

MINTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
February 3, 1981

The meeting of the Appropriation Subcommittee on Long Range Building was held Tuesday, February 3, 1981, in Room 104 at 5:15 p.m. with Chairman JACK MOORE presiding and all members present. Also in attendance was BOB ROBINSON, Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

MR. ROBINSON gave an overview of all funds of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. See Exhibit 1.

Interest from the Coal Severance-Park Trust Fund is used two-thirds for park projects and one-third to historic preservation such as maintaining the C.M. Russell painting.

The Hunting and Fishing License ERA shows a year-end balance of about \$800,000. The department needs those funds to carry from year to year or they run into a cash flow problem.

State Parks Miscellaneous ERA has miscellaneous revenue such as cabin leases going into it.

Fishing Access Site has \$1.00 from each fishing license sold allocated to it.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (BOR) was the next item presented. The department is making an estimate of between \$2,000,000 and \$4,000,000 for this fund. Fifty percent is used to maintain state projects and fifty percent is used for cities and counties and their projects.

Fish and Game funds generated in part will be spent on equipment. The current budget is about \$4.3 million.

Renewable Resources has a negative balance in fiscal 1981. The \$796,000 available is proposed to be spent at the Natural Resources Department.

RON HOLLIDAY, Administrator of the Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, presented the budget for the department.

MR. HOLLIDAY presented Exhibit 2 which explains in detail the rationale used by the department in establishing its recreation projects prioritization. He also presented Exhibit 3 explaining the rationale for requesting of funds from the Renewable Resources Development Act and several brochures showing projects. MR. HOLLIDAY then went over each priority individually.

Fish Access Acquisition (16) has an anticipated income of about \$1,175,000 for the biennium. REP. BARDANOUE asked if there are designated projects in this area. The answer was no but the department has identified high priority rivers. REP. MOORE said that as these sites are available, the department will buy them. SENATOR HIMSL asked if these funds are used only to purchase access sites. The answer was yes and that the sizes of the access sites vary. SEN. HIMSL asked if they are purchases or easements. The answer was purchases and usually areas of 100 to 200 acres, with purchase prices of \$80,000 to \$200,000.

Regional Headquarters Maintenance (23) has been revised downward from \$50,000 to \$20,000 of earmarked funds. There are seven offices in seven cities and they are very old and wearing out. Funds come from fishing and hunting licenses.

Fishing Access Site Protection (24) funds are used for site protection or development. The department is asking for \$50,000 that could be used to generate the extra \$50,000 from federal revenues.

Lewis and Clark Cavern Improvements (27) would be used for some needed wiring improvements.

Acquire Wildlife Habitat (28) cost shares with the federal government. The department needs authority to spend \$750,000 of federal funds should it become available.

SEN. HAFHEY asked where in the state land is acquired and for what type of wildlife. MR. HOLLIDAY said it is mostly winter range for elk.

Giant Springs Park Improvement (32) is a state park area near Great Falls. A local group has raised a great deal of money to make improvements to this area. The state and federal governments could match the \$75,000 hopefully to be raised by that group which would give the department \$225,000 for improvements. The department asked approval of the item as listed.

Develop Wildlife Management Areas (40) is used for small developments on wildlife areas. The proposed project would involve fencing. This is a three to one cost sharing program with federal funds.

Rosebud Battlefield Improvements (42) was purchased with coal tax funds and so is eligible under the law to receive funds from coal tax interest. There is a house on the land where the game warden/park manager lives. The department is asking for \$20,000 to stabilize a building that is on the land and that was part of the cattle ranch on the land many years ago.

Bannack State Monument (43) funds will be cost shared with federal funds.

Makoshika Park Improvements (49) is in the next phase of fixing the road that was completed after the last legislature. It also qualifies for coal tax funds. Also a drain field that has failed and needs fixing.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked how this relates to a proposal to acquire three miles of the Yellowstone River which adjoins the property. The answer was that the Yellowstone River property does adjoin the Makoshika Park.

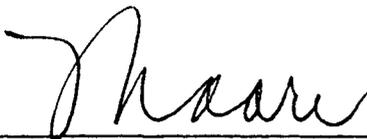
Salmon and Placid Lake Area Paving (50) needs to be done to take care of a dusty road leading to these two areas. This area is part of the land donated by Champion-International. Some of the area is served by the state highway, but the rest needs paving.

