

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT, HELENA NATIONAL FOREST
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

AIRPORT NAME AND LOCATION:

Lincoln Airport
Lincoln, Montana

PROPOSED FEDERAL ACTION:

Environmental approval for the following development items at Lincoln Airport, Lincoln, Montana.

- a. Acquire approximately 31 acres of land in fee, 0.8 acres in Runway Protection Zone easement, and approximately 40 acres of land under authorized use from the Helena National Forest.
- b. Shift existing runway alignment 70 feet to the north. Reconstruct Runway 4/22 to 4,240 feet in length by 75 feet in width.
- c. Construct a new parallel (half-length) taxiway from the Runway 22 threshold to midfield. Construct an 80-foot wide turnaround onto the Runway 4 threshold.
- d. Construct new fixed-wing and rotor-wing parking aprons.
- e. Install a new Medium Intensity Runway Lighting system (MIRL) on the reconstructed runway.
- f. Install a PAPI on Runway 4 and a new lighted windcone and segmented circle. Relocate the existing beacon and tower.
- g. Clear trees on both sides of runway to 270 feet.
- h. Add 9' high wildlife fence around perimeter of airport and across both runway approaches.
- i. Relocate six (6) existing hangars beyond the Taxiway Object Free Area.
- j. Remove five power poles along Highway 200 and bury and 960 LF of 25 kV power transmission line.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND REASONS FOR FONSI:

The environmental impacts related to the proposed actions are described in the referenced Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Lincoln Airport, Lincoln, Montana dated July, 2004. No significant impacts on the quality of the environment were identified as a result of the proposed action.

The Draft EA (dated May, 2004) was coordinated with affected state, local and federal agencies. Comments received from this coordination are documented in the final EA.

The general public was given an opportunity to review the Draft EA and a public hearing was held on June 23, 2004 at the Lincoln Community Hall, Lincoln, Montana. Included in the appendix of the Final EA are comments that were received at the hearing relative to environmental concerns as a result of the proposed project, responses from the Lewis & Clark County Commission, and the transcript of the public hearing.

Additional investigations and evaluations were completed in February, 2005. Pursuant to USDA Forest Service NEPA requirements, two (2) reports titled "Biological Assessment For Threatened And Endangered Terrestrial Species" and "Biological Evaluation For Threatened And Sensitive Aquatic Species" were prepared to further evaluate impacts to endangered species in the project area under the proposed development. This process resulted in a determination of concurrence to the conclusions presented in the reports from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in a letter dated February 4, 2005.

PERMITS REQUIRED:

Air Quality:

Asphalt plants and crushers producing surfacing materials for the airport project must have an air quality permit from the MDEQ Permitting and Compliance Division. The supplier of any crushed rock material needed for construction must have an air quality permit from the MDEQ. Open burning (if required) will be accomplished in accordance with state or county regulations.

Water Quality:

A General Discharge permit for storm water associated with construction activity under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) will be obtained from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). As a requirement for this permit, a storm water erosion control plan will be required, specifying the measures that will be employed during construction to control erosion and sediment transport by storm runoff.

Construction Impacts:

The provisions of FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10, Standards for Specifying Construction of Airports (change 10), Item P-156, Temporary Air and Water Pollution, Soil Erosion, and Siltation Control, will be incorporated into the project specifications

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LIST OF REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

The documents listed below are included in the official files of the USDA Forest Service, Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, Montana and are hereby made a part of the FONSI by reference. These documents provide the basis for the environmental assessment of the proposed action.

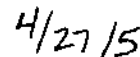
- a. Master Plan for Lincoln Airport (May, 2004).
- b. Final Environmental Assessment for Lincoln Airport (July 2004).
- c. Final Biological Resources Report (December 2004).
- d. Biological Assessment for Threatened and Endangered Terrestrial Species (December 2004).
- e. Biological Evaluation for Threatened and Sensitive Aquatic Species (December 2004).
- f. Letter of Concurrence from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (February 4, 2005).

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDING AND APPROVAL:

After careful and thorough consideration of the facts contained herein, the undersigned finds that the proposed Federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101(a) of the National Environmental Policies Act of 1969 (NEPA), and that it will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or otherwise include any condition requiring consultation pursuant to Section 102(2) (c) of NEPA.



Amber Kamps, District Ranger
Lincoln Ranger District



(Date)