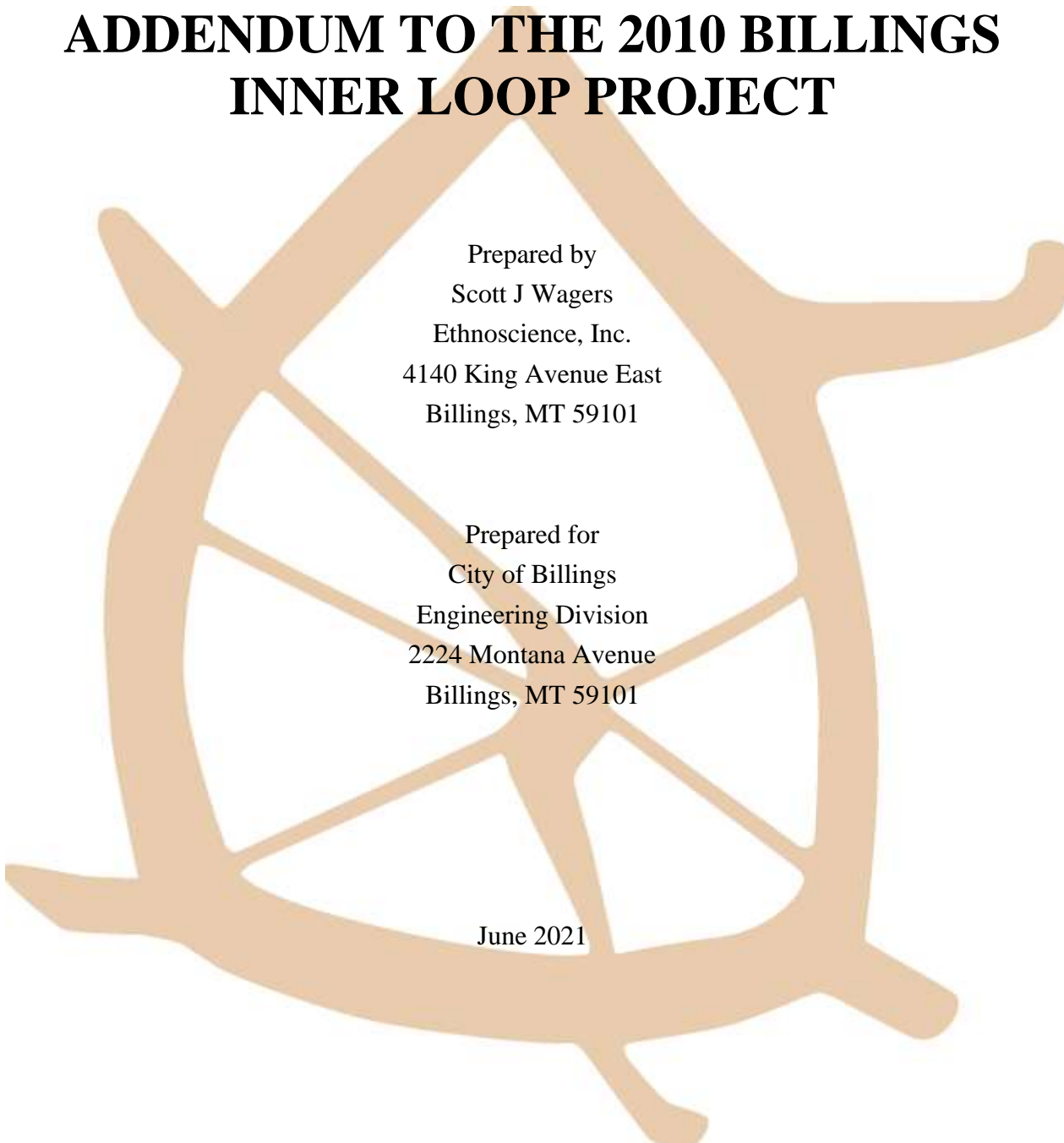


NORTHWEST BILLINGS CONNECTOR AND MARATHON TRAIL PROJECT: ADDENDUM TO THE 2010 BILLINGS INNER LOOP PROJECT



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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	History of the Billings Inner Belt Loop Project Previous Cultural Resource Investigations .	6
3	Methods.....	6
4	Results.....	7
4.1	24YL1850 Update.....	7
4.2	24YL1851 Update.....	11
4.3	Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project Segments Re-surveyed	16
	T1N R26E, Section 18.....	16
	T1N R25E, Section 14.....	18
	Marathon Trail	21
5	Conclusion	22
6	Bibliography	24
	Appendix A: E-mail Communications.....	27
	Appendix B: Skyline Trail Photos	34
	Appendix C: Site Forms.....	42

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Topographic map of Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project.	1
Figure 2 – Topographic map of the 2021 cultural resource inventory area in Section 18, T1N R26E.	3
Figure 3 - Topographic map of the 2021 cultural resource inventory area in Section 14, T1N R25E.	4
Figure 4 – Topographic map of Marathon Trail (Map 1 of 2).....	5
Figure 5 – Topographic map of Marathon Trail (Map 2 of 2).....	5
Figure 6 – Aerial map of 24YL1850.....	8
Figure 7 – Overview of 24YL1850. View to the east-southeast.....	8
Figure 8 – Aerial map of 24YL1851.....	12
Figure 9 – Overview of Features 1 – 5 at 24YL1851. View to the northwest.....	12
Figure 10 – Overview of Feature 6 at 24YL1851. View to the northeast.	13
Figure 11 – Aerial map showing the segment in Section 18.	17
Figure 12 – Overview of west end of segment in Section 18. View to the east-southeast.	18
Figure 13 – Aerial map of segment in Section 14.	19
Figure 14 – Overview of west end of segment in Section 14. View to the southeast.....	20

1 Introduction

The City of Billings is completing the final design for the construction of the Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project (formerly the Billings Inner Loop Project). The purpose of the proposed undertaking is to construct a new arterial roadway that provides an alternative transportation route between the Billings Heights and the West End. It will help alleviate widespread congestion near downtown resulting from constrained arterial roadway and limited transportation options. The proposed project will enhance safety and travel time, provide economic development opportunities, and improve access to recreational opportunities. The proposed project will consist of a new road and adjacent multi-use trail that begins at the intersection of Highway 3 and Zimmerman Trail Road near the center of Section 27, T1N R25E and connects with Alkali Creek Road in the SW¼ of the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 18, T1N R26E (Figure 1). In 2010 Ethnoscience was contracted by Sanderson Stewart to conduct a Class III cultural resource inventory of the Billings Inner Belt Loop project corridor. The inventory and project report were completed in May 2010. After 2010 the project went inactive.

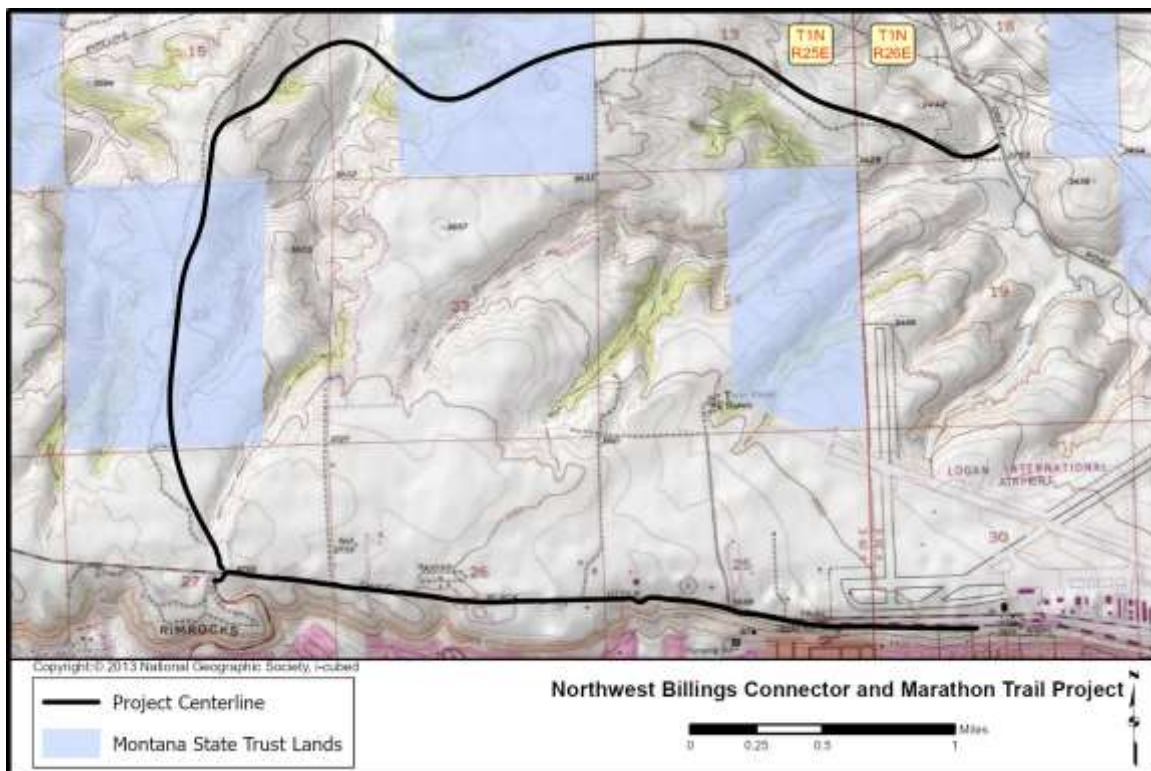


Figure 1 – Topographic map of Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project.

