

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING
March 21, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by JACK K. MOORE, Chairman in Room 108. All Committee members were present except Rep. Gene Donaldson, and Sen. Bill Thomas. Also in attendance was Bob Robinson, Fiscal Analyst.

Testimony was given by John Harrison, and Butch Wenneker, Tongue River Recreation area representatives, Dean Holmes, Mayor of Miles City; Don Gunther, J. D. Doeden, Doeden Island representatives; Jerry Hudspetti, Glendive Chamber of Commerce; Vern Mauritson, Sam Bibler, Phillip Iverson, Gordon Beck representatives for Lone Pine State Park; Ron Holliday, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department.

THE CHAIRMAN stated the topics to be discussed would be in the following order: Tongue River Road Recreation Area; Bar's Landing, Doeden's Island, Tongue River Wilderness State Recreation Area, Engle's Ranch, Signal Butte Park and HB 460.

TONGUE RIVER ROAD RECREATION AREA
PROponents

MR. HARRISON stated this area would provide 40 to 60 acres for shooting sports, and 10 acres for specific activities indicated in the handouts. He noted they have included a caretaker in their plans and would not leave the state with any main park problems, and anythings that result in this project would be a result of public participation. This would be in forms of public meetings to review any and all public view points, concerns and complaints prior to any decisions made at the local level concerning this area. He stated under the BLM Public Purposes Act all of the above planning process and public comment periods for decision making are prescribed by law at this time. He feels with the total purchase of the 105 acres to be obtained by Mr. Franco, BLM has indicated that the state may through acquisition appropriate another 160 acres. He feels the state is getting a bonus of land with the project.

MR. WENNEKER stated the Subcommittee has received approximately 250 letters from the community regarding their support of this area. He wanted to emphasize they are not concerned with the shooting sports only, but are concerned with any and all forms of outdoor recreation that can be accommodated safely and adequately at this one site. This public recreation area will be the result of the public displayed inputs, any and all decision making will be the result of objective, balanced logically defensible public comments by proponents as well as opponents. He stated this area is 6.7 miles from the downtown area, and has .8 of a mile of road frontage. The BLM has been contacted during the last few months and are in all ways enthusiastic. He stated as far as serving the public, the National Guard also need this site for training with small arms. Their unit would turn out to help construct some of

these aspects such as ranges, etc., and the BLM would turn out WACC crews to redo fence lands and install cattleguards, etc. The U.S. Reserves have also been contacted and have indicated their willingness to install something with their crews in the interest of public training. He noted in regard to grants, many of them are not being cut, they are being reworked to include block grants. As a shooting range on this land, he stated the topography and wind range is perfect. The shooting range would be placed at the far end of the area and he noted there would be a level of less than 2% aspect for over 1,000 yards down range and a broad ravine that is approximately 250 yards wide with relief on both sides that go to 115 feet. He stated there is nothing behind this area as far as buildings, facilities, or roads for at least 10 to 12 miles. He stated they were trying to stress they did their homework, and are not trying to take it upon the state government to see that this goes through. They need the money for a recreational area, and beyond that feel they can take care of it with their own local involvement.

REP. ZABROCKI stated he is in support of this recreation and the other projects from the Miles City area.

OPPONENTS

SEN. OCHSNER opposed the Tongue River recreation area. He read Exhibit A to the Committee. He stressed this is not the total recreation area, that they say it is, and he did not feel the people in the community would be that excited to use it for a ski area as stated.

REP. BARDANOUE asked Mr. Wenneker to respond to SEN. OCHSNER's testimony.

MR. WENNEKER stated that SEN. OCHSNER was just another citizen in this area, and he felt an important fact is that the Senator has been interested in buying this land for quite awhile. In answer to the question regarding the composition of the soil, he showed photographs of the area to the Committee.

REP. BARDANOUE asked about the possibility of bullets flying from the boundaries of this recreation area, which could involve state liability problems.

MR. WENNEKER stated they had the National Rifle Association's two range specialists notified to fly out at a moments notice to say yes or no as to the facility placement, safety hazards at no cost to the NRA membership. He feels this will meet the

standards, and provide them information regarding range landscaping, etc.

MR. HOLLIDAY answered the question regarding the state's liability, in regard to the three rifle ranges in the State Parks system. These are operated under agreements with local shooting clubs. Two of the three clubs assume all of the liability risk, and they are having difficulty with the third club assuming adequate liability coverage. He noted two of the three clubs are in conjunction with other activities, and the one alone is exclusively a shooting range.

MR. WENNEKER stated in regard to the question on appraised land value, he noted he asked for guesstimates through the local appraiser's office and part of those estimates were based on a nearby resident starting to subdivide his lots at around \$2,000 an acre. He noted these are maximum figures, and he has explained to Mr. Franco that he would not be getting anything more than fair market value for his property.

REP. BARDANOUE asked SEN. OCHSNER about his intent to buy this land.

SEN. OCHSNER stated until this was proposed, he did not make any offers, but to protect himself and the other ranches in the area, they have offered to buy this land. He noted in past years he had asked Mr. Franco that anytime he was interested in selling this property to let him know.

BAR'S LANDING

MR. WENNEKER stated this project failed to get a vote of support from the City-County Recreation Committee.

There being no opponents or proponents regarding this proposal, the committee went to the next proposal.

DODEN'S ISLAND

PROponents

DEAN HOLMES, Mayor of Miles City, explained that Doden's Island is approximately 2 1/2 miles from the new boat launch on the Yellowstone River. The island is about 2 miles in length, and 1/2 mile wide. There is also an artesian well on the island. He stated access to the river is quite difficult to those who are not private land owners. He feels the location is close to the community, and would allow easy accessibility.

MR. GUNTHER, representative from Miles City, stated he feels the Doeden's project would adapt to 5 out of 6 components necessary to qualify for the Park Proposal projects. He feels as a State Park, Doeden would provide; (1) over 200 acres of recreation area, (2) as a state recreation area, this would attract the public from far beyond the local area, (3) as a fishing site, the Island would provide a permanent access to the Yellowstone River, and contains over 1 miles of shore line, (4) as a recreational water way, the Island serves to provide camping, floating and boating, (5) all parts of the Island would provide scenic trails of recreational value. He felt in addition to meeting these criteria, he wanted to stress that Region 7 provides 32% of the state's total mule deer harvest, and 25% of the white-tail deer harvest, and 45% of the antelope harvest. This indicates a large amount of traffic in this region, yet of the total state parks owned only 1.85% exist in Region 7. Of the 144 fishing access sites available throughout the state, Region 7 contains only 6. He noted 75% of the Region 7 land is private. As proposed Doeden's Island would request \$110,000 of the State's Coal Tax funds, part of this purchase includes construction of a two-lane access road, a gravel parking area, a camp site with artesian water. These improvements would run around \$35,000. He noted this recreation area is very unique, because it would require a very minimum cost to maintain and not be a burden on the taxpayers. The closeness to Miles City of 2 1/2 miles makes it very popular to the residents. He stressed since this involves Coal Tax funds primarily in Region 7, and Region 7 is the impact area and are feeling the influx of coal mining people arriving daily, they do need additional recreation areas. In answer to SEN. HIMSL'S question on appraisal value, he stated this was not an independent appraisal.

MR. DOEDEN stated the Island flooded in 1943 and two years ago. He stated the previous owner did have developed farm land and used it for a truck garden.

REP. BARDANOUE asked if a rifle range could be developed on this area.

MR. WENNEKER stated it could not be done safely because of the proximity to town.

MR. GUNTHER stated the facilities proposed on the Island can handle any level of flood water.

MR. HURWITZ asked if the City of Miles City could put up any of that money.

