

MINUTES OF THE LONG RANGE BUILDING COMMITTEE  
February 10, 1983

Side 15 The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in Room 108 of the Capitol Building.

Members present were Sen. Matt Himsl, Sen. Jack Haffey, Sen. Bill Thomas, Sen. Donald Ochsner, Rep. Rex Manuel, Rep. Francis Bardanouve, Rep. Gene Donaldson, Rep. Bob Thoft, and Rep. Steve Waldron. Sen. Mark Etchart was excused.

Also present were Curt Nichols of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office and Ron Holliday, administrator of the Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP).

PRICKLEY PEAR CREEK  
Attachment 1

This 30 acre site containing Big Prickley Pear Creek frontage has been proposed by its owners, Ralph and Sharon Olson. This site is located in the Helena Valley and was identified in the preliminary Lewis and Clark County Park Plan as a potential acquisition for a green belt along the creek. The site provides fishing, deer and duck habitat, and other recreational opportunities. The owners have not had an appraisal completed but have expressed the desire to negotiate "the fair market value." They are asking \$210,000 for the site.

(018) Sharon Olson presented this proposal to the committee. This request would be funded from coal tax funds and Mrs. Olson presented three options: 16 acres for \$112,000; 20 acres for \$140,000, or 30 acres for \$210,000.

Mrs. Olson discussed the location of the proposed site and the reasons she feels this would make a good state park. She feels the area should be preserved for the water quality of the creek and to protect bird and animal life common to the area.

(099) Jim Richard of the Prickley Pear Task Force voiced his support for this request. Mr. Richard noted that there is a lack of public access to the Prickley Pear Creek and this proposal would provide such an access to the public for fishing and for the enjoyment of the creek and its wildlife.

(119) Sue Jackson, an officer for Helena's Last Chance Chapter of the Audubon Society, spoke for the members of the Society in relating the value of this area as a good place for field trips. She noted that there are many

species of birds and other wildlife in the area and is used by students of Carroll College in learning about birds and their habitat.

(138) Pat Nichols of the Lewis and Clark County Park Commission voiced the support of the Commission for this acquisition. The Commission is working on establishing green belts for the county and this area would be a good start in this effort.

(159) Bob Van Der Veer opposed this proposals for a number of reasons. This property currently has water fowl hunting and, if made into a park, this hunting would have to cease for safety reasons. Also, the surrounding area is farm and ranch land and he feels there would be trouble keeping visitors to the park off of privately owned lands. He felt the water quality of the creek is questionable due to grazing cattle upstream and noted that some years ago, the sewage wastewater flowed down this creek. He noted that this area is in the flood plain and the sewage wastewater flows near this creek. Finally, he submitted a letter from Richard Nisbet, director of Public Works (see Attachment 2) relative to the odor problem experienced due to the sewage treatment plant and noted that it would be a long time until that problem would be solved.

Rep. Donaldson inquired about the lake that was once downstream from this property. Mrs. Olson said that the spillway is out and the present owner does not have the money to replace it. She said if the money could be raised, there was a possibility of forming that lake in the future.

WHITE SANDY BEACH  
Attachment 3

Proposed by the owner, Harold Poulsen, this beach area on Hauser Reservoir near Helena receives recreational use for swimming, boating, fishing and camping. The owner is asking \$420,000 for this 88.8 acre site. Mr. Poulsen sent a message with his son, Randy Poulsen, that he would be willing to donate \$45,000 of the total. That would make the request \$375,000 from coal tax funds.

(324) Sen. Dave Fuller, District #15, told the committee that this beach is part of a 60-80 mile range of recreational areas from Townsend to Holter Lake which draws visitors from Butte to Great Falls. He noted that this

area is directly adjacent to the Black Sandy State Recreation Area which already has facilities for boating, camping, fishing, and swimming.

(368) Randy Poulsen represented his father, Harold Poulsen. Mr. Poulsen described the white sand which gives the beach its name and told the committee that this sand is unique to this part of the country. This beach has 3,500 feet of shoreline on Hauser Lake and is very popular to boaters and recreationers in the summer. This land is currently being leased to the state.

There is a steep hill on one side of this property that serves three purposes: it provides privacy to the beach, it shelters the beach from prevailing westerly winds, and it limits the access to the beach area to one road which winds up through an opening in the hill.

(584) Pat Nichols of the Lewis and Clark County Park Board spoke in favor of this proposal and noted to the committee that the Board is on record as being in favor of this proposal. She reiterated previous statements that this beach is heavily used during the summer months.

(604) Dave Cole, president of the Prickley Pear Sportsman Association, voiced the support of the Association for this acquisition. He noted that it would not require a substantial amount of funds for development because of its proximity to Black Sandy. The Association feels the price of this land is very reasonable considering its potential value if it were developed for residential use.

Side 16

#### MICHAEL'S RANCH

(007) Mrs. Michaels, owner of the Michael's Ranch which was offered before this committee during the February 5 hearing, spoke regarding the opposition of neighboring ranchers to the sale of this property to the state. She does not feel the cost of this property will affect land values in the area and submitted a letter from other neighboring farmers that had no objection to the sale of this property to DFWP (see Attachment 4). Mrs. Michaels feels the reason behind the opposition is that the other ranchers want to buy the property but do not want to pay fair market value.

(073) Carroll Hanson, a rancher from Powder River County, stated that the people in the area of the Michael's Ranch would like to see the state develop the land they already own and do not want to see the state buy any more at this time. He also felt that the Michael's Ranch proposal is overpriced.

(085) Ron Holliday explained bonding licensed revenue (see Attachment 5) and provided an overview of the projects to be funded by this bonding.

He explained that the state's fish hatcheries are very old and in need of repair. He further explained the growing need for more fish and, in order to provide these fish, the Department must provide hatcheries with adequate clean water sources and the space necessary to grow an abundance of healthy fish for the enjoyment of Montana sportsmen. He noted that the three hatchery improvements set forth in this hearing will not require any additional manpower.

CRESTON SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY  
Priority #62

(127) Inadequate water supply and the use of alternative sources of water are causing disease and siltation problems at the salmon hatchery in Somers, Montana. The Department cannot control the water supply because it does not own the area where the springs arise. The Department proposes to relocate the hatchery to property owned by the state in Creston Springs where there is an adequate source of water. This move will ensure a continued supply of salmon throughout Montana. This request is for \$455,000 to relocate the hatchery.

Rep. Thoft asked if there was any way to filter the water at Somers to upgrade it. Mr. Holliday explained that the state has no control over the source of the water and that, along with water quality, there is also a problem of the quantity of water coming from this source. Mr. Holliday explained that, if this proposal is approved, the area at Somers will be converted to recreation. Sen. Himsl noted that this area is one of the nicer spots on Flathead Lake.

GREAT FALLS FISH HATCHERY  
Priority #63  
Attachment 6

(201) The fish hatchery located at Giant Springs Heritage Park in Great Falls is in deplorable condition. The

hatchery was constructed in the 1930s and was poorly designed. The size of the hatchery no longer fits the needs of the state.