The Billings Inner Belt Loop Project was revived in 2021 and renamed the Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project. Ethnoscience was asked by HDR Engineering and the City of Billings to provide documentation on the 2010 corridor survey. From this documentation, it was determined that both the 2010 and the 2021 corridors were identical. This information was presented to Laura Evilsizer, Review and Compliance Officer with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MTSHPO). She determined the project corridor did not need to be re-surveyed. However, she determined that two areas of high probability near drainages that had low ground surface visibility in 2010 should be re-examined (Figures 2 and 3). In addition, the two sites documented in 2010 (24YL1850 and 24YL1851), would need to be re-visited and evaluated for National Register eligibility (Appendix A: E-mail Communications).

One of the areas of high probability that required a re-survey is partially on Montana School Trust land in Section 14, T1N R25E. A second Montana School Trust parcel is crossed by the project corridor in Section 22, T1N R25E. Patrick Rennie, archaeologist for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), who administers Montana School Trust lands was notified of the 2021 Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project and the two state parcels crossed by the project corridor. He determined the state parcels did not need to be re-examined (Appendix A: E-mail Communications).

The Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project also includes construction of a multi-use trail (Marathon Trail) that runs parallel to Montana Highway 3. The proposed Marathon Trail extends from the existing multi-use trail just west of the Airport roundabout at MT Highway 3 Milepost (MP) 3.3 to the roundabout at the intersection of Zimmerman Trail Road and MT Highway 3 at MP 6.2 (Figures 4 and 5). The trail would be located along the south side of the highway and will be constructed within the highway right-of-way, which in most places is heavily disturbed. Laura Evilsizer at MTSHPO recommended a reconnaissance survey of this proposed trail to identify any undisturbed areas between MP 3.3 and MP 6.2.

The results of the 2021 investigations are presented here as an addendum to the 2010 project report, *Billings Inner Loop: A Class Cultural Resource Inventory in Yellowstone County, Montana* (Broedel and Austin 2010).

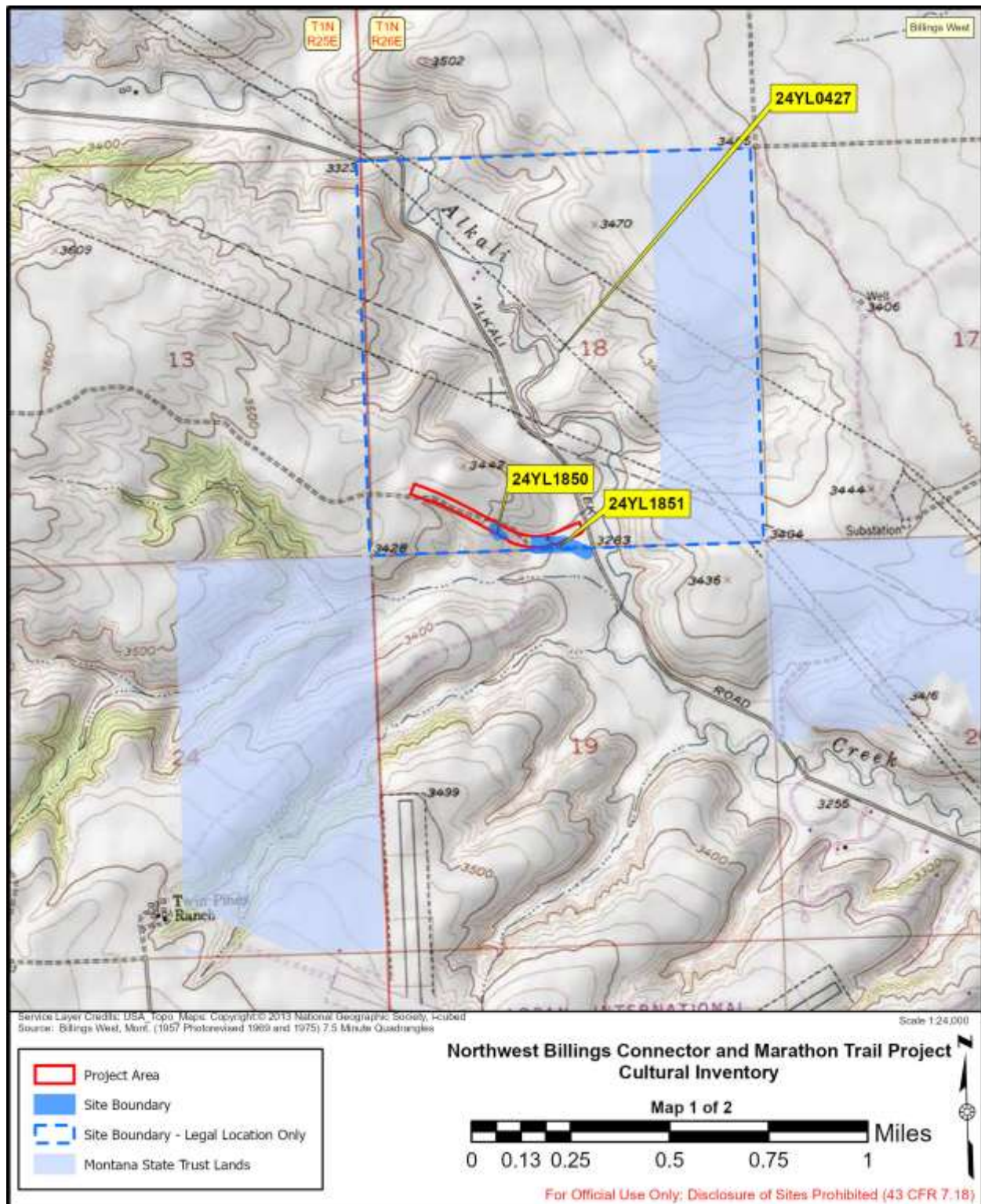


Figure 2 – Topographic map of the 2021 cultural resource inventory area in Section 18, T1N R26E.

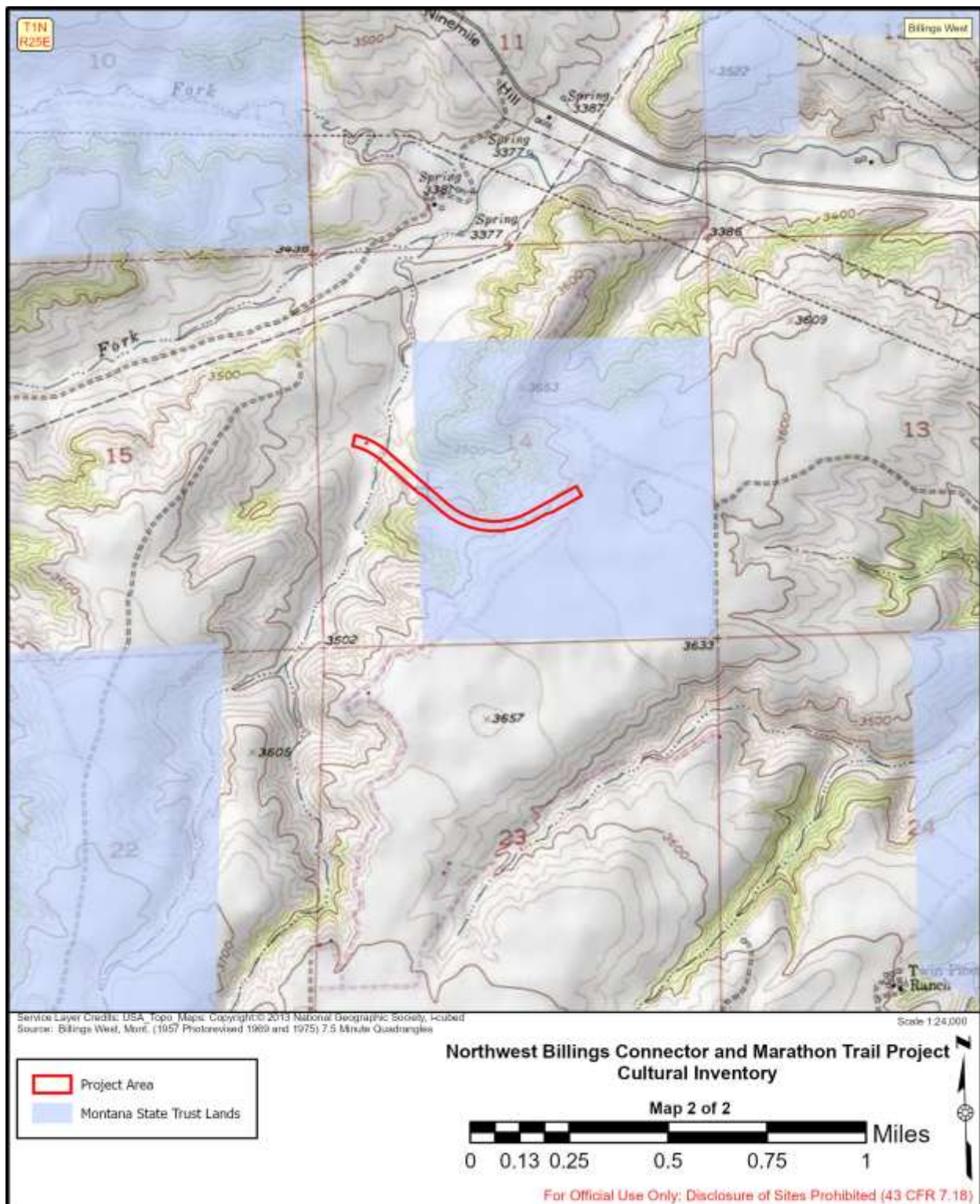


Figure 3 - Topographic map of the 2021 cultural resource inventory area in Section 14, T1N R25E.