MR. HOLMES stated at this time, the economics of the city government are not set for extra money to assist, however, in any recreation area there is a wonderful working relationship with the county to do some type of in kind service.

MR. GUNTHER stated at this time the Island is a private area, and is not accessible to the public. He noted two years ago it was planted with winter wheat and alfalfa.

SEN. HAFFEY asked the Parks Department if they had calculated what the maintenance costs would be on any of the proposals.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated they had not at this time calculated any of the maintenance costs to the area, but could do that if he desired.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked if it would be possible for the city and county area to maintain this, if it were proposed.

MR. GUNTHER stated they would be happy to pursue this avenue, and he felt that would depend exactly what the Parks Department would like to put on the Island.

TONGUE RIVER WILDERNESS STATE RECREATION AREA

MR. HOLMES, stated he has mixed emotions on this area regarding the priority of this park. He worked for 6 years developing this district, and the area in question is an old slough bed, which has a wilderness area that is used for motorcycles. Basically, what this slough is used for is drainage, and he believes this is the primary use of that land. He stated 95% of the history of Miles City is in the flood plain. The main purpose of this channel is to be able to hold the drainage water when the Yellowstone River is too high.

He noted there was around \$62,000 spent on a CETA project to clean up this channel, so that water could flow through it. He stated he is basically in support of this, but if the Committee decided not to grant this proposal to Miles City, then they are very justified. Another problem would be to assess the individual land value, because of the number of individual landowners involved.

REP. HURWITZ asked if the Miles City delegation would give some idea of their priority of the 4 proposals being discussed today.

REP. DEVLIN, representative from District 52, stated he did not come either as a proponent or an opponent for any one of the projects, but he would like to testify in regard to the need of a recreation area in or around Miles City. In the future, there may be a railroad around that area and would have a great influx of people who need this recreation area.

MR. WINNEKER stated the Tongue River Wilderness area was not endorsed by the City-County Recreation Commission.

ENGLE RANCH

REP. HART, Representative from Dawson County, stated this area is located close to Glendive and would provide many uses for the entire area. She handed out Exhibit B.

GREG HAUNSTON explained the Engle Ranch comprises two parts, one is a river bottom area, and the other area is Upper Sand Creek. He noted the river bottom, Exhibit B, Page 4, is about two miles long, and is on the flood plain, this land is not irrigated and would make a good river access site. He noted there is not a close access to the river from Glendive, and besides a good access area this would be good for agate hunting, fishing, etc. The area has good natural boundaries. He noted the river bottom area is approximately 550 acres, the upper area is approximately 2,375 acres. They are not proposing any major recreation areas, but more as a walk in hunting area with access for motor bikes. He stated the County Commissioners have voiced their support of the river bottom area in regard to roads and boat ramps, and would loan the equipment and the gravel necessary. He stated there is a lot of community support for this area. Directly across the river from the river bottom area, is an historic Indian site, which is a Crow village indian site, and would be protected from vandalism because it is across the river. The other area is an important fossil area. He showed on a chart what the state owns regarding Makoshika State Park. The Engle road comes close to the state park area but does not connect it, there is a possibility of having a loop road meet the Makoshika Park road and come out another way.

VERN LINDQUIST, stated the geography of this land is quite unique to that of Makoshika Park in that it is a juniper and pine area. There is more habitat on this area. There are four Fish and Game personnel living in the Glendive area, so there should not be any problem as far as administering it. The owner's asking price is around \$800,000 for both areas, and breaking that down this comes to around \$270 an acre. The owners are willing to sell for fair appraisal value and their estimates take in the river bottom area worth \$400 an acre and the Upper area \$200 an acre, the total price would be around \$700,000. He stated there was an error in the original proposal, and there was a correction mailed out regarding this land.

REP. SWITZER stated he has had nothing but favorable comments on this proposal, and this is an ideal state acquisition. The land attracts a lot of different activities, and this land would relieve a lot of pressure on the private farm lands of trespassers. Another advantage is that it does not need to be maintained. He stated in fairness to the Committee, he feels it is overpriced.

The only thing that would make it worthy of that price is its proximity to Glendive.

JERRY HUDSPETTI, Glendive Chamber of Commerce member, stated he has been assured by the Chamber that the Committee has a letter in support of this project. He wanted to point out that Eastern Montana does not have the recreational facilities that many of the other areas of the state has, and wanted to urge support in this area.

REP. SHONTZ, District 53, stated he likes this proposal because it adds to the recreation area that is already available. He stated the Engle family has indicated they will take the fair market value and the cost of getting this appraisal is quite high.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated normally they do require appraisers, but since this is a new program instituted by the Legislature, the Committee will have to address how they want this done.

MR. LINDQUIST stated he had a message from former Rep. Willie Day, who wanted it on the record that he supports this project.

THE CHAIRMAN asked about the lease with the BLM if the land was acquired.

MR. LINDQUIST stated the lease would be acquired with the property, and he was sure the lease agreement would be the same type the state already has with Makoshika Park.

SIGNAL BUTTE PARK

THE CHAIRMAN stated since no one was present to speak in regard to Signal Butte Park, he would continue on to HB 460.

HB 460

REP. CONN, sponsor of HB 460, stated this bill is to appropriate money for Lone Pine State Park. She wanted it noted it already was a park, and the purpose behind the bill is to develop something that the state already owns. Presently, the area is being used for limited activities due to the state's limited budget for management. Due to the limited management, the landscape has been adversely affected, and some accidents have occurred due to the misuse of the park during the past few years. She feels the state may be in a situation of liability problems in the near future. Presently, there are no facilities on the property. She stressed there is broad support from the community on this Park and would have many attributes if it were developed around community and school activities. She feels the community has been very active in supporting many local projects.

VERN MAURITSEN, Chairman of Rotary the Lone Pine State Park Committee, handed out Exhibit D regarding the area vicinity map. He noted this was a land base park, and as an indication of community support there is an offer of donated land on Foy Lake. This includes 750 feet of shoreline on Foy Lake with a value of \$140,000 which is a matchable parcel of ground. He referred to Exhibit E as a development plan for Lone Pine State Park.

MR. BIBLER, one of the owners of the proposed land, stated during the last 5 years he was the Vice-President of the Flathead County Park Board, but wanted to speak as a private individual. As the Past President of the Restoration of the Conrad Mansion, he stated this was put on a paying basis, and he feels the Lone Pine State Park can also be put on a paying basis since it would be open year round. He stated that over 80% of the visitors to their area are from out of town, 60% are out of state.

MR. PHILIP IVERSON, resident of Flathead County, expressed his interest in Lone Pine State Park as a natural science area and a recreational area. He does not feel this is a competitive area to Glacier National Park, but rather a complimentary one. The nearest picnic area to this population center is 40 miles one way. Lone Pine is within walking distance to the community. He feels the strongest attribute for the Park is the opportunities for natural science studies for the schools, community and the civic organizations in that area.

GORDON BECK, Representative of Flathead Community Parks and Recreation, handed out Exhibit F, and stated the Lone Pine area has an adjacent 14 acres the county owns designated as park area, also on Foy Lake there is a park area that has a swimming area and a boat ramp. On the South end of the lake, there is a 120 park area known as Herron Park. He feels the development of Lone Pine State Park and the close proximity to Kalispell will make a high intensity use area for recreational needs. In the past, with the cooperation with Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the community has had a close working relationship, and they assume this will continue with this development.

RON HOLLIDAY read Exhibit G to the Committee.

REP. CONN summarized by stating that originally there was a grant made to the City of Kalispell which they relinquished, so this is not all new funding being requested, and she feels this would be a great attribute to the Kalispell area.