This request would construct a new hatchery downstream from the present location and would consist of ten 10' x 100' concrete raceways with a 30-inch concrete pipeline 700 feet long to supply water to the raceways. The cost of this project is \$1,900,000.

Rep. Bardanouve asked what would be done with the old ponds. Mr. Holliday stated that they would be improved and still utilized.

BIG TIMBER FISH HATCHERY  
Priority #64  
Attachment 7

(257) The fish hatchery at Big Timber is deteriorating due to age. The wood building will probably collapse during the next heavy snow storm. This hatchery provides the state with McBride cutthroat for which there is an increasing demand.

The expansion includes replacing the building and constructing four new 6' x 100' raceways, trenching, and laying about 500' of water supply lines. The present water supply line would be replaced with either steel pipe or transite. The cost for this project would be \$500,000.

(331) Bill Bigelow, sheep rancher, outdoor sports writer, and sportsman, spoke in favor of this project. The Sweet Grass County Sportsmen bought this hatchery in 1921 and donated it to the Department. They still have a good deal of interest in the hatchery and support this project wholeheartedly.

(363) Andy Epple, planning director for Sweet Grass County, submitted letters from the Sweetgrass County Commissioners, the City of Big Timber, and the Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce (see Attachment 8). The County Commissioners mistakenly assumed in their letter that this expansion would generate more FTE. That was not a correct assumption.

The Chairman asked the committee if they had any questions on these proposals. Sen. Himsel asked why, in the case of the hatchery in Somers, water couldn't be brought up from Flathead Lake. Art Whitney of the Department explained that clean water must be used because the fish have to

live in smaller quarters than a lake would provide and disease is transmitted more rapidly in such close confines. The committee discussed the various hatcheries around the state. Rep. Thoft asked why the state could not contract with private fisheries. Mr. Holliday explained that it would cost more to contract with private fisheries than it would for the state to operate hatcheries.

There was some discussion regarding the funding for these projects. Mr. Holliday referred the committee's questions to the breakdown in funding on Attachment 9.

Mr. Holliday explained to the committee that the Department's headquarters buildings around the state are old, not very well insulated, and were designed for far less employees than are currently operating in these buildings. Part of this is because the Department has more responsibilities now than when these headquarters buildings were built.

GREAT FALLS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
Priority #65  
Attachment 10

(586) The Department would like to move the Great Falls Headquarters to land set aside near Giant Springs. This would provide higher security for the building and would put the building closer to the hatchery. This request would be for the construction of a new building and would cost \$880,000. The original request included \$100,000 for an Information Center in the headquarters building but this request was not approved in the Executive recommendation.

GLASGOW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
Priority #66  
Attachment 11

(660) This building does not meet state building codes. This request would be for the construction of a new facility next to the existing facility and would cost \$220,000.

BOZEMAN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
Priority #67  
Attachment 12

(679) The Department is currently leasing space from MSU for the Wildlife Laboratory. This proposal would be to construct a new building on land donated by MSU and would be big enough for the headquarters and the lab. The cost for this project is \$1,700,000.

Side 17

(048) Bob Van Der Veer said the Bozeman Headquarters is sitting on one of the most valuable pieces of property in Bozeman and he felt there should be a moratorium on this for two years, get a buyer for the property, and use the money from the sale to pay for moving the building onto the MSU campus.

FISHING ACCESS ACQUISITIONS  
Priority #25

(057) The Department sets aside \$1 from resident fishing licenses and \$5 from nonresident fishing licenses to acquire fishing access sites. No more than 25% of these funds can be used to operate and maintain these sites. During the next biennium, revenue projections anticipate just over \$1 million for this fund. Of this amount, the Department is requesting 85% of the total, or \$855,000, to be appropriated to acquire fishing access sites. There are currently 211 of these fishing access sites.

(098) Jim Richard, president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, spoke in support of this proposal. This not only benefits fishermen and floaters, but also benefits landowners by providing public access to creeks and streams, thereby alleviating the age old problem of trespassing.

(113) Jim Means, member of the Giant Springs Heritage Park Commission, told the committee that Giant Springs is the most heavily used state park in Montana. Mr. Means would like the committee to consider all of the proposals that relate to Giant Springs Heritage Park at one time and to expedite the construction so that the whole package can be complete by the Centennial in 1985. This would alleviate the problem Giant Springs has been experiencing of being in a constant state of construction.

Rep. Bardanoue admitted that Mr. Means idea would be nice but it would not be possible the way the Long Range Building process works.

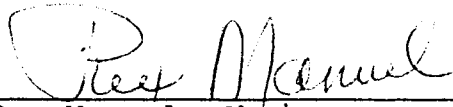
(191) Paco Day of the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce submitted a letter to the committee from the Chamber supporting the Giant Springs proposals (see Attachment 13). He feels the community involvement and the large usage of the park should be considered when making decisions on these proposals.

Long Range Building Committee  
February 10, 1983  
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Rep. Bardanouve asked why the Chamber does not have more signs directing people to Giant Springs. Mr. Day said they have asked for more signage but, so far, these requests have gone unanswered. Mr. Day said he would look into the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rex Manuel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rex Manuel, Chairman  
Approved

RM/lt



VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE Long Range Building COMMITTEE

