hass, Acting Planning Branch Manager, at (202) 344-1929 or via email at Jennifer.Hass@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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Christopher S. Oh
Acting Director
Environmental and Energy Division

A.4 PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

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U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

MAR 12 2012



Sep 3/16/12
Medis 3/16/2012

*Please determine if BFA has any
concerns. Thanks - Sep*

Mr. Eric LaPointe
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Blackfeet Agency
Box 880
Browning, MT 59417

Reference Draft Environmental Assessment for the Construction and Operation of New Housing and Infrastructure at the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana

Dear Mr. LaPointe:

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500) and Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023.1 Environmental Planning Program, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the construction and operation of new housing units and infrastructure for the Piegan, Montana Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana.

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will undergo a 30-day review period beginning with the Publication of the Notice of Availability on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 and concluding on Friday, April 13, 2012. Agencies, organizations and individuals are invited to comment.

Enclosed you will find a CD containing the Draft EA and Draft FONSI. Copies are also available at the Glacier County Courthouse Clerk and Recorder's office front desk, all Glacier County Public Libraries at the Reference Desk, and the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council at the front desk. Electronic versions of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI are available for your review and/or download at the following website: www.PieganHousingEA.com.

Written comments regarding the Draft EA and Draft FONSI should be sent to the following address:

Piegan Housing EA
Post Office Box 1962
Rowlett, Texas 75030-1139

E-mail comments can be sent to: info@PieganHousingEA.com

Mr. Eric LaPointe

Page 2

Throughout this process, information may be obtained on the status and progress of the environmental analysis by contacting Dr. Paula Bienenfeld, Project Manager, at (202) 325-4234 or via email at Paula.Bienenfeld@associates.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Jennifer D. Hass
Director
Environmental and Energy Division

Enclosure(s)



April 5, 2012

Piegan Housing EA
Post Office Box 1962
Rowlett, Texas 75030-1139

Subject: Draft EA for Construction & Operation of New Housing & Infrastructure
Piegan Land Port of Entry, Glacier County, Montana

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) staff has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the construction and operation of new housing and infrastructure at the Piegan Land Port of Entry in Glacier County Montana. The proposed work is adjacent to US 89. US 89 is under the jurisdiction of MDT.

The proposed action is for 16 housing units to be installed within existing housing area boundary, this area accesses US 89 using existing approaches. If new approaches are needed for construction, please contact the MDT Havre Area Office – 1649 US Highway 2 NW, Havre MT 59501-3455.

MDT has no additional comments on the Draft EA.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (406) 444-9456 or email at jriley@mt.gov.

Sincerely,



Jean A. Riley, P.E.
Transportation Planning Engineer
Planning & Policy Analysis Bureau

Copies: Mick Johnson – Great Falls District Administrator
Matt Ladenburg – Havre Maintenance Chief
Mike Tierney – MDT Planning & Policy Analysis
File



**Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

1520 East 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620 • (406) 444-4218 • Fax: (406) 444-5330

April 18, 2012

General Services Administration
Michael Gasser
P.O. Box 25546, Bldg. 41
Room 240
Denver, CO 80225-0546

Re: Additional Corrective Action and Work Plan Required for Petroleum Release at the Piegan Border Station in Babb, Montana, Facility ID 18-08076, Release 3817

Dear Mr. Gasser,

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the Piegan Border Station UST Historic Record Review and the Piegan Border Station UST Historic Record Review (Gasoline Tank) reports that you prepared and submitted on March 22 and March 27, 2012 respectively. Based on the information, including sample analytical data provided in those reports, DEQ has determined that further remedial action is required before the site may receive a No Further Corrective Action letter.

By **May 31, 2012**, please submit a Standardized Addition Remedial Investigation Corrective Action Plan (CAP_RI-02) to DEQ. Include the following scope of work in the CAP:

- A groundwater investigation that includes the installation of 3-4 groundwater monitoring wells. The groundwater monitoring wells shall be placed to the north, east, and west of the garage in locations that will determine whether groundwater is adversely impacted by the former gasoline UST located north of the garage, the two former 4,000 gallon heating oil UST located west of the garage, and the two USTs utilized for heating oil and possibly waste oil that were closed in placed underneath the garage. Groundwater is anticipated to exist between 8-12' bgs. However there is some uncertainty because no groundwater was encountered in Hole "B." It is not anticipated that the monitoring wells will need to be installed at a greater depth than 25' bgs.
- Groundwater samples shall be collected from the newly installed monitoring wells and analyzed for Volatile Petroleum Hydrocarbons (VPH), Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (EPH), and EPA analytical methods 8260B, 8270, and 200.7 (for metals).
- Please collect four 5-point composite soil samples at the Garry Hannons' landfarm where the 1,342 cubic yards of impacted soil was disposed in 2003. Soil samples shall be analyzed for VPH and EPH.