REP. MANUEL asked to have the funding explained.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated the bill calls for an expenditure of \$500,000, and \$327,000 of that is from an 1979 appropriation. The remainder of that would be from the federal water conservation fund, and this portion is the one that is uncertain at this time.

REP. CONN stated the reason the City of Kalispell could not use this original grant money was because the City was to provide matching funds to develop Lawrence Park, which they were not able to do.

THE CHAIRMAN asked to have the Visitor's Center explained.

MR. MAURITSEN explained this center would be heated by passive solar, and would be a facility that could be used by the community for meeting areas and workshops, etc. He was not certain at this time what the square footage cost would be on the Center.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated he understood the cost to be around \$40 a square foot.

REP. HURWITZ asked Mr. Bibler what he meant about having the Park pay for itself.

MR. BIBLER felt this could be a paying project, and would have a broader appeal to more people than the museum in Kalispell. He stated they support the idea of the Visitor's Center because the Fish, Wildlife and Park Department have stated they feel this is a necessary part of the complex. This would be a headquarters for the person in residence to devise many of the activities. He stated this would be a first for the state.

REP. CONN stated that when she travels, the Visitor Centers in other states not only serve for community activities, but also helps keep the tourists informed of additional attractions throughout the state.


MR. BIBLER stated the part of the Visitor's Center has influenced him to make a \$140,000 donation to the community.

MR. HOLLIDAY addressed the question of the ownership of Lone Pine Ranch as a small recreation area set aside as a homeowners area just adjacent to Mr. Bibler's property. In answer to the question of REP. BARDANOUE of the situation of federal money, he stated there is bound to be a reduction of this money. It has been suggested that the land go for land acquisition and federal projects, which lead the states to believe this money may not all be eliminated, and the states may be able to share with the portion that is budgeted with the federal agencies. He has no

idea how much will be forthcoming. He noted it would be very helpful if the Committee would prioritize the projects, so if and when the money comes in, his Department can put the money where the Legislature wishes. He stated Flathead has the most active county participation in the State of Montana and has worked diligently in taking care of their own problems, and using CETA money. He stated the park is around 120 acres and has a value of half a million plus. He stressed something has to be done to the Park because if it ceases to be a park, then it reverts back to the family that donated it. If the park is not developed, then it would have to be closed.

THE CHAIRMAN discussed with the Committee the amount of money left in the funds to date.

There being no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



JACK K. MOORE, Chairman

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VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE

LONG RANGE BUILDING COMMITTEE

TITLE PARK PROPOSALS

Date 3/21/81

SPONSOR _____

| NAME | RESIDENCE | REPRESENTING | SUPPORT | OPPO |
|--------------------|------------------|---|---------|-------------|
| Ronald Munthe | Miles City | Doeden Island | X | |
| Bless Holmes | Miles City | Doeden Island | X | |
| " " | " " | Welding & Slough Area | — | — |
| David Suter | " " | Doeden Island | X | |
| Steve Starasynski | Miles City | Tongue River Rd Rec | X | |
| Sam Bible | Kalispell | Loone Pine Park | X | |
| Ed Larson | Flathead County | Pine Pine Park | X | |
| Greg Hagstrom | Glendive | Engle Ranch | X | |
| Vern Lindquist | Glendive | Engle Ranch | X | |
| Vern Mauritsen | Kalispell | Pine Pine Park | X | |
| I.D. DOEDEN | MILES CITY | DOEDEN'S ISLAND | X | |
| Gordon Beck | Kalispell | Pine Pine Park | X | |
| Butch WENNEKER | MILES CITY | Southwestern Mont Shrub Societies ASSO | X | |
| Rep. Larry Newkirk | Terry | M.C. | | |
| SA Olson | Glendive | Self Engle Ranch | X | |
| Mary Hart | Glendive | Self Engle Ranch | X | |
| Larry Madapetti | Glendive | Glendive Area Comm. Counc. | X | |
| Ann Skantz | S. Long MT | HD 53 | | ENGLE RANCH |
| Dean Switzer | Riches Mont | HD 54 | | Engle Ranch |
| Carl Zbrocki | Miles City Mont. | Rep Dist 51 | | |
| Ron Kellender | Helena | Fish Wildlife & Parks Dept | | HB 460X |

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

HOUSE BILL NO. 460
 INTRODUCED BY *Loann Anderson* *Thomas R. Brown*
HARP Keady *Christie*

1 ongoing operation and maintenance costs of Lone Pine State
 2 Park.

-End-

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY
 5 FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT LONE PINE STATE PARK LOCATED NEAR
 6 KALISPELL, MONTANA; AND TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN CONDITIONS UPON
 7 THE APPROPRIATION."

8

9 RE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated
 11 for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, from the renewable
 12 resource development clearance fund account the sum of
 13 \$327,600 to the department of natural resources and
 14 conservation and to the department of administration for the
 15 department of fish, wildlife, and parks for improvements at
 16 Lone Pine State Park near Kalispell, Montana.

17 (2) There is appropriated for the biennium ending June
 18 30, 1983, from the state parks federal and private revenue
 19 account to the department of administration for the
 20 department of fish, wildlife, and parks the sum of \$172,320
 21 for the purpose of acquiring and improving land at Lone Pine
 22 State Park and Foy Lake which is contiguous with Lone Pine
 23 State Park.

24 Section 2. Revenue from user fees. Revenue obtained
 25 by the collection of user fees shall be applied to the

HB 460

Mr. Chairman and Committee members: I am Senator Don Ochsner, District 26, Custer and Prairie County. I rise in opposition to the Tongue River Road public recreation area and shooting range. I will try to give you a word description of the surrounding area to this proposed recreation area. If we start at the southwest corner, it will go a little over a quarter of a mile east. Along this area lies my ranch, buildings, three homes, livestock sheds, housing for up to 35,000 poultry, and 500 to 1000 head of cattle, for six months each fall and winter. There are usually ten full-time employees on this ranch. There are three families, two with young children. I feel that with this area close to our ranch it is a hazzard to our operation to have such a recreation area and shooting range that close. Now, if we start at the southeast corner and go three quarters of a mile north, the east side of this is all range land of ours, where cattle are usually confined for the winter, six months of the season. Starting at the northeast corner and going west, less than three quarters of a mile is another ranch property, belonging to H.D.Landers, who runs a large number of purebred Hereford cattle. This property, also, has a housing development started on the northwest corner of this proposed project, with two homes already built and some other lots sold, I understand. If this goes, the whole north side of the recreation area is a proposed housing development. Now, starting at the northwest corner, we have three ranch homes, all within at least a half mile and most of them closer than a quarter mile just across the U.S. highway 312 from the proposed shooting range. Now going along the west side, it is bounded by U.S. highway 312 and the Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Canal. The proposed area is a 600 yard rifle shooting range, an archery range and a pistol range. The terrain of this area is mainly gumbo, red shale, scoria, high

hills. The westerly side is a sloping area towards the highway and an irrigation ditch. There is one well on this with electricity. They say that there is a reservoir for recreation. Most of the time in the summer months this reservoir is dry, being very small.

This Tongue River recreational area and shooting range was described in the Miles City Star as an area lying to the right hand side of U.S. highway 312 as you go toward Broadus. Most people believe this to be the area down along Tongue River where they would have picnics and recreational area along the river. This is not true. It is a high area to my knowledge, having lived beside it for 30 some years, does not even have a tree on it, except what I have planted on my side of the fence, and a few little willows that are growing out of the water on the Tongue Yellowstone irrigation ditch. There is danger of this irrigation ditch to children and adults and a chance of refuge disposal in the ditch, also, the ditch company has an easement.