BILL \_\_\_\_\_

Date February 10, 1983

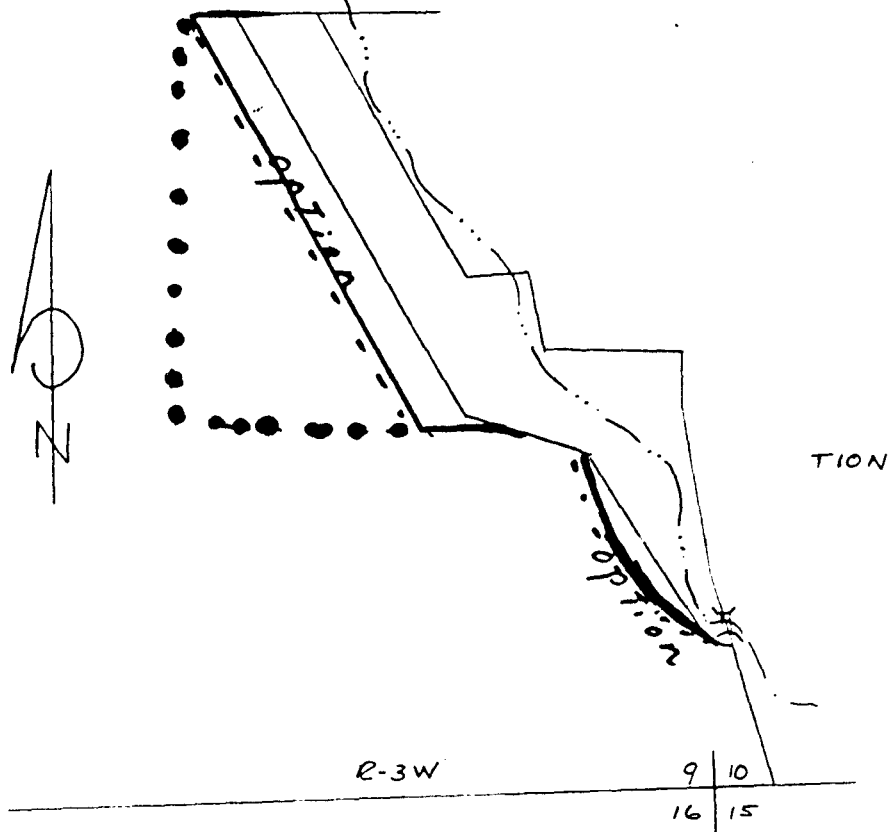
SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
James P. McLean	Connet Falls	Orient Spring Park Commission	X	
Kass Day	" "	Member of Commission	X	
Sue Jackson	Helena	Last Chance Audubon	X	
Pat Nichols	Helena	Lewis & Clark Co Park Commission	X	
<del>Pat Nichols</del> Helen		self BRICKLEY Bagg	X	
Wendy Cole	East Helena Mt	Brickley Spectator	X	
Don Healden	Helena	Dept. of FWP		
Bill Bigelow	Big Timber	Myself		
A.C. Epple	Big Timber	Sweet Grass Co. Big Timber, Chamber of Commerce	X	

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

# Prickley Pear Creek Olson Ranch Park



RALPH AND SHARON OLSON

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA

Scale: 1"=660' — Approx. 16 Ac. More or Less

--- 4 acre Option 20 acres More or Less  
 ... 10 acres Option 30 acres More or Less

31 acres

10

D  
12.5

F  
9.9

C  
21.8

E  
7.0

C-106  
106.5

lane

C-716  
J. Rogan

WALKER RD

38.1

H  
130

H  
9

I  
19

C-131

C-104  
104.0

A  
5.0

B  
4.2



February 10, 1983

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, good evening.

We are Ralph and Sharon Olson representing the Prickley Pear Creek--Olson Ranch Park proposal. We have for you this evening a booklet, maps and pictures as visual aids to help you appreciate our park proposal.

Since the publication of the booklet of proposed parks we have found the acres available as stated or in three options:

1. Park, trees and stream, some meadow and parking. 16 acres more or less. \$112,000
2. The above plus second access road and more meadow ground. 20 acres more or less. \$140,000
3. The above plus established drain, more meadow ground containing the natural habitat of the Sandhill Crane and many varieties of ducks, and other birds. 30 acres more or less. \$210,000

Presentation of visual material.

The reason we have submitted our ground for a park is 4 generations of Olsons that have loved the land and have protected it. We want to keep this land for the use and enjoyment of the people of the state and also the natural environment for its many small residents. (animal and bird)

The Park is also accessible to the public by walking or biking from Helena and the surrounding land developments.

The future purchase of land adjacent to this park for enjoyment and the protection of our public waters is possible. Therefore, making it possible to create memories

for tomorrow in our children today. Please help us to preserve the future memories today--so we won't have to look back and say we should have done something way back when....

Thank you for your interest.

*Ralph C. Olson*

*Sharon L. Olson*

Publications:

The Prickley Pear Creek has been studied and documented for over 60 years.

THE INDEPENDENT RECORD

Many articles documenting the studies of Prickley Pear.

PRICKLEY PEAR CREEK

A Report On Man's Debilitating Impacts  
Water Quality Bureau  
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences  
July 1981

MONTANA OUTDOORS

Battleground at Prickley Pear  
July/Aug. 1981

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Treasure State Health  
Vol. 2 1979

TREASURE STATE HEALTH

October 1974  
Vol. 29 No. 1

PRICKLEY PEAR PROJECT

Jan-Feb 1980  
Prickley Pear Project

Reasons for park:

Close to Helena and surrounding developments

Protect the land and water

Protect the existing animal and bird life.

Public interest and many years of study and documentation of the creek.

Possible cash payback -- Fall cattle-pasture lease program. Offsetting  
maintainance costs.

PRICKLEY PEAR COAL TAX PARK PROPOSAL  
POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT and OPERATIONS COSTS

Development

Fencing --- 15 acres		\$ 3,600
Graveled Parking --- 6 vehicles		420
Graveled Access Road --- 100 yards		2,520
Picnic Tables --- 4		840
Double Latrine ---		8,000
Signing		500
Garbage Cans		260
Contingency and Engineering (25%)		<u>4,035</u>
	TOTAL	\$20,175

Operations

Regional Park Manager	.05 FTE	\$ 1,615
Helena Park Manager	.20 FTE	<u>4,650</u>
	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 6,265
Supplies, Repairs, Etc.		<u>\$ 2,000</u>
	TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATIONS	\$ 8,265

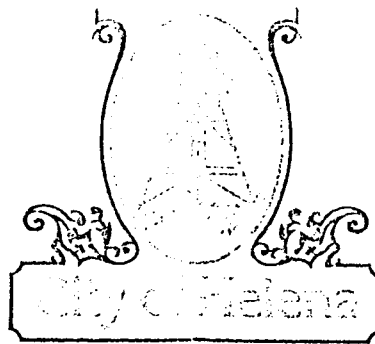








Commissioners  
Dorelli J. Pitter, Mayor  
John Seaton  
Michael J. DaSilva  
John A. Duncan  
Gale L. Johnson



Robert A. Erickson  
City Manager

November 4, 1982

Helena, Montana  
Wastewater Plant Improvements  
Contract No. 82-1

Mr. Roy Volk, President  
Volk Construction, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2603  
Great Falls, MT 59403

Dear Mr. Volk:

This letter will serve as Notice to Proceed, effective November 4, 1982,  
on Contract No. 82-1, Wastewater Plant Improvements.