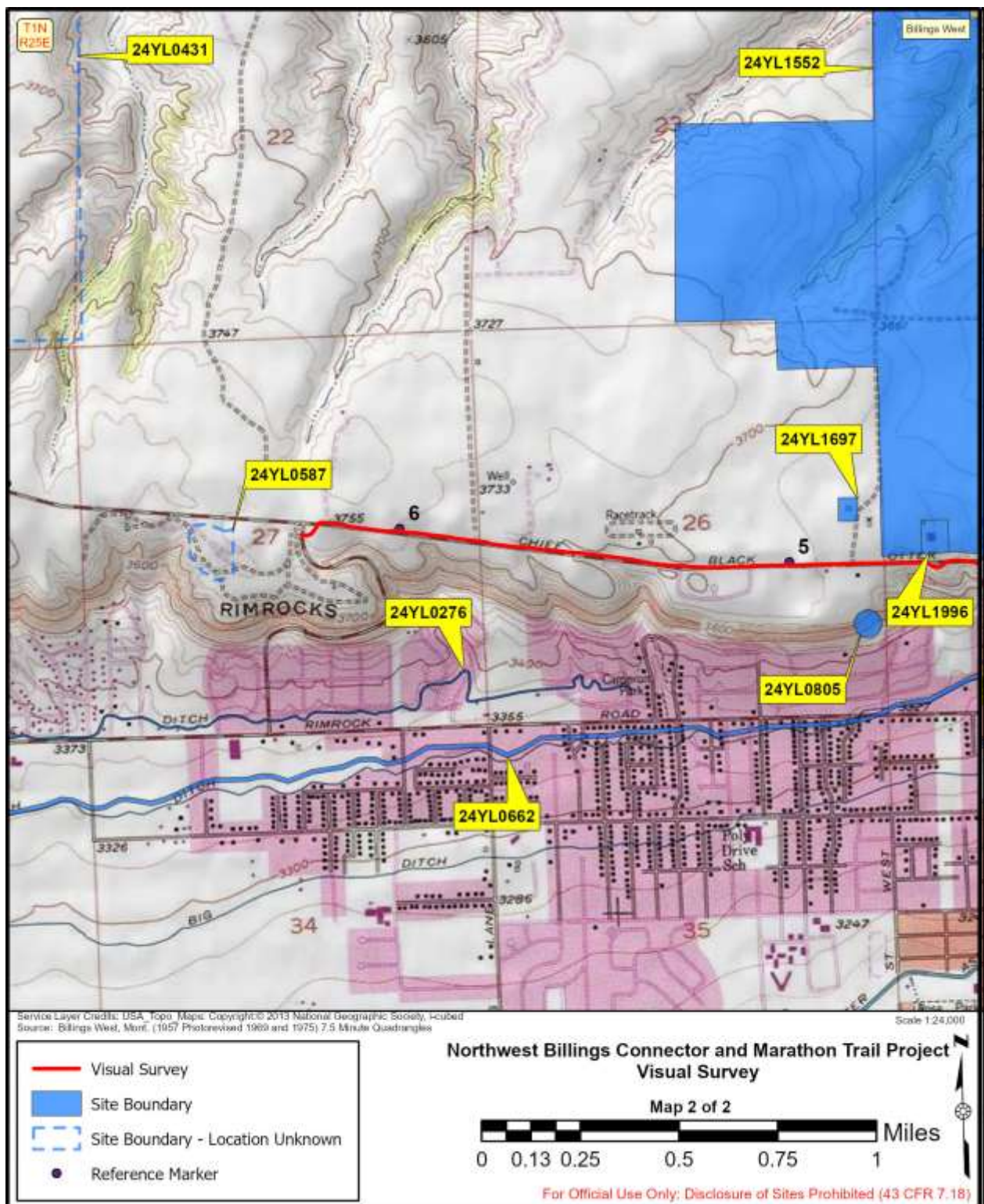


Figure 5 – Topographic map of Marathon Trail (Map 2 of 2).

2 History of the Billings Inner Belt Loop Project Previous Cultural Resource Investigations

The original cultural resource inventory was conducted May 12-13, 2010. Two historic sites were documented within the project corridor. Site 24YL1850 is a historic material scatter that was recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 24YL1851 is a historic farmstead site that was documented as having six features including a partially collapsed shed, a collapsed dugout, two collapsed buildings, a trash pile, and a corral. The site was recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP. A report documenting the 2010 investigation was completed in May 2010 (Broedel and Austin 2010).

3 Methods

A files record search was requested of MTSHPD by HDR Engineering and Ethnoscience requested a supplemental record search on June 2, 2021 (File search# 2012060207). The results of the file search indicate no new inventories/sites have been documented within the 2010 project corridor. However, there have been two cultural resource inventories that included all or portions of the 2021 Marathon Trail corridor but no sites have been documented within the corridor.

Historical Research Associates (Greiser et al. 2000) conducted a Class II windshield survey from Billings to Lookout Pass for a fiber optic project. Their windshield survey included all of the Skyline Trail corridor and did not identify any cultural resources within it. Most recently, Ethnoscience conducted a Class III cultural resource inventory along Airport Road from Main Street to Sky Ranch Drive (Fandrich 2002). This inventory included a portion of the Inner Belt Loop Skyline Trail corridor from MP 3.3 to MP 4.8 and no cultural resources were identified.

4 Results

The 2021 investigation associated with the Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project resulted in updating the two historic sites documented in 2010. Two segments of the survey corridor were re-examined due to poor ground surface visibility in 2010, for a total of 20.5 acres. A Class II reconnaissance survey was conducted along the 2.9-mile route of the Marathon Trail corridor and no areas of undisturbed ground were identified.

The two historic sites were updated and the two high probability drainage segments were surveyed on May 25, 2021. The Class II reconnaissance survey of the Marathon Trail corridor was conducted on May 26, 2021. Ethnoscience archeologists Spencer Propp and Scott J. Wagers conducted the field investigations. The results of the 2021 investigations are discussed below.

4.1 24YL1850 Update

The site was first documented in 2010 as a historic material scatter measuring 50 feet north-south by 100 feet east-west. The scatter consisted mostly of glass fragments of solarized purple, black, aqua, clear, brown and green glass. Ceramics included whiteware and crockery fragments. Metal items included iron cans, solder dot cans, buckets, oil drum fragments, metal straps, wire, a wash basin and a mason jar lid. In total, there were approximately 250 glass, ceramic, and metal fragments. About half were concentrated in the center of the site in an area measuring 10 feet in diameter (Broedel and Austin 2010).

Ethnoscience returned to the site in 2021. The site is located on a terrace on the east-southeast facing slope of a broad flat hill (Figure 6). The site consists of a sparse historic material scatter surrounding an area of concentrated material (Figure 7). The site area exhibits roughly 40 percent average ground surface visibility with portions at 100 percent due to exposed bedrock sandstone.

Vegetation at the site consists of a combination of Great Plains Sand Prairie and Big Sagebrush Steppe (MTNHP 2021).



Figure 6 – Aerial map of 24YL1850.



Figure 7 – Overview of 24YL1850. View to the east-southeast.

The site is mostly unchanged since 2010. As in 2010, approximately 250 fragments of glass, ceramics, and metal were observed on the ground with about half concentrated in the center of the site. Erosion appears to have dispersed some of the artifacts down slope. Approximately 15 fragments of the solarized purple glass were relocated. Some additional materials not previously noted were also identified. These newly identified materials included two pieces from a boot or shoe sole and a carbon rod. A potentially diagnostic artifact identified during the update was a milk glass Boyd's Cap liner. No obvious signs of significant disturbance were noted. Ethnoscience did extend the boundary of the site slightly to include some metal fragments that had eroded down slope from the concentration.

The site likely represents a single dumping event. Boyd's milk glass cap liners were manufactured from the 1870s into the 1950s. The solarized glass observed in 2010 and again in 2021 would date the single dumping event to c. 1920.

Recommendation

The site is recommended as not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D. The site retains integrity of location. The site is a utilitarian historic material scatter that represents a single dumping event and therefore lacks integrity of design. The physical built environment has substantially changed since c. 1920 with the construction of electric distribution lines, modern paving of Alkali Creek Road, and the recent construction of Skyway Drive, therefore the site lacks integrity of setting and feeling. The site consists of utilitarian glass and ceramic fragments, and rusted metal fragments therefore it lacks integrity of materials. The historic material scatter is not the work of a master or artist and lacks integrity of workmanship. The site is not associated with an important historic event of person and lacks integrity of association.

The site is not associated with any significant events (Criterion A) or significant persons (Criterion B). See below for a further discussion of Criteria A and B.

The site does not exhibit unique architecture or construction method (Criterion C), and further study of the historic materials is not likely to contribute to our understanding of history or address important research questions (Criterion D).

The historic material scatter likely dates to c. 1920 and would be associated with the John B. Tansil ownership of the property.

John B. Tansil acquired the property in 1918. Tansil was born in Dresden, Tennessee in 1881, the son of Col. Erasmus Egbert Tansil and Laura Lucy "Jackie" Bell. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1905 and he was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1907. That same year he established a law practice in Memphis, and worked and lived there until 1915 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Tansil's first wife was Lillian B. Summers whom he married in 1908 in Memphis. She died in June 1914 at Memphis. He married his second wife Amelia J. Murphy in December 1914. Together they moved to Billings in 1915 and he established his private law practice. By 1918, Tansil had been appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for Montana and served in that capacity until 1919. He was appointed the Yellowstone County Attorney in 1923 and served until 1929. In 1935, Tansil was appointed the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Montana and served in that role until his death in 1950 (Great Falls Tribune 12 December 1950, p. 15; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Between 1915 and 1930, he and his second wife Amelia divorced. Amelia returned to Memphis where she married Richard Nevercoff in 1935 (Deseret News 22 September 1947 p.5). In August 1931, John Tansil married his third wife, Helen Fletcher. (Bureau of the Census 1930; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

It is believed Tansil developed the nearby ranching site, 24YL1851. There is no evidence Tansil ever lived on this property in Section 18, T1N R26E. Between 1916 and 1936, Tansil's various residence addresses are at 3324 3rd Avenue North, 208 Burlington Avenue, 721 N. Broadway, and 334 Stapleton Building. By 1937, he and his wife Helen are living at 141 Clark Avenue and at the

time of his death they lived at 221 Avenue D. At no time in the Yellowstone County historical records is Tansil listed as living in rural Yellowstone County (Polk 1916, 1917, 1919, 1929, 1933, 1937, 1942; Bureau of the Census 1920, 1930, 1940).