I have never been personally or by correspondence contacted about this proposed recreational area. I have received quite a few letters on this since being in Helena. Yesterday I took five of the ones I received that day and checked on them. Only two of them were listed in the Miles City telephone book. Most of the names on the letters that I have received are not people I recognized as knowing. Having lived in the community for thirty five years, I feel I know quite a few of the residents.

We already have parks in the Miles City area. One is called the Woodruff Park, which is east of town in the Pine Hills. It is a beautiful place for a picnic area. There are tables, fire pots,

with roads to get back into each corner, so you can have privacy in your picnics. This has been used quite extensively, but in recent years there has been a lot of vandalism and it has been very hard to keep up for the county.

We have another recreational area on the outskirts of Miles City, called Spotted Eagle. This has a large body of water to swim in, water ski, also, some fishing, etc. There was an archery range near, and a trap shooting range. They have had so much vandalism, and depredation that they have had to put a gate up and lock it and keep a caretaker there, so the public is unable to use it, only at certain hours. There is also available near Miles City a pistol range and the Rod & Gun Club has a rifle range.

Last fall before election, Governor Schwinden was in Miles City for a speech. He was approached on his feelings as to more state parks for recreation. His statement was then, "We are having so much vandalism and depredation on our state parks that we can hardly find money enough to keep going the ones we already have. We have to close at least half of our rest stops along our highways each winter. Why should we spend more money for more parks when we cannot keep up the ones we already have?"

I feel, in the area north of Miles City, we have several locations a lot more adaptable for recreational areas, for a shooting range, with access to the river for picnics, all close together and away from any habitation that is within a mile or more from this recreation area. I have offered to trade a section I own up near the Signal Butte area which is closer to Miles City than this, that would give the BLM three sections in a block, that I feel would make

a lot better recreational area for cross-country skiing and all sorts of recreation, as it would be larger and more isolated from the public. There would not be this much damage to private property and upsetting to the operations of ranches as the Tongue River recreation area.

Committee members, please take into consideration how you would feel to have a rifle range and a recreational area less than a quarter of a mile from your home where you and your two sons and their children live. There is an area, I feel, would come more near meeting the total public needs than any of the other proposed areas in the Miles City area. This would be the Tongue River Wilderness area. This would be the recreational area proposed in Miles City itself, which is the old Tongue River channel, which would make good jogging, hiking, and bicycle paths for the residents of Miles City without having to drive out into the country to do such things. This could also be turned into some picnic areas as there are trees and places where the people could get away.

With this I close, Mr. Chairman, and would be happy to answer any questions that the committee would care to ask in regards to this proposed recreation area or other proposed areas for Miles City.

ENGLE RANCH
PROPOSED STATE RECREATION AREA

The Engle Ranch is in two parts, a Yellowstone Riverbottom part and an Upper Sand Creek part.

Yellowstone Riverbottom part:

- three miles of riverfront, largely islands.
- it is on the flood plain and often floods.
- it is not farmed nor irrigated.
- approximately 550 acres.
- critical and productive wildlife habitat of brush, willows, and cottonwoods. Excellent for whitetail deer, pheasants, etc.
- approximately 20 miles up and down river to nearest river access site.
- would allow short river floats to Glendive.
- well defined natural boundaries.
- proximity to Glendive will facilitate use.
- provides an open view of historic Hagan Indian village site.
- it would provide much outdoor recreation:
 - access to the river for fishing and agate picking.
 - hunting of varied wildlife which would ease pressure on private land.
 - hiking.
 - scenic and nature photography.

Upper Sand Creek part:

- south of and adjacent to Makoshika State Park.
- access by Sand Creek County Road.
- pine-juniper hills and breaks.
- approximately 2,373 acres.
- excellent habitat for mule deer, sharptail grouse, etc.
- this part would also provide much outdoor recreation:
 - very scenic.
 - very good for hiking, photography, cross-country skiing, snowmobiles, and possibly motorbikes.
 - very good hunting.
 - fossil area; Late Cretaceous dinosaur fossils found in this area.
- fits Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' Long Range Plan for Makoshika Park.
 - would provide possibility for Makoshika Park to Sand Creek Loop Road in the future.
 - the state actually owns only 810 acres of the 56,000-acre badland area.
 - another 3,818 acres have been brought under park management through leases and easements.
 - the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has been making efforts to obtain management authority for additional key tracts through purchase or long-term leases.

Exhibit

ENGLE RANCH
Proposed State Recreation Area

2

Limited Development Required:

- these would be walk-in recreation areas with no additional trails or facilities developed, except for an access trail to the river with a boat ramp.
- four Fish and Game personnel already here.
- minimum of travel from Glendive to administer this area.

Criteria for Park System:

- provides recreational area.
- provides fishing access site.

Need and Justification for Recreational Use:

- this area is needed due to the influx of people to this area and the increased pressure on private land.
- note the many uses-not a single purpose acquisition.
- will be used most of the year.

Asking Price:

- landowners are willing to sell.
 - understand that their land would not be purchased for more than a fair appraisal.
- have stated \$800,000 as an asking price which is an average of \$270 per acre.
- best buy per acre compared to other proposals.

Community Support:

- organizations.
- individuals.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Coal Tax Park Proposal
Pecreation Area

Engle Fanch near Glendive

Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

Dawson County Commissioners

Dawson County Planning Board

Gateway Foard of Realtors (Glendive, Sidney, Wibaux)

Kiwanas

Breakfast Lions

Noon Lions

Lower Yellowstone Outdoors Assoc.