In accordance with the terms of the contract, the Contractor agrees to  
substantially complete the work within 540 days and to complete all  
work within 600 days from this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Nisbet, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

RAN:cp

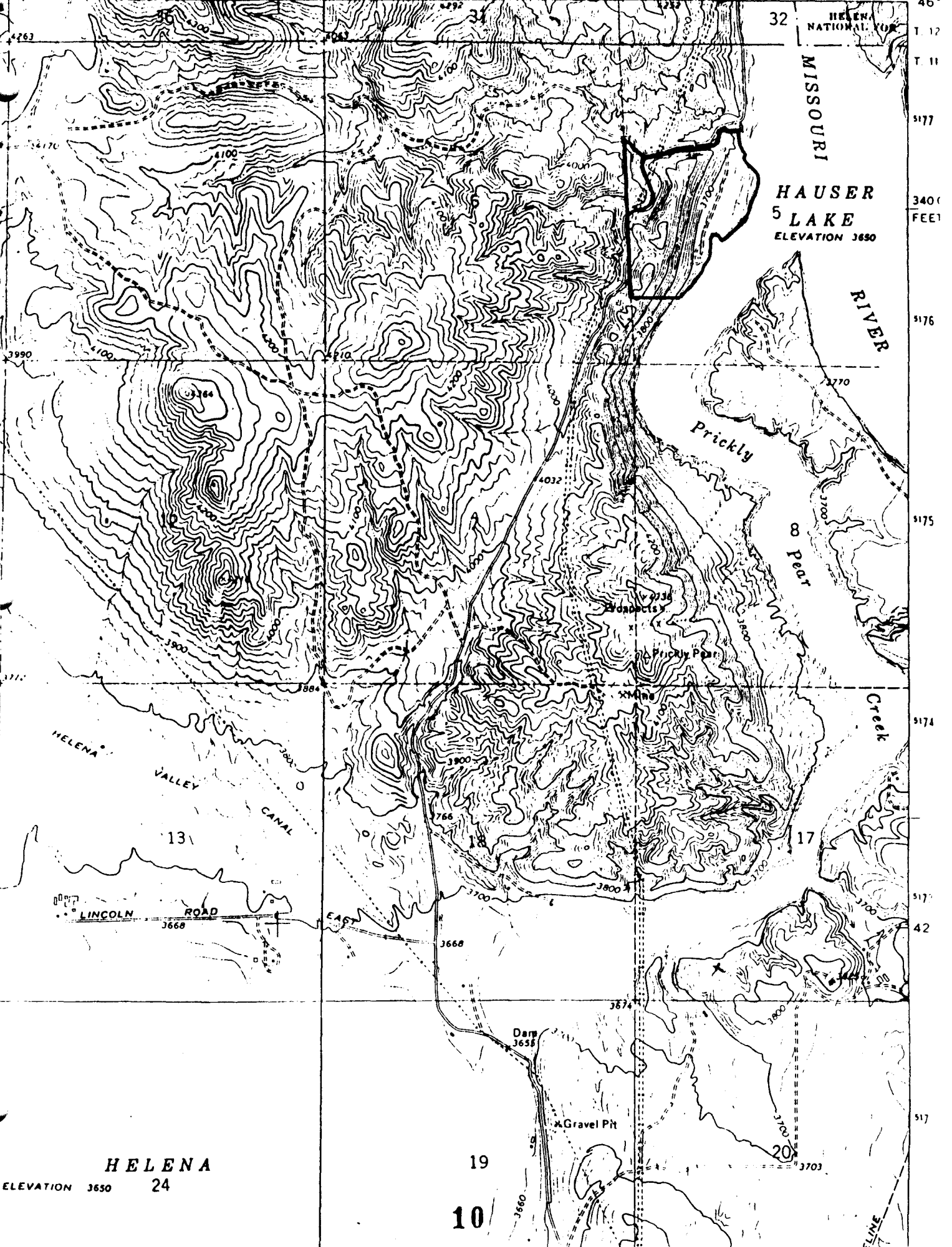
cc: Black & Veatch  
Robert Peccia & Associates  
Water Quality Bureau

Nov 4 82  
July 15 ± 1984



WHITE SANDY BEACH

STATE PARK



HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

MISSOURI RIVER

HAUSER LAKE ELEVATION 3650

Prickly Pear Creek

HELENA VALLEY CANAL

LINCOLN ROAD

HELENA 24 ELEVATION 3650

19

10

20

13

17

18

3668

Dump 3658

Gravel Pit

3660

3703

3900

766

3700

3800

3674

3700

3703

3990

4100

4000

4000

4000

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5177

3400 FEET

5176

5175

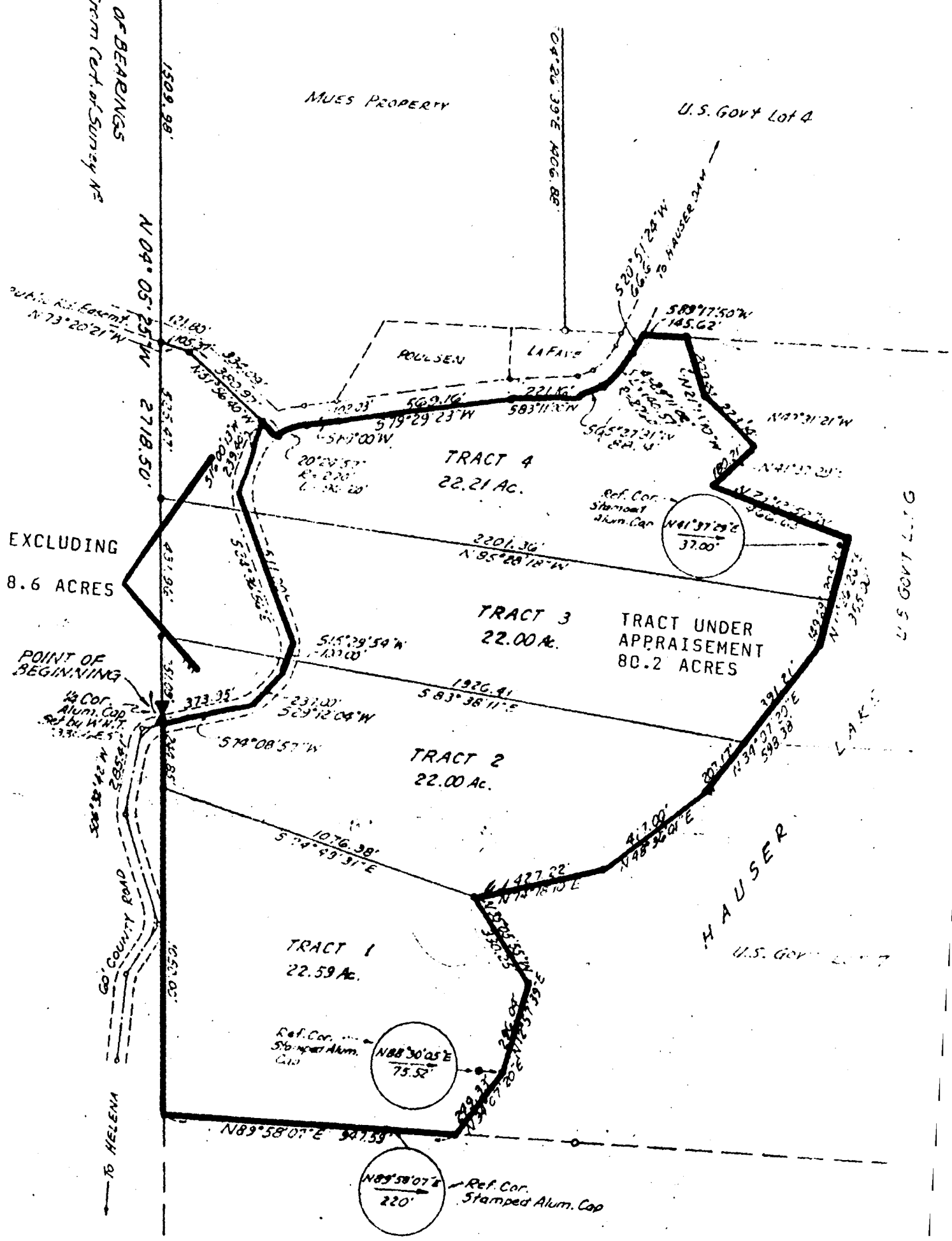
5174

5171

42

517

517



EXCLUDING  
8.6 ACRES

POINT OF  
BEGINNING

GO' COUNTY ROAD

TO HELENA

MUES PROPERTY

U.S. GOV'T Lot 4

ROULSEN

LA FAYE

TRACT 4  
22.21 AC.

