

**COMBINED NOTICE: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE TO PUBLIC
OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS (FONSI/NOI/RROF)**

Publication Date: Thursday, January 10, 2019

City of Thompson Falls
PO Box 99
108 Fulton Street
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
406-827-3557

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or before January 30, 2019 the above-named City will request the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the following project:

City of Thompson Falls – Ainsworth Community Park Project

This project entails construction of a community park on a blighted Main Street property located west of downtown Thompson Falls, in Sanders County, Montana. The proposed project is located on 3.34 acres of City-owned land on property formerly used for a baseball diamond and athletic field. The property is located directly adjacent to the western boundary of the “core area” identified in the City of Thompson Falls Downtown Master Plan prepared in 2015. This master plan was used to garner support for the vision of how this property could be used to provide the greatest benefit to the City of Thompson Falls based on their community needs. The resulting plan is the incorporation of a landscaped park with a large grassed open space area, a pavilion with restrooms, and an amphitheater to fill the need for a central landmark and gathering space for community events.

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named City has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows: The project site is in a developed area that was previously used as an athletic field. The impacts of the project are minimal and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted. The project is compatible with local planning efforts, regulations, and neighboring land uses. Review of the proposed activity and consideration of the various applicable state and federal regulations relevant to the project identified no significant impacts.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named City. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to the Mayor on or before January 25, 2019. All such comments so received will be considered and the City will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The City of Thompson Falls will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by DOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. City is certifying to DOC that the City and Mayor, in his official capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the city of Thompson Falls may use the CDBG funds and DOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after February 14, 2019 will be considered by DOC.

Jerry Lacy, Mayor
City of Thompson Falls
PO Box 99
108 Fulton Street
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

January 10, 2019