Lower Yellowstone Plainsmen

Makoshika Bowmen

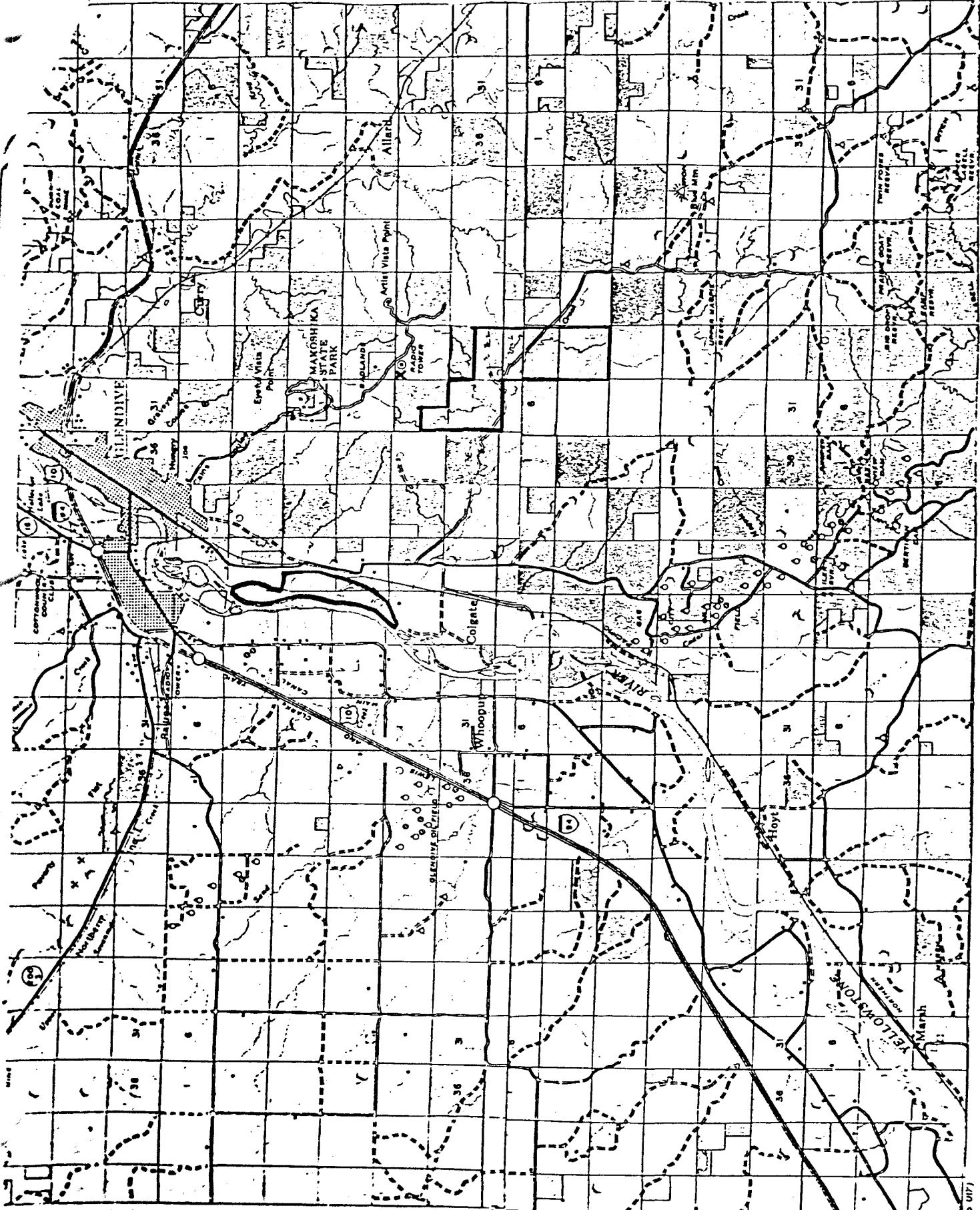
Badlands Camera Club

Terry Sportsmen Assoc.