John B. Tansil sold this property in 1942. Despite Tansil having some degree of prominence within the local and statewide community as the U.S. District Attorney for the state of Montana from 1935 to 1950, nothing related to his career is associated with this property. Furthermore, the historic material scatter likely dates to c. 1920 which precedes his career as U.S. District Attorney. Therefore the site is recommended as NRHP not eligible under Criteria A and B.

No further cultural resource work is recommended for this site.

4.2 24YL1851 Update

The site was first documented in 2010 as a non-residential historic property associated with livestock ranching. Six features were identified at the site and included four buildings (Features 1-4), a corral (Feature 6), and a trash pile (Feature 5). A modern pile of telephone poles was noted within the site but was not assigned a feature number. In 2010, all of the buildings were either collapsed or partially collapsed. The property had five owners between 1912 and 1918. John B. Tansil owned it from 1918 to 1942, and various members of the Morledge family owned the property from 1942 to the present (Broedel and Austin 2010).

Ethnoscience returned to the site in 2021 (Figure 8). The site consists of the remnants of a historic ranching operation just west of Alkali Creek Road in a ravine formed by Alkali Creek. Ethnoscience was able to relocate Feature 6 and the previously mapped concentration of modern telephone poles lying on the ground. The remaining previously recorded Features 1-5 are no longer extant (Figure 9).



Figure 9 – Aerial map of 24YL1851.



Figure 8 – Overview of Features 1 – 5 at 24YL1851. View to the northwest.

Feature 6 is in poor condition (Figure 10). The wooden poles/boards constituting the corral's fence are decaying and dilapidated. The previous site form indicated that the corral was still in use. Ethnoscience believes the present-day feature has likely been out of service since the original recording. No evidence of livestock grazing was noted at or around the site.



Figure 10 – Overview of Feature 6 at 24YL1851. View to the northeast.

Ethnoscience noted a new material concentration southwest of the corral which consists of a corrugated aluminum stock tank filled with lumber and fencing wire believed to be from the corral, and an aluminum trash can lid. These materials are believed to have been deposited within the last 11 years.

During the 2021 site update, it was noted that Skyway Drive and the associated multi-use trail has been constructed east of Alkali Creek Road. On the west side of Alkali Creek Road it appears that preparatory work, including the crowning and grading of a 950 ft. long segment of the proposed Inner Belt Loop and multi-use trail, has occurred since 2010. This crowned and graded area extends into the site area and overlaps the 2010 location of Features 1-5. No evidence of these features remain at the site location. Construction of this segment of the Inner Belt Loop has destroyed Features 1-5.

Recommendation

The site is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criteria A, B, C, and D. Most of the historic materials and all of the historic features have been removed from the site.

The site retains integrity of location. The site is utilitarian livestock corral that lacks integrity of design. The physical environment has substantially changed since the pre-1940 period of significance with the construction of electric distribution lines, modern paving of Alkali Creek Road, and the recent construction of Skyway Drive, therefore the site lacks integrity of setting and feeling. The site consists of utilitarian wood plank corral that lacks integrity of materials. The corral is not the work of a master or artist and lacks integrity of workmanship. The site is not associated with an important historic event of person and lacks integrity of association.

Additionally, the site is not associated with a significant event (Criterion A) and it is not associated with significant persons (Criterion B). See below for a further discussion of Criteria A and B.

All of the features have been removed from the property except for the corral (Feature 6 in the 2010 site description) and it does not exhibit the work of a master or a unique method of construction and is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criterion C. Further study of the materials and Feature 6 is unlikely to provide data valuable to our understanding of the local history of the area therefore the site is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criterion D.

Based upon a review of the 2010 photographs of the site it would appear the period of significance of the site dates to pre-1940 and that would place it in association of the John B. Tansil ownership of the property.

John B. Tansil acquired the property in 1918. Tansil was born in Dresden, Tennessee in 1881, the son of Col. Erasmus Egbert Tansil and Laura Lucy "Jackie" Bell. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1905 and he was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1907. That same year he established a law practice in Memphis, and worked and lived there until 1915 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Tansil's first wife was Lillian B. Summers whom he married in 1908 in Memphis. She died in June 1914 at Memphis. He married his second wife Amelia J. Murphy in December 1914. Together they moved to Billings in 1915 and he established his private law practice. By 1918, Tansil had been appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for Montana and served in that capacity until 1919. He was appointed the Yellowstone County Attorney in 1923 and served until 1929. In 1935, Tansil was appointed the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Montana and served in that role until his death in 1950 (Great Falls Tribune 12 December 1950, p. 15; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Between 1915 and 1930, he and his second wife Amelia divorced. Amelia returned to Memphis where she married Richard Nevercoff in 1935 (Deseret News 22 September 1947 p.5). In August 1931, John Tansil married his third wife, Helen Fletcher. (Bureau of the Census 1930; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

It is believed Tansil developed the nearby ranching site, 24YL1851. There is no evidence Tansil ever lived on this property in Section 18, T1N R26E. Between 1916 and 1936, Tansil's various residence addresses are at 3324 3rd Avenue North, 208 Burlington Avenue, 721 N. Broadway, and 334 Stapleton Building. By 1937, he and his wife Helen are living at 141 Clark Avenue and at the time of his death they lived at 221 Avenue D. At no time in the Yellowstone County historical records is Tansil listed as living in rural Yellowstone County (Polk 1916, 1917, 1919, 1929, 1933, 1937, 1942; Bureau of the Census 1920, 1930, 1940).

John B. Tansil sold this property in 1942. Despite Tansil having some degree of prominence within the local and statewide community as the U.S. District Attorney for the state of Montana from 1935 to 1950, nothing related to his career is associated with this property. Furthermore, the historic material scatter likely dates to c. 1920 which precedes his career as U.S. District Attorney. Therefore the site is recommended as NRHP not eligible under Criteria A and B.

No further cultural resource work is recommended.

4.3 Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project Segments Re-surveyed

T1N R26E, Section 18

A segment of the project corridor just west of Alkali Creek Road was re-surveyed (Figures 11 and 12). The segment is approximately 2465 feet in length and the corridor has a width of 150 feet, for a total of 8.5 acres. The survey corridor crosses five soil types (NRCS 2021). The Blacksheep-Twilight complex, 4 to 25 percent slope is a sandy loam to a fine sandy loam derived from sandstone and occurs at the west end of the corridor. The Cabbart-Blacksheep complex, 4 to 15 percent slopes is a loam derived from residuum weathered from sedimentary rock. It occurs at the west-center of the corridor. The Blacksheep, dry-Cabbart, dry-Rock outcrop, complex, 8 to 60 percent slopes is at the east-center of the corridor. It is a sandy loam derived from residuum weathered from calcareous sandstone. The McRae-Bainville loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes occur near the east end of the corridor. It is a loam derived from loamy alluvium. The Lohmiller soils, seeped, 0 to 2 percent slopes occurs at the east end of the corridor on the flood plain of Alkali Creek immediately to the east of Alkali Creek Road. It is derived from alluvium. Sandstone bedrock outcrops throughout the center of the corridor both within and outside of it.

Vegetation consists of Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie in the east half and Big Sagebrush Steppe in the west half of the corridor. Western wheatgrass, and needle and thread grass are the dominant grasses (MTNHP 2021). Ground surface visibility averaged 40 percent.

This segment was surveyed using pedestrian transects spaced no more than 30 meters apart. Sites 24YL1850 and 24YL1851 are within the survey corridor (see above). No other cultural resources were found within this segment of the project corridor.

No further cultural resource work is recommended for this segment.