Purgatory Hill Improvements (51) is an area near the Fort Peck Dam used as a research project for fossils. It is known worldwide in scientific circles. It is adjacent to the highway and has been leased at a very low cost. Funds would be used to build a parking lot and put up some signs.

Council Grove Improvements (53) is an area with tremendous recreational value. The department has access to the property but needs road improvements and bridges to make the property available to the public. They are requesting \$55,000 from the coal tax interest.

The next meeting will be February 7, Saturday, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



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JACK K. MOORE, CHAIRMAN

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Building and acquisition proposals by fund source.

Priority	Description	Interest From		Hunting & Fishing License ERA 02131	State Parks Miscell. ERA 02204	Fish Access Site Acq. ERA 02305	Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (BOR) 04186	F & G Fed. & Private Rev. Acct. 04522	Renewable Resources B.P.I.C.A. 06001
		Coal Tax	Park & Rec. Trust Fund 02036						
16	Fish Access Acquisition					\$1,175,000	\$1,175,000		
23	Regional Headquarters Maint.			\$20,000*					
24	Fishing Access Site Protection			25,000			75,000	\$750,000	\$50,000
27	Lewis & Clark Cavern Improvements			*					
28	Acquire Wildlife Habitat						75,000		
32	Grant Springs Park Improvement				75,000		150,000		
40	Develop Wildlife Management Areas			24,000				72,000	
42	Rosebud Battlefield Improvements	\$20,000							
43	Bannack State Monument				12,500				
49	Makoshika Park Improvements	21,000					12,500		
50	Salmon & Placid Lake Area Paving						21,000		
51	Purgatory Hill Improvements						200,000		
53	Council Grove Improvements	55,000					34,000		
	Total Request	\$96,000		\$69,000	\$87,500	\$1,175,000	\$1,797,500	\$822,000	\$50,000

\*Revised at Department Request

CAPACITY OF VARIOUS EARMARKED AND FEDERAL FUNDS ABOVE

Accounting Entity	Description	Projected FY '81 Year-End Balance	1982-83		Balance Available for Building & Acquisition
			Biennial Revenues	Proposed Biennial Operating Expenditures	
02036	Interest from Coal Severance - Park Trust Fund	\$ 174,769	\$ 1,269,484	\$ (254,040)	\$1,190,213
02131	Hunting & Fishing License ERA	848,739	17,867,100	17,885,570	830,269
02204	State Parks Miscellaneous ERA	123,383	485,000	608,400	-0-
02305	Fishing Access Site Acq. ERA	569,253	957,953	-0-	1,527,201
04186	Fed. Land & Water Cons. Fund(BOR)	---	4,900,000	-0-	4,900,000
04522	Fish & Game FPRA				
06001	(Pittman-Robertson Share) Renewable Resources BPICA	1,733,031 (804,441)	5,100,000 1,600,890	4,313,426 -0-	2,519,605 796,449

FY 1982-83 Recreation Projects Prioritization

## A Rationale

The following criteria was used by the Parks Division to determine the priority ranking of the several projects which were submitted by field personnel and others. Prior to ranking projects, several were eliminated from the list on the basis of a) they could be accomplished by some other means, or b) it was not advisable to proceed at this time for some reason. Projects from other divisions were ranked by the Directorate, in some cases using this criteria and in other cases, such as Wildlife Division projects, on different more appropriate criteria.

Priority #1. Legislative mandate. We are required by law to use a certain portion of fishing license revenues for the purpose of fishing access site acquisitions.

Priority #2. Emergencies on existing facilities. Situations which appear to pose an imminent or potentially serious threat to public health and safety, to the environment, or to the facilities themselves are given highest building project ranking.

Priority #3. Protection of health and safety. Situations which represent present or potential public health and safety problems (though not an emergency) are given next priority to prevent serious problems in the future or improve presently undesirable situations.

Priority #4. Protection of existing investment. Maintenance of our existing facilities to keep them in a safe and sound condition and to maximize use of the original capital investment are given next priority.

Priority #5. Projects that reduce existing operations and maintenance costs. While capital investment is quite significant at the time it is made, the long-term operation and maintenance costs will eventually become much more burdensome. Therefore, capital projects which will help to reduce the routine operations costs at existing facilities are given next priority.

