

Key Findings: Natural and Human Environment

Environmental resources were reviewed to identify potential **constraints and considerations** that may influence the development of improvement options for the study area.



Since 2010, Gallatin County has experienced **significant population growth**, with an increase of **39%** and an estimated population increase of nearly **35,000 residents**.



Approximately 40% of the area within a half mile of I-90 is classified as **farmland**, which is served by **irrigation ditches and canals** along the corridor.



The corridor is paralleled and crossed by the Jefferson, Madison, Gallatin, and East Gallatin rivers, along with numerous **tributaries** and associated **wetlands** and **floodplains**.



Hazardous material sites include a federal Superfund site, state cleanup sites, underground storage tanks, and petroleum release locations.



Diverse habitats range from grasslands and wetlands to riparian and forested systems, sustaining a **wide variety of wildlife**, including native fish, waterfowl, raptors, ungulates, and numerous carnivores and small mammals. Several **federally listed species** may occur within the corridor, including grizzly bear, wolverine, Canada lynx, and monarch butterfly, along with numerous Montana Species of Concern.



Wildlife-vehicle collisions are a notable concern, with documented mortality dominated by deer.



The I-90 corridor provides access to a wide range of **recreational resources**, including rivers, fishing access sites, public lands, and regional destinations such as national forests, mountain ranges, and state and national parks.



A substantial number of **historic and prehistoric sites** occur within the study area, including properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