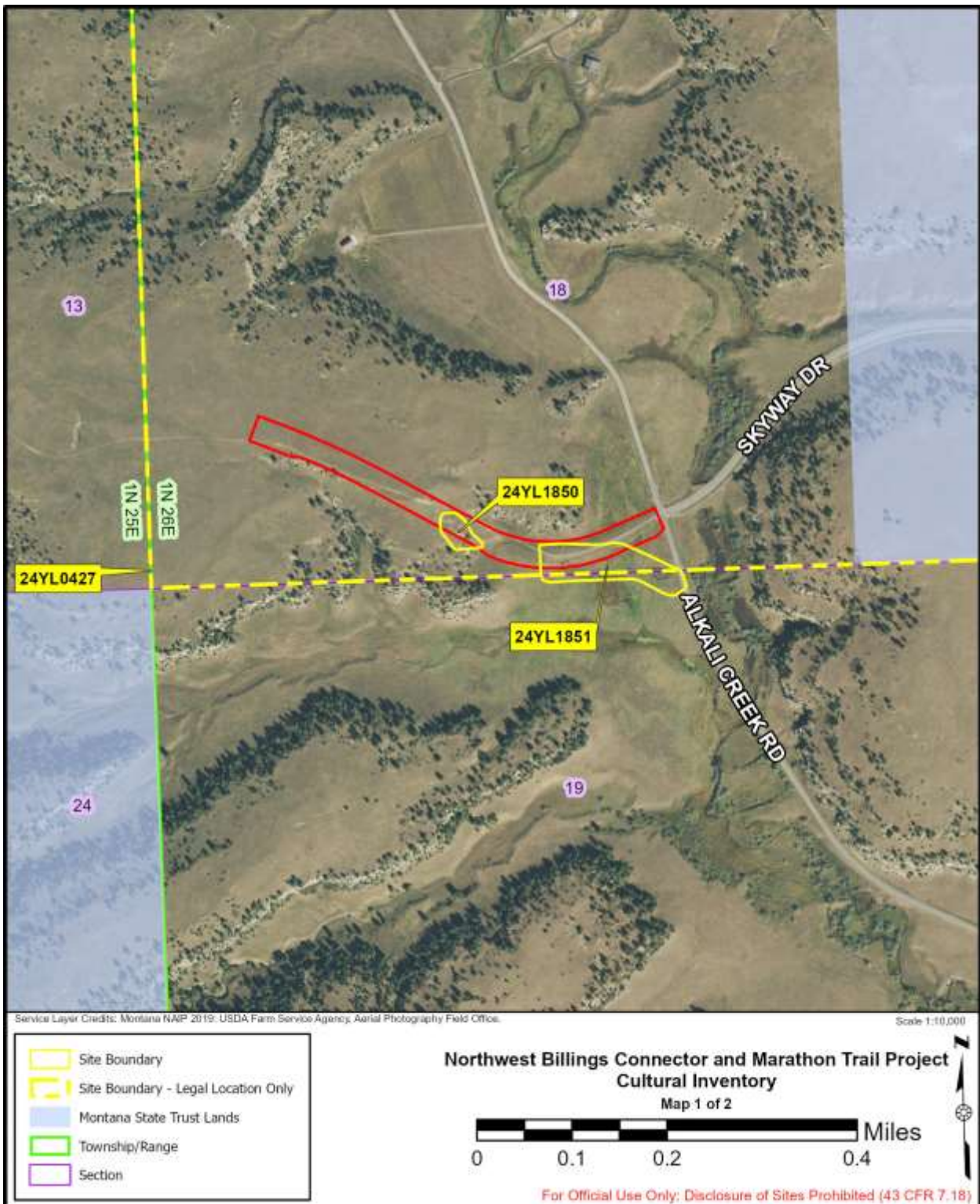


Figure 11 – Aerial map showing the segment in Section 18.



Figure 12 – Overview of west end of segment in Section 18. View to the east-southeast.

T1N R25E, Section 14

A segment of the project corridor just northeast of the Rehberg subdivision was re-surveyed (Figures 13 and 14). The segment is approximately 3500 feet in length and the corridor has a width of 150 feet, for a total of 12 acres. The survey corridor crosses three soil types (NRCS 2021). The Blacksheep-Twilight complex, 4 to 25 percent slope. It is a sandy loam to a fine sandy loam derived from sandstone and occurs at the east end of the corridor. The Blacksheep, dry-Cabbart, dry-Rock outcrop, complex, 8 to 60 percent slopes is at the center of the corridor. It is a sandy loam derived from residuum weathered from calcareous sandstone. The McRae-Bainville loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes occur at the west end of the corridor. It is a loam derived from loamy alluvium. Sandstone bedrock outcrops exist throughout the center portion of the corridor, both within and outside of it.

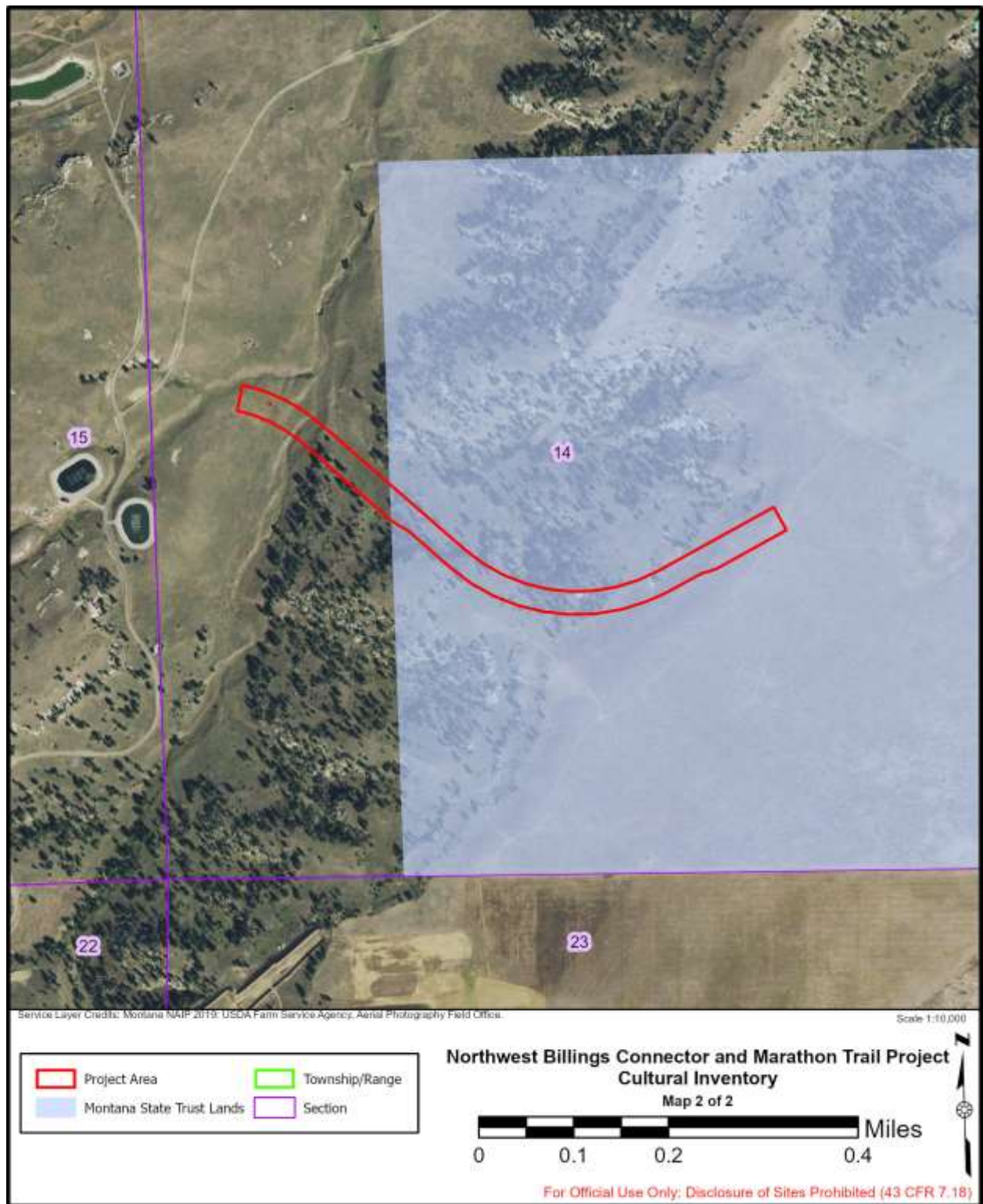


Figure 13 – Aerial map of segment in Section 14.



Figure 14 – Overview of west end of segment in Section 14. View to the southeast.

Vegetation consists of Big Sagebrush Steppe in the east and west ends of the corridor, and a mix of Great Plains Ponderosa Pine Woodland and Savanna, and Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie in the center area of the corridor (MTNHP 2021). Rocky Mountain juniper, western wheatgrass and needleandthread grass dominate the vegetation. Ground surface visibility averaged 30 percent along the middle of the corridor and on the slopes; however, visibility was less than 10 percent in the spring-fed drainage located at the west end of the project.

This segment was surveyed using pedestrian transects spaced no more than 30 meters apart. No cultural resources were found within this segment of the project corridor.

Over half of this corridor segment is on State of Montana School Trust land. Patrick Rennie, the state archaeologist with the DNRC previously indicated the corridor on state lands did not have to be re-examined. However, access to this segment was possible only from the east end, so Ethnoscience re-surveyed the entire state land segment.

No further cultural resource work is recommended for this segment.

Marathon Trail

The proposed undertaking will involve constructing a 10 feet wide multi-use trail that will parallel MT Highway 3 along the road's west and south side. For the sake of clarity, the Marathon Trail corridor was geo-referenced to the Mile Posts of MT Highway 3 (see Figures 4 and 5). Photographs of the various segments discussed below are located in Appendix B. The new trail will begin just west of the Airport Road-Highway 3-North 27th Street roundabout at MP 3.3 and extend west where it terminates at the roundabout at the intersection of MT Highway 3 and Zimmerman Trail Road at MP 6.2. The Marathon Trail will be constructed within the right-of-way (ROW) of MT Highway 3.

At the request of Laura Evilsizer, Review and Compliance Officer with MTSHP, a Class II reconnaissance survey was undertaken between MP 3.3 and MP 6.2 to identify areas of undisturbed ground. The Natural Heritage Land Cover Program identifies the project corridor between MP 3.3 and 6.2 as developed road or as developed residential land (MTNHP 2021).

From MP 3.3 to MP 4.6, the south side of MT Highway 3 is a graveled turnout/parking area (Appendix B: Figures 1-8). At MP 3.3, the width of the turnout is 60 feet, and at the west end, at MP 4.6, it is 20 feet wide. In between MP 3.3 and MP 4.6, the turnout averages between 40 and 50 feet in width. This segment is completely disturbed with little possibility of yielding subsurface cultural deposits.

The segment from MP 4.6 to MP 6.2 is a developed residential area (Appendix B: Figures 9-13). Most of the residential properties have planted pine and juniper trees along the highway ROW boundary that are used as a noise barrier and for privacy. The proposed Marathon Trail would be within the borrow ditch of the highway. This segment is completely disturbed with little possibility of yielding subsurface cultural deposits.

5 Conclusion

The City of Billings proposes to construct a road and multi-use trail from the Zimmerman Trail Road and MT Highway 3 roundabout near the center of Section 27, T1N R25E to the intersection of Alkali Creek Road and Skyway Drive in the SW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of the SE¹/₄ of Section 18, T1N R26E. This road and trail is the Northwest Billings Connector and Marathon Trail Project

The City also proposes to construct a multi-use trail, from just west of the Airport Road-MT Highway 3-North 27th Street roundabout at MT Highway 3 MP 3.3, to the intersection of MT Highway 3 and Zimmerman Trail Road at MP 6.2. This trail. Known as the Marathon Trail, will be parallel to and along the south side of MT Highway 3.