Glendive Rock and Hobby Club

Glendive Jaycees

Montana Wildlife Federation



R 56 E

R 55 E

R 54 E

T 15 N

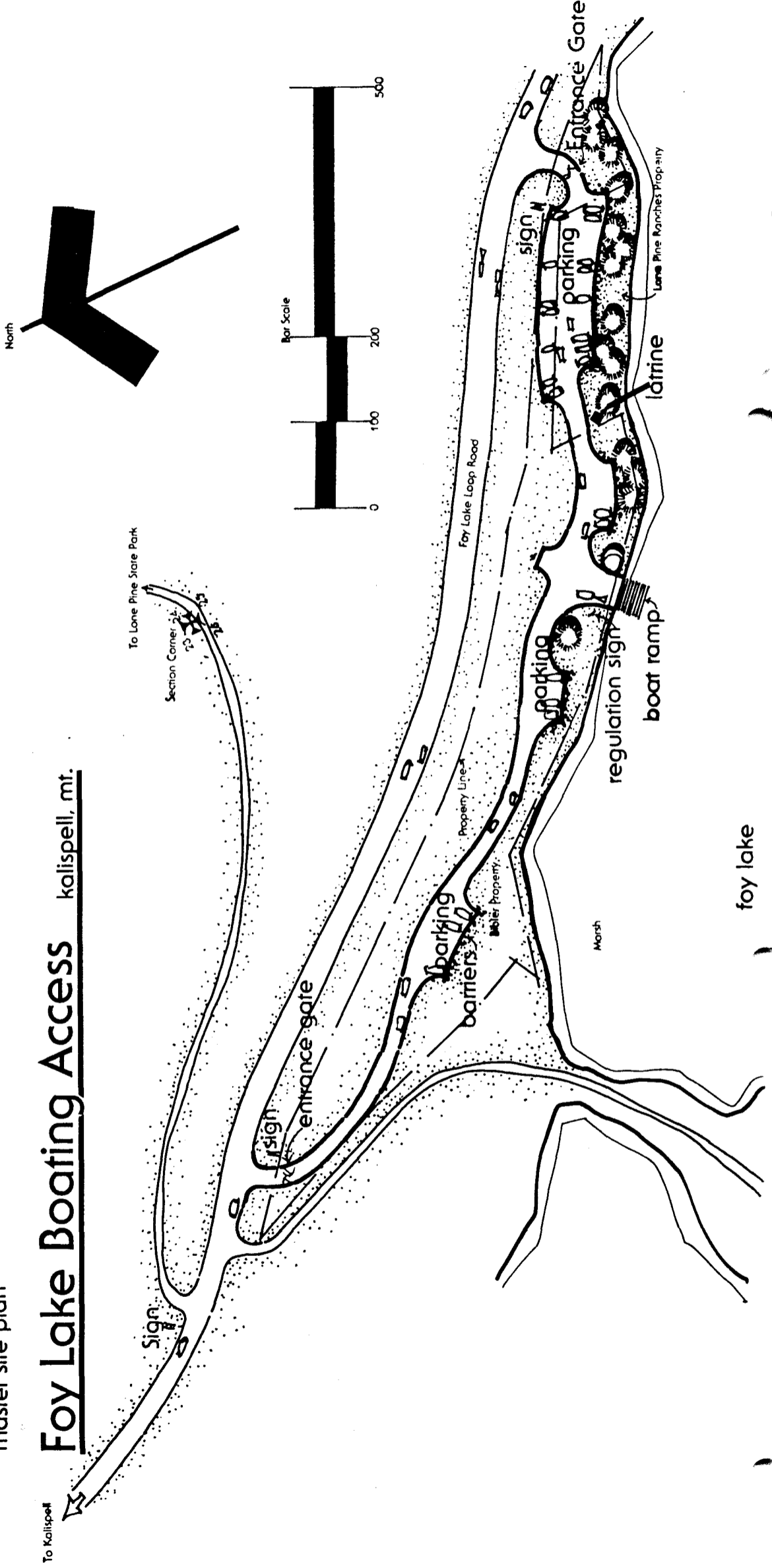
T 14 N

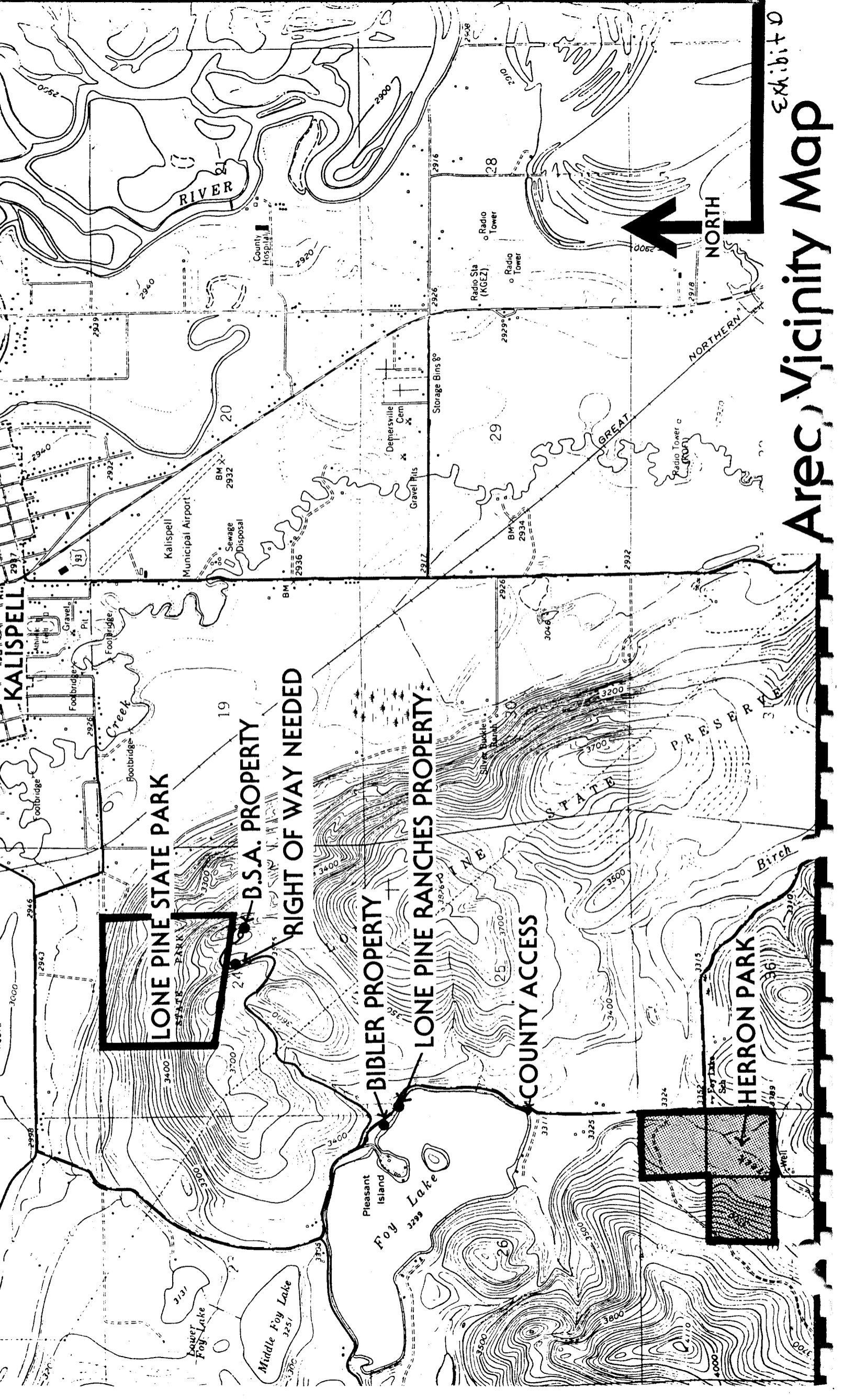
T 13 N

1982-1983 Proposed Improvements

master site plan

Foy Lake Boating Access Kalispell, mt.





LONE PINE STATE PARK

B.S.A. PROPERTY

RIGHT OF WAY NEEDED

BIBLER PROPERTY

LONE PINE RANCHES PROPERTY

COUNTY ACCESS

HERRON PARK

RIVER

NORTH

Exhibit D

Area Vicinity Map

KALISPELL

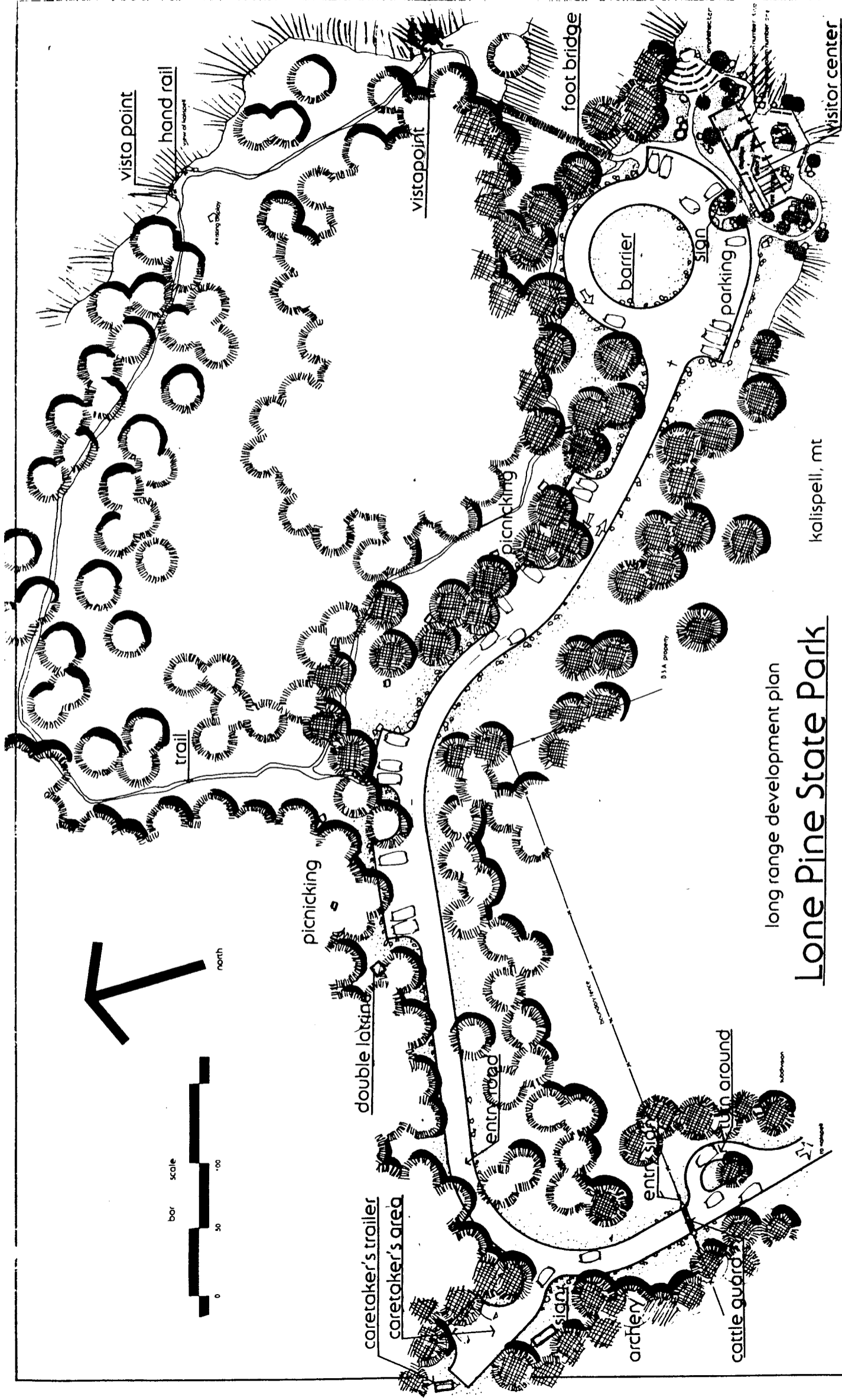
LONE PINE

HERRON

FOY

LAKE

MAP



kalispell, mt

long range development plan

Lone Pine State Park

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Drawn by: _____ Date: _____ | Approved by: _____ Date: _____ |
| 4 90 Date: _____ | Approved by: _____ Date: _____ |


 Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks • 1


 Exhibit E

LONE PINE STATE PARK

THE AREA

THE 162 ACRE LONE PINE STATE PARK IS LOCATED ON A HIGH RIDGE, A PART OF THE SALISH RANGE WHICH FORMS THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE FLATHEAD AND MISSION VALLEYS, AND IS IMMEDIATELY SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY LIMITS OF KALISPELL. THE RIDGE PROVIDES A SPECTACULAR VIEWING POINT OVERLOOKING THE CITY OF KALISPELL, THE SURROUNDING VALLEY AND THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS. VIEWING NORTH FROM THE RIDGE CREST, ONE SEES THE BIG MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, THE WHITEFISH RANGE AND GLACIER PARK, THE SWAN AND MISSION RANGES TO THE EAST, AND FLATHEAD LAKE TO THE SOUTH.