TRACT 3  
22.00 AC.

TRACT UNDER  
APPRAISEMENT  
80.2 ACRES

TRACT 2  
22.00 AC.

TRACT 1  
22.59 AC.

HAUSER

U.S. GOV'T Lot 7

Ref. Cor. Alum. Cap.  
N88°30'05"E  
75.52'

Ref. Cor. Stamped Alum. Cap.  
N89°58'07"E  
220'

Montana Power Co.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Answering the following questions will help determine the value of your proposal to the State Park System.

1. Please check the recreational activities that could take place frequently at this site.

Walking for pleasure     Picnicking     Fishing  
 Bicycling     Hunting     Camping  
 Bird-Watching     Boating     Scenery Viewing  
 Historic or Natural Interpretation  
 Other: specify Water sports including swimming and scuba diving.  
 Other: specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: specify \_\_\_\_\_

2. During what season would this site receive use?

fall     winter     spring     summer

3. Does this site have historic or archaeological value?

no     yes, if yes, please explain: None, aside from being on the route of Lewis and Clark.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Does this site have scenic value?

no     yes: If yes, please explain: From the beach looking East and North one sees Hauser Lake, of course, and the Eldorado Bar, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and the Big Belt Mountains.



5. Does this site have scientific value? (scientific value could be defined as ecological or geological features).

no XX yes: If yes, please explain: The geologic origin of the unique white sand could be of scientific interest.

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6. Please explain your conception of the possible future management and development of this site:

402/W White Sandy Beach could prove of immeasurable value in meeting the growing demand for recreational access to the state's limited number of lakes. Initially it could serve to relieve pressure on the often overcrowded Black Sandy area without extensive development work. Eventually, White Sandy could be developed in a similar manner as Black Sandy and provide far more area and water front than is available at Black Sandy.

Located on one of the nation's few blue ribbon trout streams, the Missouri River, and under 100 miles from Great Falls, Butte, Bozeman, Anaconda, Deer Lodge and, of course, Helena, the area could eventually become one of the premier state parks in Montana.

The alternative appears to be continued neglect and the consequent continued despoilment by off-road-vehicles; or development of residential lots as one of the few sizeable private tracts on the Helena-area lakes.

January 5, 1983

Harold Poulsen  
1527 Meadowlark Drive  
Great Falls, Montana 59404

APPRAISAL REPORT

White Sandy Beach  
Lewis and Clark County, MT

In accordance with your request and for the purpose of estimating the Fair Market Value of the subject property, I have personally inspected the property and have made a careful and thorough investigation and analysis of the subject and available data.

By reason of this investigation it is my opinion that the Fair Market Value of the subject property, as of December 1, 1982, is indicated at:

\$420,000

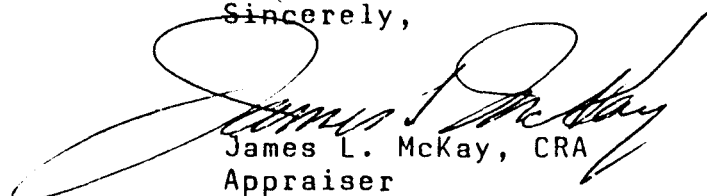
Description of the property appraised and an explanation of the appraisal procedures used are contained in this report.

Employment in and compensation for making this report are in no way contingent upon the value reported.

I certify that I have not, nor do I contemplate in the future, any financial interest in the subject property.

It has been a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,

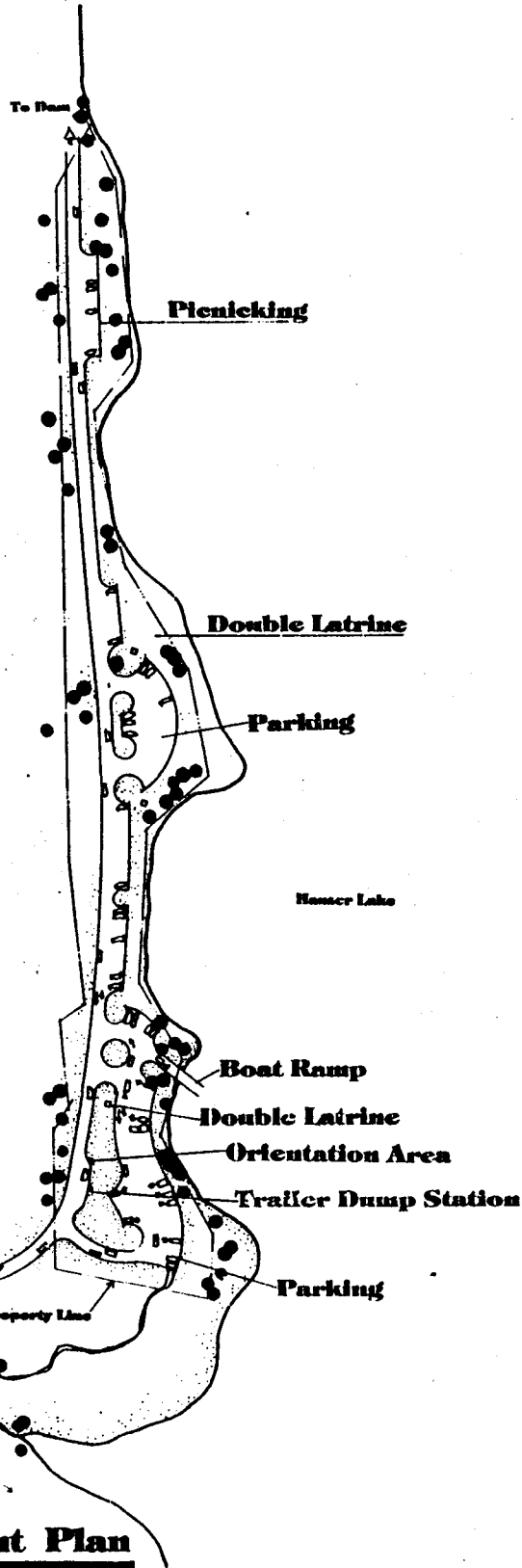


James L. McKay, CRA  
Appraiser

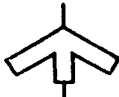
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**Vicinity Map**



**Bar Scale**



**North**

To Helena

White Sandy

**Master Development Plan**

**Black Sandy**

**State Recreation Area**

**Helena, Montana**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Visit  
**MONTANA**  
the **BIG SKY** Country  
**CASCADE COUNTY**

COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 111  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

February 2, 1983

State of Montana  
Co-Chairmen  
Long Range Building Committee

Senator Mark Etchart  
Representative Rex Manuel

Gentlemen:

The Board of County Commissioners of Cascade County wishes to express its support of the purchase of "White Sandy Beach" on Hauser Lake, Lewis and Clark County.