Priority #6. Projects that have no operations and maintenance impacts. At some existing sites, additional or improved facilities are needed to accommodate increased use, provide more desirable or adequate facilities, and to provide for improved site management.

Priority #7. Projects at existing sites which would tend to increase operations costs. Some projects, such as those described in #6 above, are necessary and desirable but would tend to increase our operations costs. These projects are given last priority consideration for projects on existing facilities.

Priority #8. New expansion. Additions to the State Park System (with the exception of the mandated fishing access acquisitions) are given last priority even though these projects may be very much needed, are in the public interest, and would be fine additions to the System. It is our belief that the proper operation and maintenance of our existing facilities must be given priority over new facilities. The new projects which are being proposed as expansion were ranked amongst themselves on the basis of need and, as much as possible, with respect to the considerations outlined in the higher priorities above.

A Rationale For the Requesting of Funds  
From the Renewable Resources Development  
Act Clearing Account and the Resources  
Indemnity Trust Fund.

Parks Division LRBP projects were, during the FY 1980-81 biennium, funded by the legislature from the above two sources. The Division did not request projects from these funding sources though it would have been appropriate to do so. Inasmuch as the legislature took the original initiative to appropriate monies from these sources to Park projects, and the legal authority clearly makes such projects eligible, we have identified three projects in FY 1982-83 for funding from these two sources.

Renewable Resources Development Act Clearing Account. Chapter 36, Section 89-3602(1) (90-2-102(1) MCA) states, "Renewable Resource Development program" means such developments in public interest in renewable natural resources of the state shall from time to time be acquired, constructed, and financed from funds appropriated to the accounts referred to in this Section and from proceeds from bonds issued in anticipation of the receipt of these funds. Renewable resource developments shall, where practical, be multiple use projects and shall not significantly diminish the quality of existing public resources such as land, air, water, fish, wildlife, and recreational opportunities.

Section 89-3604(4) (90-2-111 and 90-2-112 MCA) states, "Grants provided for by this Section may be made for the purchase, lease, or construction of projects for the conservation, management, utilization, development, or preservation of land, water, fish, wildlife, recreational, or other renewable resources in the state; for the purpose of feasibility and design studies for such projects; for the development of plans for the rehabilitation, expansion, or modification of existing projects; and for such other and further similar purposes as the legislature may approve."

The project identified by the Parks Division as being most appropriate is: Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park improvements (priority #4). This project will upgrade the existing lighting and wiring inside the Caverns. Since the Caverns tram project was funded by the legislature using these monies, it seems appropriate to suggest that the present project be also considered from these funds.

No other Parks Division projects have been requested from this account but virtually all of them would be legal and appropriate projects under the Act. It is our suggestion that in the event long-range building funds are not sufficient to cover the proposed projects presently identified with the fund, that this project be considered for funding under the Renewable Resources Development Act.

Resource Indemnity Act. Chapter 70, Section 84-7002 (15-38-102 MCA), Legislative Policy, states, "It is the policy of this state to provide security against loss or damage of our natural environment from the extraction of nonrenewable natural resources. Recognizing that the total environment consists of our air, water, soil, flora, fauna, and also those social, economic, and cultural conditions that influence our communities and the lives of our individual citizens, it is necessary that this state be indemnified for the extraction of those resources. Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the creation of a resource indemnity trust in order that people and resources of Montana may long endure.

Section 84-7003 (15-38-103 MCA), Definitions (4), states, " 'Total environment' means air, water, soil, flora, fauna, and also social, economic, and cultural conditions that influence communities and individual citizens."

Section 84-7010 (15-38-203 MCA), Purpose of Fund Usage, states, "Any funds made available under this Act shall be used and expended to improve the total environment and to rectify damage thereto."

On their own initiative, the 1979 Legislature saw fit to fund recreation projects from this account. Again, under the Act, virtually any recreation project would be lawful. However, we have selected projects which can be justified in that their need obtains from past resource extraction activities. Projects identified are:

1. Giant Springs Heritage Park improvements (priority rank #11). This project restores an old smelter site and provides recreational improvement to that property as well as to adjacent properties. The project also enhances and makes more usable and enjoyable the environment around the Anaconda Company smelter.
2. Bannack State Monument acquisition, improvements, and planning (priority rank #17). Bannack exists because of the mineral industry. It is a part of our state heritage and that of the mineral industry. It seems eminently appropriate that Resource Indemnity Trust funds be used to enhance this project.