The purpose of the proposed undertaking is to construct a new arterial roadway to provide an alternative transportation route between the Billings Heights and the West End. It will help alleviate widespread congestion near downtown resulting from a constrained arterial roadway and limited transportation options. The proposed project will enhance safety and travel time, provide economic development opportunities, and improve access to recreational opportunities.

State and federal agencies must take into consideration the effect the undertaking will have on significant cultural resources. Ethnoscience, Inc was contracted by the City of Billings to complete the cultural resource clearance. The proposed undertaking is a continuation of the cultural resource investigations completed in 2010. MT SHPO Review and Compliance Officer Laura Evilsizer reviewed the 2010 investigations and requested Ethnoscience update sites 24YL1850 and 24YL1851 and to provide NRHP eligibility evaluation for each site, re-survey two segments of the Inner Belt Loop corridor that are in high probability areas but had poor ground surface visibility when surveyed in 2010, and complete a windshield reconnaissance survey of the Marathon Trail corridor to identify areas of undisturbed ground.

Site 24YL1850 is a historic material scatter located within the project corridor. The site is little changed since it was documented in 2010. The site is recommended as not eligible for listing in

the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D. No further cultural resource work is recommended for this site.

Site 24YL1851 is a historic livestock ranching location partially within the project corridor. It was documented in 2010 as consisting of six features. Construction of a crowned and ditched roadbed has destroyed Features 1-5, only Feature 6 remains. The site is recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D. No further cultural resource work is recommended for this site.

A segment of the project corridor just west of Alkali Creek Road was re-surveyed in Section 18, T1N R26E. The segment is approximately 2465 feet in length and the corridor has a width of 150 feet, for a total of 8.5 acres. Sites 24YL1850 and 24YL1851 are within the survey corridor. Both sites are recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP (see above). No other cultural resources were found within this segment of the corridor. No further cultural resource work is recommended for this segment.

A segment of the project corridor just northeast of the Rehberg subdivision was re-surveyed in Section 14, T1N R25E. The segment is approximately 3500 feet in length, and the corridor has a width of 150 feet, for a total of 12 acres. Over half of this corridor segment is on State of Montana School Trust land. Patrick Rennie, the state archaeologist with the DNRC, had previously indicated that the corridor on state lands did not have to be re-examined. However, access to this segment was possible only from the east end, so the entire segment on state land was re-surveyed. No cultural resources were found within this segment of the project corridor. No further cultural resource work is recommended for this segment.

The proposed undertaking will involve constructing a new multi-use trail (Marathon Trail) that will parallel MT Highway 3 along the road's south side for a distance of 2.9 miles. A windshield reconnaissance survey was undertaken of this corridor but no undisturbed/undeveloped land was identified. The entire corridor was situated on graveled turnout parking areas or in the disturbed borrow ditch of the highway that bordered developed landscaped residential yards. No further cultural resource work is recommended for this segment.

Ethnoscience recommends a determination of no impact within the defined project areas and no further cultural resource work is recommended for this project.

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Operations 2011.

Appendix A: E-mail Communications

From: Schick, Jon <Jon.Schick@hdrinc.com>

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 2:47 PM

To: Lynelle Peterson <lynelle@ethnoscience.com>, Scott Wagers <swagers@ethnoscience.com>

Subject: RE: Inner Belt Loop - Cultural Resources Survey

This shows the trail alignment, at least conceptually. I don't know the length of the trail but it would be mostly within existing ROW (according to the City).

Jon Schick, CEP

D 406.532.2231

C 406.830.0243



FIGURE 8 - PROPOSED CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Highway 3 Corridor Planning Study

21

From: Schick, Jon <Jon.Schick@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Evilsizer, Laura <Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Billings Inner Belt Loop project

Hi Laura,

I'm following up on my voicemail and thought I'd just send you the cultural resources report for the project for your knowledge, attached.

Also, here's a screenshot of the project alignment and location. The Northwest Billings Connector (shown in red) is also known as the Inner Belt Loop. The Skyline Trail is shown in blue. The project includes only these two components.

Please give a call to discuss this project at your nearest convenience. Thank you.

Jon Schick, CEP
Environmental Planner
HDR
700 SW Higgins Avenue, Suite 200
Missoula, MT 59803-1489
D 406.532.2231 C 406.830.0243
jon.schick@hdrinc.com
hdrinc.com/follow-us [hdrinc.com] [nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

Figure 3. Project Components



From: Evilsizer, Laura <Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Schick, Jon <Jon.Schick@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Billings Inner Belt Loop project

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jon,

Thanks for the phone call this morning about the Billings Inner Belt Loop project. I recommend completing an addendum to this 2010 report. Normally our office considers inventories valid for about 10 years before a re-survey needs to be conducted. I don't think it is necessary to re-inventory the entire APE at this time, but rather focus efforts on 3 areas:

- 1) The two sites 24YL1850 and 24YL1851 should be re-visited and updated. These sites remain unevaluated in our database and a formal National Register evaluation will be necessary to resolve project effects.
- 2) High probability areas near drainages should be re-inventoried. The 2010 report discusses that ground surface visibility was only 5% in and around drainages. This would include portions of T1N R25E Section 14 and T1N R26E Section 18
- 3) Any areas of undisturbed ground within the Skyline Trail APE. This may require a windshield survey or other less intensive methodology to identify these areas within the larger APE context.

I also noted that some areas of the APE cross state owned land. The Montana Antiquity Act will apply to these areas and I suggest you contact Patrick Rennie, the DNRC archaeologist, regarding these portions of land.

Thank you,

Laura Evilsizer, M.A.
Review and Compliance Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201202/1301 E. Lockey Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1201
Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov
(406) 444-7719
www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

From: Ethnoscience Inc <ethno@ethnoscience.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Evilsizer, Laura <Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Billings Inner Belt Loop project

Laura,

Jon at HDR has asked us to put together a cost estimate for additional work on the Billings Inner Belt Loop project. He forwarded to me the email thread between you and him regarding the project.

Site 24YL1850 is a historic material scatter and 24YL1851 is the remains of a ranch/homestead. In your email to Jon on May 14th you state that the two sites are unevaluated in your database and a “formal National Register evaluation will be necessary to resolve project effects”. What is your definition of a formal NR evaluation?

The siteform for 24YL1850 says that at least some of the historic debris was found on sandstone bedrock. Outcroppings of sandstone bedrock are common in the area surrounding this site.

In looking at GoogleEarth, at some time between October 2013 and September 2014 an access road with a raised bed was constructed through the site. The base of the raised road bed is approximately 100 feet wide and appears to have destroyed Features 1-5. Feature 6, the corral is still present.

Anyway, if you could let me know what you envision as a reasonable level of effort at these two sites at your earliest convenience.

Scott J Wagers
Cultural Projects Manager
Ethnoscience, Inc.
4140 King Avenue East
Billings, MT 59101
406.252.7945
swagers@ethnoscience.com

From: Evilsizer, Laura <Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Ethnoscience Inc <ethno@ethnoscience.com>
Subject: RE: Billings Inner Belt Loop project

Scott,

For 24YL1850 and 24YL1851 I envision a site update with archaeologists revisiting the site in-person, describing features/artifacts, photographing the site and submitting a site update to our office. This site update should include a discussion of all four eligibility criteria and any integrity aspects that influence the site's eligibility. It would also describe changes to the site, such as destroyed features. Before we will be able to concur on project effects the involved federal agency (FHWA?) will send a letter requesting concurrence on the site's eligibility status (likely not eligible based on the initial recording). Nobody ever asked our office to concur with those initial eligibility assessments on the original site forms and we can't concur on eligibility without current information about the site.

Let me know if you have any further questions,

Laura Evilsizer, M.A.
Review and Compliance Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201202/1301 E. Lockey Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1201
Laura.Evilsizer@mt.gov
(406) 444-7719

From: Ethnoscience Inc <ethno@ethnoscience.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Rennie, Patrick <prennie@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Billings Inner Belt Loop project

Patrick,

Back in 2010 we did a project for a bypass connecting the west end of Billings to the Billings Heights. I've attached maps of the corridor. The survey was for a street and associated bike/walking path. The project has come back and now the city wants to construct it. Laura at SHPO does not feel the APE needs to be resurveyed but has requested the 2 previously recorded sites and a couple of drainages be revisited.

There are two DNRC school trust parcels crossed by the 2010 corridor: the E ½ of the W ½ of Section 22. And the N ½ of the S ½ of Section 14, all in T1N R25E. Do you want the 2010 corridor on the 2 state parcels re-examined? Nothing was found on them in 2010.

Let me know what you think.

Scott

Scott J Wagers
Cultural Projects Manager
Ethnoscience, Inc.
4140 King Avenue East
Billings, MT 59101
406.252.7945
swagers@ethnoscience.com
www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

From: Rennie, Patrick <prennie@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Ethnoscience Inc <ethno@ethnoscience.com>
Subject: RE: Billings Inner Belt Loop project

Hi Scott:

No need to re-examine the corridors. You can just reference the 2010 study and call it good.

Patrick

Appendix B: Skyline Trail Photos



Figure 1 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 3.3, view to the east.



Figure 2 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 3.3, view to the west.



Figure 3 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 4.0, view to the east.



Figure 4 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 4.0, view to the west.



Figure 5 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 4.3, view to the east.



Figure 6 – Overview of the parking pull-off at Mile Post 4.3, view to the west.



Figure 7 – Overview at Mile Post 4.6 where the parking pull-off begins on the south side of Highway 3, view to the east.