This addition to the Parks Division of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department would be centrally located and accessible to a large portion of Montana Citizens in Cascade County, as well as other counties surrounding this area.

We feel that in order to attract industry and increase employment, Montana must provide recreational facilities to make up for the lack of other amenities. In addition, this area is used extensively by our local citizens.

We feel we would be remiss in not expressing our support for this project.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CASCADE COUNTY

By Jack T. Whitaker  
Jack T. Whitaker Chairman

jc

**Have a  
Helena  
Day!**

HELENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
201 East Lyndale Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59601  
406/442-4120

President  
**Dick Fossum**  
Vice President, First Bank

President Elect  
**Dave Simkins**  
Owner, Leslie's Hallmark

Vice President  
**Maxine Rucker**  
Rucker's Inc.

Vice President  
**Frank Shaw**  
Sr. Vice President, Northwestern Bank

Vice President  
**Dean Williams**  
Gen. Mgr., KMTX Radio

Treasurer  
**Lynn Dickey**  
Helena Mgr., Galusha, Higgins & Galusha

Past President  
**Gene Severson**  
Mgr., Helena Job Service

Director  
**Betty Babcock**  
Owner, Colonial Inn

Director  
**Russ Cravens**  
Pub. Rel. Mgr., Mountain Bell

Director  
**Concetta Eckel**  
Owner, Panhandler

Director  
**Phil Grossberg**  
Mgr., The Globe Men's Store

Director  
**Dill Spilker**  
Co-owner, The Landmark Co.

Director  
**Mike Voeller**  
Editor, Independent Record

Executive Director  
**Joseph N. Weggenman**

Administrative Assistant  
**Kathy Mooney**

Office Manager  
**Cindy Roberts**

February 2, 1983

Senator Mark Etchart  
Representative Rex Manuel  
Co-Chairman  
Long-Range Building Committee  
Montana Legislature

Gentlemen:

The White Sandy Beach Proposal is before your committee as part of the 1983 Coal Tax Park Proposal.


This area is vital as a parks and recreation site not only to residents of the Greater Helena Area, but also to residents from a regional area including Great Falls, Bozeman, Butte, and Missoula.

The area offers a strong attraction to visitors from other parts of Montana as well as those who visit our state. It offers the vacationer a panoramic setting, great fishing and camping, plus an excellent site for a large number of other outdoor uses which cover the four seasons of the year.

Your committee's approval of the purchase of this 88 acre tract as parks and recreation area gives those of us who promote this area one more attractive tool.

The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce urges your approval.

Respectfully,

  
Joseph N. Weggenman  
Executive Director

JNW:cr

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

February 10, 1983

Representative Rex Manuel  
Chairman  
Long-Range Building Committee  
Montana Legislature

Dear Representative Manuel,

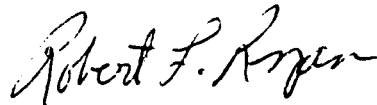
The Lewis and Clark County Board of Parks Commissioners is on record as being whole-heartedly in favor of the purchase of White Sandy Beach on Hauser Lake as a State Park under the Coal Tax Park Acquisition Program.

This area and the adjoining Black Sandy Recreation Area currently receive heavy use by Montanans from all areas of the State as well as by many visitors from out-of-state. White Sandy can be and is enjoyed by the public in its current condition and over time could become one of the premier attractions of the state park system.

We view this as a prime recreational resource for the whole State and we urge you to act to insure that White Sandy Beach will always be available to Montanans and their guests.

Sincerely,

Lewis and Clark County  
Board of Park Commissioners



By Robert F. Ryan, President



# Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association

P. O. Box 48  
East Helena, MT 59635

February 10, 1983

Representative Rex Manuel  
Chairman  
Long-Range Building Committee  
Montana Legislature

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Long Range Building Committee:

The Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association is a twenty-five year old organization which represents over 175 sportsmen in Helena, East Helena and the Helena Valley. Our association supports the proposed acquisition of White Sandy Beach under the State Coal Tax Park Program. We feel that the area would be a very worthwhile permanent addition to the State park system because it clearly meets the program's intent of providing high quality recreational opportunities significant enough to attract people on a statewide basis. This area provides recreation not only for Helena-area residents but is also used by boaters, fishermen, and campers from Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls and Missoula.

Permanent acquisition would provide a solution to the frequent overcrowded conditions that develop in the adjacent Black Sandy recreation area. The limited development that the Parks Division has completed at White Sandy, under the current lease arrangement, should be adequate to serve existing recreational use. This would mean that the State would not have to spend large sums beyond the purchase price to make the site suitable for recreation.

The Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association feels that White Sandy Beach would be an excellent and needed addition to the State park system. We hope the Long Range Building Committee will agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Cole".

David Cole, President

Return of Feb '53

We the undersigned are neighbors of Andy and Fern Michael and have no objection to their selling their ranch to their place for the appraised value, We are residents and taxpayers of Big Horn County  
Nathalie Person

Genay Person  
Dennis Klosternier  
Linnell Klosternier  
Jim George

Big George  
Nellie Murray  
Hugh O. Jones  
W. Howard Carter  
Bruce H. Carter

Nancy A. Carter

We, the undersigned, are neighbors of Fern and Anderson Michael and have no objection to their selling their ranch to the state of Montana. We are residents and taxpayers of Big Horn County.

Ellen Cotton  
Jack H. Murray



TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY RON HOLLIDAY  
BEFORE THE LONG RANGE BUILDING COMMITTEE  
February 10, 1983

I am Ron Holliday, Administrator of the Parks Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I am here representing our director, Jim Flynn.

Tonight I will be addressing the pressing needs of the department's regional headquarters and fish hatcheries. We propose to address these needs through projects funded from bonding.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks serves seven (7) Montana geographical regions from headquarters offices located in Kalispell, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, and Miles City. Most of these structures are old -- at least 27 years old -- and in some cases they need major maintenance and remodeling. In all cases, the buildings are energy inefficient and overcrowding is common.

We have made an analysis of our headquarters and conclude that we need to systematically begin a replacement program.

With interest rates declining and a depressed construction market, the department believes bonding is an appropriate financing method. By using bonding, we can begin the needed construction of the three fish hatcheries and the three regional headquarters within the next biennium. Since these are sizeable projects, we must spread these payments over several time periods.