- Verify the building structure next to the closed in-place USTs and indicated whether the basement has a dirt floor or is encased in concrete. This information will be utilized to evaluate whether vapor intrusion is an issue. The necessity of a full vapor intrusion investigation will depend on groundwater results from the newly installed groundwater monitoring wells.
- Reporting: At the conclusion of the remedial investigation, please present the data in a Standardized Additional RI Report (Report_RI-02).
- Standardized DEQ CAP and report formats may be found on the DEQ website at: <http://deq.mt.gov/LUST/TechGuidDocs/techguidlist.mcp.x>.
- DEQ requires paper and electronic copies of all reports. Submit the electronic copies on CD or DVD in MS Word, Excel, or Adobe Acrobat PDF format. The use of email to transmit correspondence throughout the remediation process is acceptable for files of less than 3 megabytes.

Implementation of the CAP can begin after you receive written notification that the scope of the CAP has been approved by DEQ. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 841-5049 or aaanderson@mt.gov.

Sincerely,



Aaron Anderson
Environmental Science Specialist
DEQ-LBS

cc: Bob Racine, Glacier County Sanitarian, 512 E. Main, Cut Bank, MT 59427

G:\HWC\LBS-PTS Directory\Petroleum Releases\18Glacier\Babb\180876 Border station\AdditionalCAPRqrd4_12.docx

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MONTANA

SS.

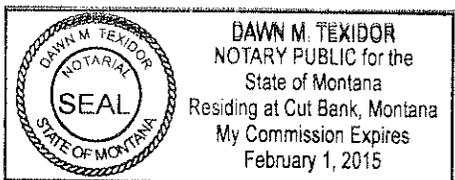
County of Glacier

I, Patty Grubb, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legals Editor of The Glacier Reporter, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Browning, Glacier County, Montana, and that the notice annexed:

NOA
Piegan Land Port of Entry

has been correctly published in the regular and entire issue of every number of said paper for one (1) consecutive issues, commencing on the 14th day of March, 2012 and ending on the 14th day of March, 2012.

Patty Grubb
Subscribed and sworn before me this 14th day of March A.D., 2012. Dawn M. Texidor



PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE THE STATE OF MONTANA COUNTY OF GLACIER NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Construction and Operation of New Housing and Infrastructure at the Piegan Land Port of Entry, Piegan, Glacier County, Montana

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, and U.S. Border Patrol utilizing the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act Guidelines and Procedures.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500) and Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023.1 Environmental Planning Program, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the General Services Administration (GSA) conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the construction and operation of new housing units and infrastructure for the Piegan Land Port of Entry (LPOE) located in Piegan, Glacier County, Montana.

CBP is proposing to construct and operate up to 16 new residential housing units and required infrastructure within the Piegan LPOE, near Babb, Montana. The proposed new housing and infrastructure will provide much-needed quality housing options for CBP personnel. GSA currently owns the land and the LPOE building, which contain housing units. GSA will transfer ownership and operation of the housing to CBP.

The EA is undergoing a 30-day public comment period, starting Wednesday, March 14, 2012 and ending Friday, April 13, 2012, which was established to provide all agencies, organizations and individuals with the opportunity to comment on the Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Copies of the EA are available at the Glacier County Courthouse Clerk and Recorder's office front desk (512 E. Main St., Cut Bank, MT 59427), all Glacier County Public Libraries (Browning Public Library, 9 Second St. NW, Browning, MT 59417; East Glacier Public Library, Highway #2, East Glacier Park, MT 59434; Glacier County Library, 21 First Ave. SE, Cut Bank, MT 59427) at the Reference Desk, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (1 Agency Square, Browning, MT 59417) at the front desk, and may be viewed and/or downloaded from www.PieganHousingEA.com.

Written comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI should be sent to the following address:

Piegan Housing EA
Post Office Box 1962
Rowlett, Texas 75030-1139
E-mail comments can be sent to: info@PieganHousingEA.com

Publish: March 14, 2012

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MONTANA

SS.

County of Glacier

I, Patty Grubb, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legals Editor of *The Cut Bank Pioneer Press*, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Cut Bank, Glacier County, Montana, and that the notice annexed:

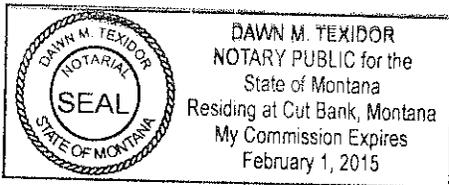
Notice of Availability
Piegan Land Port
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Patty Grubb

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Dawn M. Texidor



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THE STATE OF MONTANA
COUNTY OF GLACIER
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
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