THE PARK IS NEAR A MAJOR BOUNDARY OF ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES, THE VEGETATION IS COMPLEX AND DIVERSE. COMMUNITIES VARY FROM PRAIRIE TO DOUGLAS-FIR FOREST WITH DENSE AND COMPLEX UNDER-STORY. BECAUSE THESE COMMUNITIES ARE MATURE, IF NOT CLIMAX, THEY REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR TEACHING AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

BECAUSE OF THE PARK'S LOCATION AND THE NATURE OF THIS PROJECT, THIS AREA CAN SERVE AS THE COORDINATING LINK BETWEEN THE CITY OF KALISPELL, FOY LAKE ACCESS, AND HERRON COUNTY PARK.

EXISTING LAND, USE, FACILITIES AND MANAGEMENT

LAND

THE PARK WAS DONATED IN 1941 BY ERNEST AND HAZEL WHITE, AND DEDICATED IN 1950. THE INTENT OF THE DONATION WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING, MAINTAINING, AND MANAGING THIS LAND FOR ORDERLY PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USE. THE GRANT FURTHER STATED THAT THE PROPERTY COULD NOT BE SOLD, LEASED, OR EXCHANGED FOR ANY PRIVATE USE, AND THAT ANY INCOME GENERATED THEREFROM WOULD BE USED TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE PARK.

USE

PRESENT USES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITED, PRIMARILY DUE TO THE STATE'S LIMITED BUDGET FOR MANAGEMENT, AND NEGLECT TO FUND A PROJECT FOR DEVELOPING FACILITIES AND THE ORDERLY MANAGEMENT OF THIS UNIQUE AND SCENIC AREA.

PRESENTLY THE AREA IS ABUSED BY MOTORCYCLES, FOUR-WHEEL DRIVES, BEER PARTIES, DRAG RACES, AND DRUG PARTIES OF VARIOUS TYPES. SINCE THE PARK HAS NO MANAGEMENT, THE LANDSCAPE, AND THE FEELINGS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED. MANY SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND TWO DEATHS HAVE RESULTED FROM MISUSE OF THE PARK IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

DATA FROM THE CONRAD MANSION MUSEUM IN KALISPELL SHOWS THAT 60% OF THEIR VISITORS COME FROM OUTSIDE MONTANA. THIS SAME TREND COULD HAPPEN AT LONE PINE.

FACILITIES

LIMITED FUNDING HAS RESULTED IN LIMITED MANAGEMENT; THEREFORE, THE

STATE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROTECT THIS PARK FROM ABUSE. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE NO FACILITIES ON THE PROPERTY.

MANAGEMENT

A MANAGEMENT STUDY FINANCED BY THE STATE WAS CONDUCTED IN 1978, TO EXAMINE AND MAP THE PARK'S PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, TO INVESTIGATE AND DOCUMENT LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES, TO DETERMINE AREA ATTITUDES TO VARIOUS GROUPS, AND TO SET OUT SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPTIONS. GENERALLY, THE STUDY INDICATES THAT THE DETERIORATED CONDITIONS AT LONE PINE CAN BE REVERSED. THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ADDITIONS OF MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS CHANGES IN THE CURRENT APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT.

THE PROJECT, AS PROPOSED, WILL INITIATE INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND WILL CREATE A CHANGE AND SHIFT IN USE FROM THE PRESENT NEGATIVE USE TO A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND USE. THEREFORE, THIS PROJECT CAN BECOME THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH MANY COMMUNITY-BASED NEEDS CAN BE MET. PUBLIC NEEDS CAN BE MET THROUGH ORDERLY MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVE COORDINATION WITH THE CITY AND COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENTS, SCHOOLS, INTEREST GROUPS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

NEED FOR FUNDING

LONE PINE STATE PARK IS A POTENTIALLY VALUABLE RESOURCE TO THE FLATHEAD AREA COMMUNITIES, STATE RESIDENTS, AND THE VISITING TOURIST. THE LAND ITSELF IS VALUABLE REAL ESTATE, AS IS THE LAND SURROUNDING THE PARK. WITHOUT THIS PROJECT THE NEGATIVE USE OF THE AREA WILL CONTINUE, AND FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE PARK ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDING PRIVATE PROPERTY WILL OCCUR. CURRENT DANGEROUS OFF-ROAD VEHICULAR USE IN THE AREA OF THE SCENIC OVERLOOK HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH. THIS CAN CERTAINLY PRESENT THE STATE WITH LIABILITIES WHICH COULD BE FAR MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THE INVESTMENT NEEDED TO BRING LONE PINE STATE PARK TO ACCEPTABLE, STATE STANDARDS.

THESE LIABILITIES CAN BE AVOIDED AND A BENEFICIAL AND PROFITABLE USE OF THE AREA CAN BE GENERATED BY APPROVING THIS PROJECT IN A POSITIVE EFFORT TO CARE FOR AND MANAGE LONE PINE STATE PARK AS A PUBLIC INVESTMENT, AND AT THE SAME TIME SATISFY MANY BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

PROJECT GOAL

TO DEVELOP A 162 ACRE STATE PARK LOCATED WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF KALISPELL, MONTANA, AND WHICH HAS AN ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR VIEWING POINT OVERLOOKING THE ENTIRE FLATHEAD VALLEY AND SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS.

PURPOSE

TO MAKE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLE AS PLANNED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT, WHEREBY VALLEY RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ALIKE CAN SATISFY MANY OF THEIR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IN A UNIQUE AND SERENE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK MANAGEMENT BASED UPON PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND PUBLIC INPUT GATHERED DURING THE STUDY PERIOD:

- THE PARK IS THE LARGEST STATE OWNED PARCEL OF RECREATIONAL LAND IN NORTHWEST MONTANA.
- THE PARK SHOULD FIT INTO, AND BE COMPATIBLE WITH, PRESENT AND FUTURE PUBLIC RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VALLEY. ITS SIZE, LOCATION, AND TOPOGRAPHY MAKE IT A UNIQUE PART OF THIS SYSTEM.
- BECAUSE OF THE STEEPNESS OF THE TERRAIN, THE MAJORITY OF THE 162 ACRES IN THE PARK ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR HIGH-DENSITY OR CONCENTRATED USAGES SUCH AS BALL FIELDS, ETC..
- THE PARK AFFORDS THE FINEST AND MOST EASILY ACCESSIBLE PANOROMIC VIEW OF THE FLATHEAD VALLEY NEAR KALISPELL.
- THE PARK HAS A LONG AND FONDLY-REMEMBERED HISTORY OF USE BY KALISPELL RESIDENTS BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY TO TOWN AND FORMERLY SERENE ATMOSPHERE - IT CONTAINS THE RUINS OF THE BOY SCOUT CABIN.
- UNFORTUNATELY, BEGINNING IN THE "PROTEST" MOVEMENT OF THE SIXTIES, VANDALISM, TRAIL BIKES, FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES, AND LATE NIGHT PARTIES HAVE SCARRED THE PARK AND MADE IT UNATTRACTIVE FOR FAMILIES, QUIETER GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS.
- VEHICULAR ABUSE IS NOT CONFINED TO THE PARK, AND HAS SPREAD OVER THE SURROUNDING PRIVATE LAND DESPITE THE PROTESTS OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS. THE SCARS OF THIS ABUSE ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE ON HILLSIDES AROUND THE PARK.
- THE PARK HAS BECOME AN ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE BECAUSE OF EASE OF ACCESS, LACK OF ATTENTION, AND LACK OF A CLEARLY DEFINED MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - (Cont.)

- SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO USERS ARE PICNICKING, SCENIC VIEWING, FISHING, SWIMMING, BOATING, AND ASSOCIATED WATER SPORTS AT FOY LAKE, SLEDDING, SNOWSHOEING, CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, ARCHERY, PHOTOGRAPHY, BIRD WATCHING, PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS, INTERPRETATION PANELS, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.
- ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC OPINION INDICATES THAT RESPONDENTS AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY ON TWO BASIC POINTS:
 - LONE PINE PARK IS A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE RESIDENTS OF KALISPELL AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, AND WILL BECOME MORE SO AS THIS AREA BECOMES MORE HEAVILY POPULATED.
 - IN ORDER TO BEGIN TO REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL, ABUSE TO THE PARK MUST BE STOPPED AND PROPER USE ENCOURAGED. COUNTY OFFICIALS AND AREA RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS HAVE ALL INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT.

COST ESTIMATE

A. PART I - LONE PINE GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. ROAD WORK | \$ 36,784.00 |
| 2. FOOT TRAIL AND INTERPRETIVE PANELS | 15,140.00 |
| 3. ELECTRICAL SYSTEM | 14,350.00 |
| 4. SEWER SYSTEM | 4,100.00 |
| 5. WATER SYSTEM | 19,350.00 |
| 6. TELEPHONE | 2,300.00 |
| 7. OBLITERATION OF CHIMNEY AND TRAILS | 2,420.00 |
| 8. DOUBLE LATRINES - 2 | 12,000.00 |
| 9. BARRIERS AND FENCING | 47,360.00 |
| 10. CONTINGENCIES, ENGINEERING, INSPECTION, ETC. | 46,196.00 |
| 11. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| SUB TOTAL | \$205,000.00 |

B. PARK II - LONE PINE BUILDING

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. VISITORS CENTER | |
| a. BUILDING | \$120,000.00 |
| b. FURNISHINGS | 10,000.00 |
| c. DISPLAYS | 50,000.00 |
| d. UTILITIES | 10,200.00 |
| e. BASEMENT FURNISHINGS | 10,000.00 |
| 2. CONTINGENCIES, ENGINEERING, INSPECTION, ETC. | <u>39,800.00</u> |
| SUB TOTAL | \$240,000.00 |

COST ESTIMATE (Cont.)

C. PART III - FOY LAKE BOATING ACCESS

A. ROADWORK:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. MAIN ROAD | \$ 11,360.00 |
| 2. PARKING | 6,720.00 |
| 3. BOAT RAMP ACCESS | 480.00 |

B. BOAT RAMP 2,100.00

C. BARRIERS 1,200.00

D. LATRINE 8,000.00

E. SIGNS 1,220.00

F. ENTRY GATES 2,400.00

G. ACQUIRE LONE PINE RANCH PROPERTY 5,000.00

H. ACQUIRE BIBLER PROPERTY NO COST

ENGINEERING, SUPERVISION & INSPECTION = 16,520.00

SUB TOTAL = 55,000.00

GRAND TOTAL = \$500,000.00

INFORMATION CENTER

THE INFORMATION CENTER BUILDING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STATE TO PUT INTO PRACTICE SOME CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE BUILDING CONCEPTS CENTERED AROUND THE THEME OF EARTH SHELTERED DESIGN.

CERTAINLY, WITH FUTURE FUEL SHORTAGES BEING ON THE THRESHOLD OF REALITY, THE NEED TO PRACTICE RESOURCE CONSERVATION IS TIMELY.

TESTIMONY OF RON HOLLIDAY, ADMINISTRATOR
PARKS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
BEFORE THE LONG-RANGE BUILDING COMMITTEE
MARCH ~~19~~, 1981

21

HOUSE BILL 460

Mr. Chairman, my name is Ron Holliday, Administrator of the Parks Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I am speaking today in favor of House Bill 460.

In 1941, Lone Pine State Park, located about a mile and a half southwest of Kalispell, was donated to the State of Montana for developing, maintaining, and managing public recreation use. This area is potentially a valuable resource to the Flathead community, to state residents, and to tourists. From its highest point, one can get a panoramic view of the Flathead Valley and the surrounding mountains. The land itself is valuable real estate.

There are no facilities at the Park and management has been limited. We have been unable to protect it from abuse by motorcycles, four-wheel drives, drag races, beer and drug parties, and other similar activities. Many serious accidents and two deaths have resulted from misuse of the Park in the past few years. This misuse has adversely effected the resource itself, as well as the feelings of the surrounding community toward the Park. We cannot ignore these problems any longer -- we must do something.

Actually, we came to this conclusion about three years ago. Our professional instincts told us the Park was indeed potentially a valuable asset. However, even though we knew of the abuse at the Park,

we had received complaints and knew of considerable "grumblings" from the community, no ground swell of public sentiment for doing something positive there was evident.

Several ideas for development were advanced by a few individuals, but again no ground swell of public sentiment seemed to be forthcoming.

In order to help us to make the correct decisions, we conducted a rather intensive study of public attitudes in the Kalispell community toward the Park. We finished the study in mid-1978 after soliciting comments through the local press, radio, television, and a series of meetings with civic organizations, public officials, and adjacent landowners. A questionnaire was also distributed and the responses were tabulated as a part of the study. The results showed Kalispell residents agreed that the area was potentially a valuable asset. They felt rather strongly that the vehicular abuse should be curtailed and the area should be set aside for rather quiet recreational and educational activities, such as picnicking, nature study, hiking, viewing scenery, etc. Specific recommendations such as needing drinking water, road improvement, and other development were also included.

Although this study was completed several months before the 1979 legislative session and was given wide spread distribution in the community, no legislation was introduced in the 1979 session to remedy the problems.

As the 1981 session approached, we gave this matter a great deal of thought and decided not to advance a Lone Pine Park development proposal

through the Long-Range Building Program. We did this not because we do not believe in the project but instead to find out if the community really supports a positive approach there. I have found when a community truly feels strongly about a project, then real support will follow.

Last March, I delivered a rather direct message to the first of what I assumed would be a series of Kalispell area service clubs and public meetings about the future of Lone Pine. On March 6 of last year, I addressed the Kalispell Rotary Club giving the background of this project and assuring them we had to do something. Alternatives included properly managing the place, closing it, or perhaps disposing of it. I told the group quite candidly that if something were to be accomplished in a positive vein, it must come from Kalispell. I had to go no further -- the Rotary Club took this project to heart and the result is House Bill 460.

Evidence of real support surfaced late last summer when the owner of adjacent property offered to donate a portion of it to the state if House Bill 460 is approved. The potential donation includes over 700 feet of shoreline on Foy's Lake worth in the neighborhood of \$140,000. Foy's Lake has tremendous recreation potential. The small public access to the lake managed by the Flathead County Parks Department receives too much use during much of the year. This additional access is very important.

The appropriation limits outlined in House Bill 460 are high -- at least in our appropriations world. The scope of work outlined in the Bill proposes development of the 160 acres at Lone Pine, as well as the Foy's Lake property. The appropriation would provide for road improvements,

foot trail development, sanitary facilities, fencing installation, caretaker facilities, and a small visitor center primarily aimed at educational uses. A small amount of the appropriation may be necessary to acquire one small right-of-way into the Park.

House Bill 460 envisions re-appropriating an appropriation from the Renewable Resource Development Fund which was appropriated by the 46th Legislature. This amount, \$327,680, was appropriated for the Lawrence Park project in Kalispell but the project did not materialize. The additional funding in House Bill 460 is anticipated to come from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

As my testimony before you yesterday on House Bill 261 and last Saturday on House Bill 564 attest, the 1982 Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation is uncertain at this time. It will remain so for several weeks or months. I suggest you pass House Bill 460 as it is now structured realizing there may be a cutback on project scope if the federal funds are not forthcoming. The potential land donor has insisted his gift is contingent on passage of the full scope work now contemplated in the Bill. I do not know how he will react if the federal funds are not forthcoming -- it may kill the project. However, the donation possibility is too good an opportunity to ignore and I urge you to pass House Bill 460 in its present form.