Another project I will discuss tonight -- fishing access acquisition -- will be funded from fishing license revenues earmarked by law for this purpose.

The headquarters buildings at Great Falls is located in the southwest part of the city near Interstate 15. An interchange is planned literally in the front of the building. It is an old steel quonset hut building with no insulation. The building was constructed for nine (9) employees. The present staff numbers 41. Also, security at the existing site is poor.

The department proposes to build a new headquarters at Giant Springs State Park. This will allow higher security because of the existing law enforcement at the park. Also, this new building will provide a visitor center, park maintenance yard, and restrooms allowing for more efficient administration of Giant Springs State Park and our hatchery located there.

The existing steel quonset hut building in Glasgow is too small and without insulation and does not meet state building codes. If a new office building is erected, the existing building will be remodeled for storage space.

The present facility in Bozeman is very overcrowded, has no insulation, and is surrounded by commercial business. Our Wildlife Research Laboratory is housed in Montana State University buildings which the University wants returned. The department proposes to construct a new headquarters on University property in Bozeman which has been offered to us at no cost. The new building would house our regional office functions as well as the Wildlife Research Laboratory.

GREAT FALLS FISH HATCHERY

TESTIMONY

The Giant Springs Fish Hatchery adjacent to Great Falls provides trout and salmon for Montana fishermen. The Hatchery's facilities are old, poorly designed and not large enough to meet increasing demands for the fish.

Six circular concrete ponds, constructed in the 30's by the WPA comprise this hatchery's main production facility. Present operation of Montana Power Company's dams creates water levels so high that frequently the ponds can not be drained for fish removal and cleaning. Also the concrete area around the ponds has deteriorated badly and has been temporarily patched with asphalt.

Construction will consist of filling in a small back water immediately downstream from the present hatchery, constructing ten new 10' x 100' concrete raceways on the filled area and installing a 30-inch concrete pipeline approximately 700 feet to supply water to the new raceways.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposes to fund this project with \$1,900,000 of licensed revenues allocated for such purposes.

BIG TIMBER FISH HATCHERY

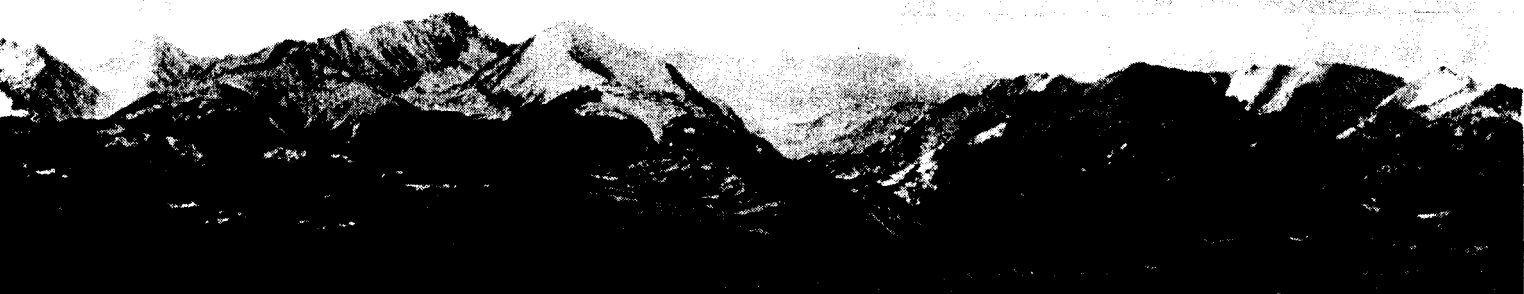
TESTIMONY

The Fish Hatchery at Big Timber provides a supply of cutthroat trout for Montana streams and lakes. Demand for cutthroat trout fishing is increasing in Montana, however the hatchery structure at Big Timber, now over sixty years old, is deteriorating.

The hatchery building is wooden frame construction built originally in the mid-20's and enlarged in 1930. Moisture rot has weakened the roof and the walls are pulling away from the concrete slab floor. The building could collapse under a heavy load of snow. The water supply is good quality but needs to be enlarged to support increased demand for the McBride cutthroat. Construction will consist of replacing the hatchery building, constructing four new 6' x 100' raceways, trenching and laying about 500' of water supply line to these raceways, and replacing the present hatchery water supply line with either steel pipe or transite.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposes to use \$500,000 from license revenues allocated for such purposes to complete the project.

# SWEET GRASS COUNTY, MONTANA



*Board of County Commissioners*

*Big Timber, Montana 59011*

February 9, 1983

House Fish & Game Committee  
Long Range Building Subcommittee  
48th Montana State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Gentle(wo)men:

We hereby express our support for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' request for an appropriation of \$500,000.00 for the refurbishing and expansion of the Yellowstone Fish Hatchery located in Big Timber. We ~~support~~<sup>support</sup> this request for several reasons.

First, we have toured the facility and can plainly see that the main hatchery building is in need of replacement. Floors and walls are separating, wooden structural members are rotting, and there is no insulation. The sagging walls and roof line suggest that occupying the structure under snow load conditions could be hazardous.

Second, Montana sportsmen, as well as out-of-state hunters and fishermen, will be the ones who most benefit from having an upgraded hatchery at Big Timber. We ~~especially~~ find favor with the fact that the proposed project would get its funding through user fees from these groups rather than from the General Fund.

Third, we recognize and appreciate the unique contribution the hatchery makes to Big Timber and Sweet Grass County in terms of promulgating the McBride strain of Yellowstone Cutthroat trout, and by providing recreational visitor days for tourists and residents alike. An upgraded facility would further enhance both of these benefits associated with the hatchery.

Finally, the proposal could contribute significantly to the local economy, through bid opportunities for local contractors, by increasing the number of FTE's at the facility, and by returning some publicly owned property to the county tax rolls

For these reasons we support the Fish, Wildlife and Parks's appropriation request and urge you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Ole Bier*

Member

*Barne Blawie*

Member

# City of Big Timber

P.O. Box 416  
Big Timber, Montana 59011

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Phone  
Clerk (406) 932-3691  
Treasurer (406) 932-3692

February 10, 1983

House Fish and Game Committee  
Long Range Building Subcommittee  
Montana State Legislature  
Helena, MT

Dear Subcommittee Members:

For many years the Yellowstone Fish Hatchery located in Big Timber has been a credit to the City and to the State. Its presence here enriches the likes of the many who visit it each year, and the many more who benefit from enhanced fishing opportunities throughout Montana. It also represents the State's commitment to the promulgation of an extraordinary species of fish.

It has been unfortunate to see much of this outstanding facility deteriorate in recent years. It further seems appropriate to us to use fishing and hunting license fees to finance the upgrading of the Yellowstone Hatchery. We urge you to support the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks' proposal for \$500,000 to keep this facility up to standard.