Figure 8 – Overview at Mile Post 4.6 where the parking pull-off begins on the south side of Highway 3, view to the west.



Figure 9 – Overview from the intersection of Stony Ridge Court and Highway 3 at Mile Post 5.0. View to the east.



Figure 10 – Overview from the intersection of Stony Ridge Court and Highway 3 at Mile Post 5.0. View to the west.



Figure 11 – Overview at Mile Post 5.9 just east of the Zimmerman Trail roundabout. View to the east.



Figure 12 – Overview at Mile Post 5.9 east of the Zimmerman Trail Road roundabout. View to the west.



Figure 13 – Overview from the south side of the Roundabout intersection with Zimmerman Trail Road and Highway 3 at Mile Post 6.2. View to the east.

Appendix C: Site Forms

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

Site Number: 24YL1850

Township/Range: T 1 N, R 26 E, Section(s) 18 ; **¼ Section(s):** SWSESW

Address (if applicable):

Land Ownership: Private

Site / Property Type: Historic Material Scatter

Description of Site/Property: The site is a historic material scatter present on a terrace on the east-southeast facing slope of a broad flat hill. The site consists of a sparse historic material scatter surrounding an area of concentrated material. The site area exhibits a roughly 40% average ground surface visibility with portions at 100% due to exposed sandstone. Vegetation at the site consist of a combination of Great Plains Sand Prairie and Big Sagebrush Steppe (MTNHP 2021).

Montana Natural Heriage Program (MTNHP)

2021 Natural Heritage Map Viewer. Website, <http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=1>, Accessed May 27, 2021.

Changes since last recording: The site likely represents a single dumping event. It appears to be mostly unchanged since its initial recording in 2010. Not all of the glass fragments identified in 2010 were reidentified during the rerecord, but all the material types are the same as previously identified. Erosion appears to have dispersed these artifacts. Some additional materials not previously noted were also identified. These newly identified materials included two pieces from a boot or shoe sole and a carbon rod. The only potentially diagnostic artifact identified during the update was a milk glass Boyd's Cap liner. The quantity of artifacts is roughly equivalent to that of the original recording. No obvious signs of significant disturbance were noted. Ethnoscience did extend the boundary of the site out slightly to include some metal fragments that were noted down slope from the concentration.

Boyd's milk glass cap liners were manufactured from the 1870s into the 1950s. The solorized glass observed in 2010 and again in 2021 would date the single dumping event to c. 1920.

Current Condition/Integrity: The site is a historic material scatter that likely represents a single dumping event. It is in poor condition and as noted in the initial recording the site continues to be dispersed across the landform by natural processes.

**MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE
SITE UPDATE FORM**

*Site Number: 24YL1850
Date: 5/27/2021*

Previous NR Determination? ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes: ☐ Eligible ☐ Not Eligible

Does this property currently meet National Register criteria for eligibility? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unevaluated

Eligibility Procedures/Justification: The site appears to be the remains of a trash dump likely associated with the nearby ranching site, 24YL1851. The site is not associated with any significant events (Criterion A) or significant persons (Criterion B). See below for a further discussion of Criteria A and B.

The does not exhibit any architecture or construction method (Criterion C), and further study of the materials is not likely to contribute to our understanding of history or address important research questions (Criterion D).

The historic material scatter likely dates to c. 1920 and would be associated with the John B. Tansil ownership of the property.

John B. Tansil acquired the property in 1918. Tansil was born in Dresden, Tennessee in 1881 the son of Col. Erasmus Egbert Tansil and Laura Lucy "Jackie" Bell. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1905 after which was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1907. That same year he established a law practice in Memphis, and worked and lived there until 1915 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Tansil's first wife was Lillian B. Summers whom he married in 1908 in Memphis. She died in June 1914 at Memphis. He married his second wife Amelia J. Murphy in December 1914. Together they moved to Billings in 1915 and established his private practice. By 1918, Tansil had been appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for Montana and served in that capacity until 1919. He was appointed the Yellowstone County Attorney in 1923 and served until 1929. In 1935 Tansil was appointed the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Montana and served in that role until his death in 1950 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Between 1915 and 1930 his second wife Amelia divorced at an unknown date. Amelia was living back in Memphis where she married Richard Nevercoff in 1935 (Deseret News 22 September 1947, p.5). In August 1931 John Tansil married his third wife, Helen Fletcher. She survived him (Bureau of the Census 1930; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

It is believed Tansil developed the nearby ranching site, 24YL1851. There is no evidence Tansil ever lived on his property in Section 18, T1N R26E. Between 1916 and 1936 Tansil's various residence addresses are at 3324 3rd Avenue North, 208 Burlington Avenue, 721 N. Broadway, and 334 Stapleton Building. By 1937 he and his wife Helen are living at 141 Clark Avenue and at the time of his death they lived at 221 Avenue D. At no time in the Yellowstone County historical records is Tansil listed as living in rural Yellowstone County (Polk 1916, 1917, 1919, 1929, 1933, 1937, 1942; Bureau of the Census 1920, 1930, 1940).

John B. Tansil sold this property in 1942. Despite Tansil having some degree of prominence within the local and statewide community as the U.S. District Attorney for the state of Montana from 1935 to 1950, nothing related to his career is associated with this property. Furthermore, the historic material scatter likely dates to c. 1920 which precedes his career as U.S. District Attorney. Therefore the site is recommended as NRHP not eligible under Criteria A and B.

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1920 Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T625, Yellowstone, Montana; Roll T625_978; Page 10B; Enumeration District: 161. Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database On-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by Family Search.

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Great Falls Tribune [Great Falls, Montana]

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Site form update and revisions by: Spencer Propp

Date Updated: 5/27/2021

**MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE
SITE UPDATE FORM**

Site Number: 24YL1850

Date: 5/27/2021

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Site overview photograph, view to the east-southeast.



Detail photograph of a sample of artifacts in the material concentration including the carbon rod (right).

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

Site Number: 24YL1850

Date: 5/27/2021

CURRENT MAPS

Attach a sketch map (if applicable) and the portion of a 7.5' Quad showing the site location.

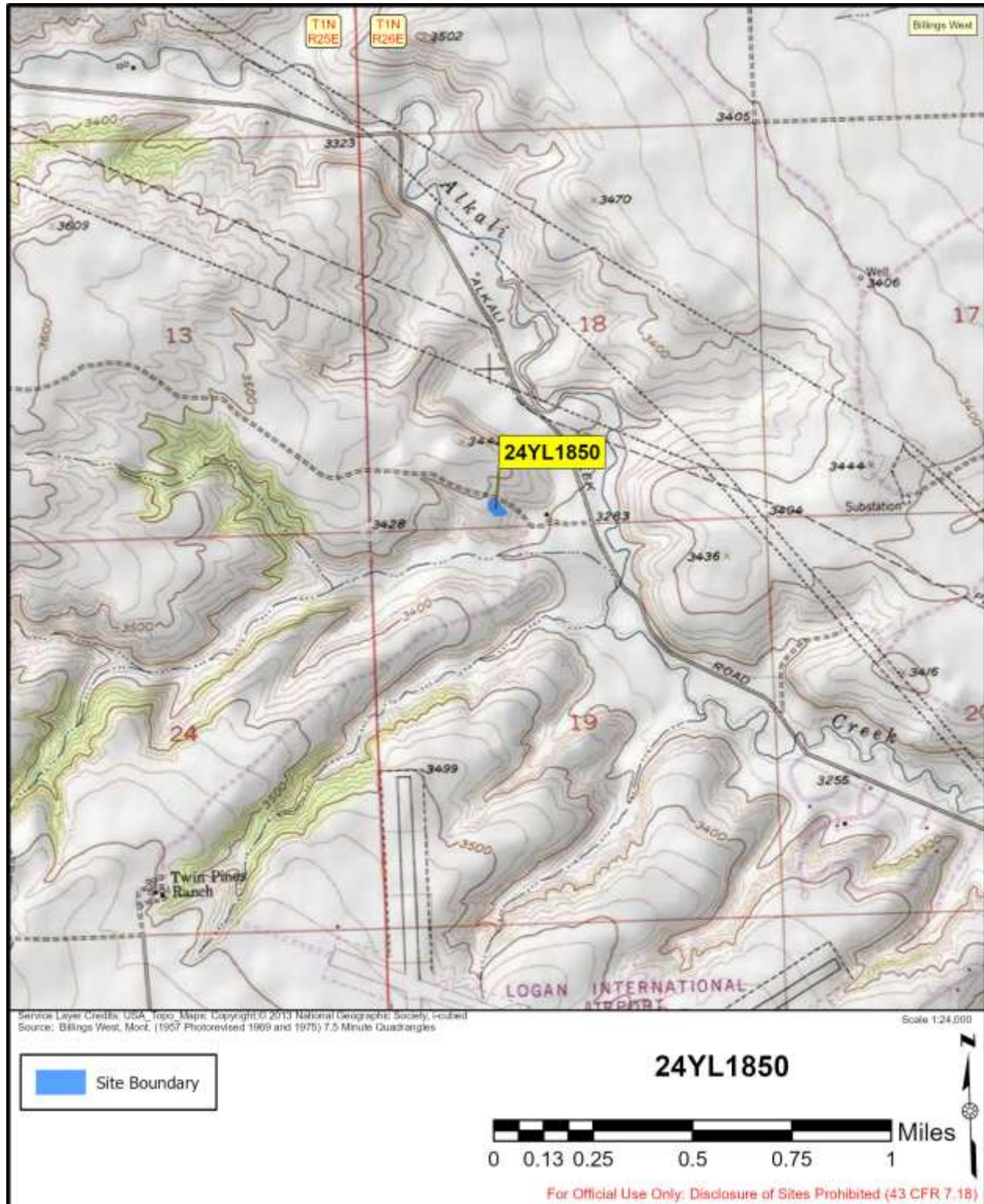


Sketch map of the site showing the location of the material concentration and the extended boundary.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

CURRENT MAPS

Attach a sketch map (if applicable) and the portion of a 7.5' Quad showing the site location.



A 1:24,000 Topographic map showing the location of the site.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

Site Number: 24YL1851

Township/Range: T 1 N, R 26 E, Section(s) 18 ; **¼ Section(s):** SESESW, SWSWSE; SECTION 19: NWNWNE

Address (if applicable):

Land Ownership: Private

Site / Property Type: Historic Farmstead

Description of Site/Property: The site consists of the remnants of a historic farmstead just west of Alkali Creek Road in the ravine formed by Alkali Creek. The site was initially recorded in 2010 as consisting of four collapsed structures (Features 1-4), a trash pile (Feature 5), and a corral (Feature 6).

Ethnoscience was able to relocate Feature 6 and the previously mapped concentration of telephone poles laying on the ground. The remaining previously recorded features are no longer extant.

Feature 6 is in poor condition. The wooden poles/boards constituting the corral's fence are decaying and dilapidated. The previous site form indicated that the corral was modern and still in use. Ethnoscience believes the feature has likely been out of use since the original recording. No evidence of livestock grazing was noted at or around the site.

Ethnoscience noted a new material concentration southwest of the corral which consists of a corrugated aluminum stock tank filled with lumber and fencing wire believed to be from the corral and a aluminum trash can lid. These materials are believed to have been deposited within the last 11 years.

Changes since last recording: During the 2021 site update it was noted that, Skyway Drive and the associated walking/bike path has been constructed east of Alkali Creek Road,. On the west side of Alkali Creek Road it appears that preparatory work, including the the crowning and grading of 950 ft long segment of the proposed Inner Belt Loop and path, has occurred since 2010. This crowned and graded area clips into the site area and overlaps the 2010 location of Features 1-5. No evidence of these features remain at the site location. Construction of this segment of the Inner Belt Loop has destroyed Features 1-5.

Current Condition/Integrity: The site is in poor condition and has lost all integrity.

**MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE
SITE UPDATE FORM**

Site Number: 24YL1851
Date: 5/27/2021

Previous NR Determination? ☐ Yes ☒ No **If Yes:** ☐ Eligible ☐ Not Eligible

Does this property currently meet National Register criteria for eligibility? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unevaluated

Eligibility Procedures/Justification: The site is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criteria A, B, C, and D. Most of the historic materials and all of the historic features have been removed from the site. Additionally the site is not associated with a significant event (Criterion A) and it is not associated with significant persons (Criterion B). See below for a further discussion of Criteria A and B.

All of the features have been removed from the property except for the corral (Feature 6 in the 2010 site description) and it does not exhibit the work of a master or a unique method of construction and is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criterion C. Further study of the materials and feature is unlikely to provide data valuable to our understanding of the local history and the site is recommended NRHP not eligible under Criterion D.

Based upon a review of the 2010 photographs of the site it would appear the site dates to pre-1940 and would place it in association of the John B. Tansil ownership of the property.

John B. Tansil acquired the property in 1918. Tansil was born in Dresden, Tennessee in 1881 the son of Col. Erasmus Egbert Tansil and Laura Lucy "Jackie" Bell. He received a law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1905 after which was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1907. That same year he established a law practice in Memphis, and worked and lived there until 1915 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Tansil's first wife was Lillian B. Summers whom he married in 1908 in Memphis. She died in June 1914 at Memphis. He married his second wife Amelia J. Murphy in December 1914. Together they moved to Billings in 1915 and established his private practice. By 1918, Tansil had been appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for Montana and served in that capacity until 1919. He was appointed the Yellowstone County Attorney in 1923 and served until 1929. In 1935 Tansil was appointed the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Montana and served in that role until his death in 1950 (Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

Between 1915 and 1930 his second wife Amelia divorced at an unknown date. Amelia was living back in Memphis where she married Richard Nevercoff in 1935 (Deseret News 22 September 1947, p. 5). In August 1931 John Tansil married his third wife, Helen Fletcher. She survived him (Bureau of the Census 1930; Montana Standard 12 December 1950: 14).

There is no evidence Tansil ever lived on his property in Section 18, T1N R26E. Between 1916 and 1936 Tansil's various residence addresses are at 3324 3rd Avenue North, 208 Burlington Avenue, 721 N. Broadway, and 334 Stapleton Building. By 1937 he and his wife Helen are living at 141 Clark Avenue and at the time of his death they lived at 221 Avenue D. At no time in the Yellowstone County historical records is Tansil listed as living in rural Yellowstone County (Polk 1916, 1917, 1919, 1929, 1933, 1937, 1942; Bureau of the Census 1920, 1930, 1940).

John B. Tansil sold this property in 1942. Despite Tansil having some degree of prominence within the local and statewide community as the U.S. District Attorney for the State of Montana from 1935 to 1950, nothing related to his career is associated with this property. Therefore the site is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and B.

References Cited

Bureau of the Census

1920 Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T625, Yellowstone, Montana; Roll T625_978; Page 10B; Enumeration District: 161. Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database On-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by Family Search.

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SITE UPDATE FORM**

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Site form update and revisions by: Spencer Propp

Date Updated: 5/27/2021

**MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE
SITE UPDATE FORM**

Site Number: 24YL1851

Date: 5/27/2021

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Site overview photograph, view to the east.



Overview photograph of the road grade disturbance through site where Features 1-5 were located. View to the northwest.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Overview photograph of Feature 6, view to the northeast.



Photograph of the material concentration in the stock tank, view to the south-southeast.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

Site Number: 24YL1851

Date: 5/27/2021

CURRENT MAPS

Attach a sketch map (if applicable) and the portion of a 7.5' Quad showing the site location.

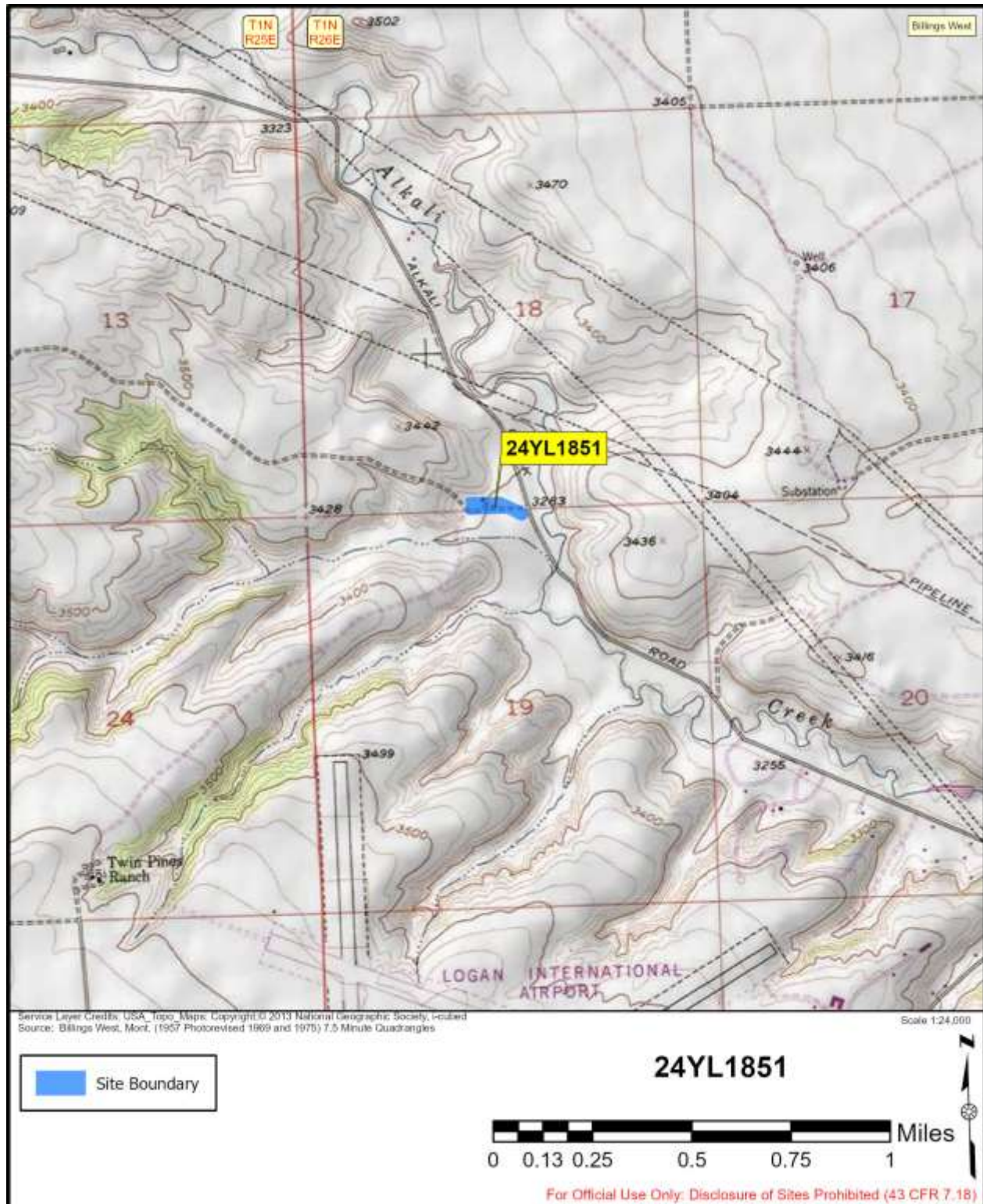


Sketch map of 24YL1851 showing the location of the remaining feature, the road grade disturbance, and the newly identified material concentration.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE UPDATE FORM

CURRENT MAPS

Attach a sketch map (if applicable) and the portion of a 7.5' Quad showing the site location.



1:24,000 Topographic map showing the location of site 24YL1851.