Sincerely,

THE BIG TIMBER CITY COUNCIL

Wayne E. Reed  
City Clerk

# SWEET GRASS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 1012  
Big Timber, MT 59011

February 10, 1983

Long Range Building Subcommittee  
House Fish and Game Committee  
Montana State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Helena, MT

Gentlemen:

The Sweet Grass Chamber of Commerce supports the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' efforts to secure \$500,000 for improvements to the Fish Hatchery at Big Timber. Of primary interest to us is the contribution the project would make to the local economy by bringing new capital into the Big Timber area. But our support goes well beyond the economic advantages we would likely realize.

In general, we are proud of the hatchery facility and feel it is a credit to the community. Its "open door" policy has always provided educational and recreational opportunities for residents of the area and for tourists. And the trout produced at the hatchery provide countless recreational opportunities for fishermen throughout the State.

In recent years we have become dismayed at how much of the facility has fallen into a state of disrepair. We therefore wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to refurbish and expand this deserving facility.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Arthur E. Bell, President*  
*Andrew C. Epple, Secretary*  
*Sherry Dawson*  
*Boyd Wilson*  
*Kenneth K. Goldman*  
*Dennis K. Prather*  
*Mary Jane*  
*Rebecca K. Deer*

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Capital Projects Proposed for Direct Cash OutlayLicense Fund

	<u>FY-84</u>	<u>FY-85</u>
1. FAS Protection	\$100,000	\$400,000
2. Regional/Helena Headquarters Maintenance	5,000	45,000
3. Region 1 Headquarters Storage	30,000	
4. Wildlife Management Area Maintenance	50,000	50,000
5. Lake and Stream Improvement	10,000	40,000
6. Game Range Acquisition		<u>300,000</u>
	<u>\$195,000</u>	<u>\$835,000</u>

Total Capital ExpendituresLicense Fund

	<u>FY-84</u>	<u>FY-85</u>
1. Bonding	1,488,000	968,000
2. Direct Cash Outlay	<u>195,000</u>	<u>835,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,683,000</u>	<u>\$1,803,000</u>



2-8-83

If there's a short fall in funds in account 02131, these projects will be dropped in priority order.

1. Bozeman Headquarters	\$ 1,700,000
2. Great Falls Hatchery	\$ 1,900,000
3. FAS Protection	\$ 250,000
4. Regional/Helena Headquarters	\$ 25,000
5. WMA Maintenance	\$ 50,000
6. Glasgow Headquarters	\$ 220,000

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
GREAT FALLS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Present Facility

Date of construction	October, 1955
Employees at time	9
Size	50' x 80' - 4,000 sq. ft. Approximately 900 sq. ft. of this was office space.
Construction	Steel quonset hut
Insulation	None
Property	State Land Board lease -- reverts.
Other problems	Security is poor. I-15 off ramp is scheduled to be built near present site.
Other buildings	One trailer house for office space.

Proposed Facility

Present personnel	41
Proposed location	Giant Springs State Park. Property is owned by department.
Planned facilities:	
Office space	3,020 sq. ft.
Conference rooms	1,680 sq. ft.
Reception area	250 sq. ft.
Autopsy room	225 sq. ft.
Cooler	200 sq. ft.
Storage	270 sq. ft.
Shop	780 sq. ft.
Gas	50 sq. ft.
Equipment storage	1,000 sq. ft.
*Total	12,280 sq. ft.

Costs are estimated at \$71.66 per sq. ft. This includes room for mechanical, corridors, restrooms, expansion, contract administration, site work, landscaping, equipment yard, furnishings, architect fees, etc.

\*Includes miscellaneous spaces.

1-19-83  
SCJ:sue

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
GLASGOW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Present Facility

Date of construction	October, 1955
Employees at time	4
Size, including shop and warehouse	50' x 63' = 3,150 sq. ft. Approximately 1,200 sq. ft. of this was office space.
Construction	Steel quonset hut
Property	Department owned
Insulation	None

Proposed Facility

Present personnel	14
Proposed location	Next to existing building
Property	Department owned
Planned facilities	
Office space	1,605 sq. ft.
Remodel existing building for storage; site work to include equipment yard, paving, etc.	
*Total sq. ft.	2,500 sq. ft.

Costs are estimated at \$88 per sq. ft. This includes restrooms, corridors, mechanical, expansion, site work, equipment yard, architect fees, remodeling, etc.

\*Includes miscellaneous spaces.

1-19-83  
SCJ:sue

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
BOZEMAN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Present Facility

Date of construction	August, 1954
Employees at time	5
Size, including shop and warehouse	50' x 80' = 4,000 sq. ft. Approximately 900 sq. ft. of this was office space.
Construction	Steel quonset hut
Insulation	None
Other problems	Surrounding property is commercial.
Other buildings	One trailer house-office; one hangar-storage

Proposed Facility

Present personnel	42
New building to include space for wildlife laboratory presently located at MSU. MSU wants space back.	
Proposed location	MSU
Existing building to be sold.	
Planned facilities:	
Office space	4,480 sq. ft.
Laboratory	4,500 sq. ft.
Conference rooms	600 sq. ft.
Reception area	200 sq. ft.
Shop	1,560 sq. ft.
Gas	50 sq. ft.
Storage	1,150 sq. ft.
Equipment shed	1,200 sq. ft.
*Total	20,601 sq. ft. plus 1,200 sq. ft. for shed.

Costs are estimated at an average of \$78.18 per sq. ft. This includes room for mechanical, corridors, restrooms, expansion, inflation, contract administration, site work, landscaping, equipment yard, furnishings, architect fees, etc.

\*Includes miscellaneous spaces.

1-19-83  
SCJ:sue



P.O. BOX 2127  
926 CENTRAL AVENUE  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403  
(406) 761-4434

January 27, 1983

Members of the House Fish  
and Game Committee  
State Capital  
Helena, MT 59601

Gentlemen:

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has taken a position favoring the proposal by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to upgrade Montana's fish hatcheries and specifically the facility at Giant Springs in Great Falls.

Not only are fish populations important to Montana's quality of life, but they are also a key element in the development of the state's tourism industry. As the state's third largest industry, tourism is a key factor to Montana's economic well-being.

The Chamber also supports the Department's plan to build a new Region 4 department headquarters at Giant Springs. Their current building is no longer adequate to meet their needs, and cannot serve the public well in its current inaccessible location. The Giant Springs location for that office would seem to be a logical part of the statewide upgrading program of Fish, Wildlife and Park facilities.

The Executive Committee of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce urges you to support the passage of HB 335.

Sincerely yours,

GREAT FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Roger W. Young  
Executive Vice President

Some additional and auxiliary advantages to the consolidation of these facilities, I.O.S. would want to include:

1. New hatchery would effect greater efficiency in the hatching process. - long term savings.
2. ~~The~~ <sup>Some old</sup> water from Giant Springs is ideally suited to the raising of fish.
3. Facility security would be more efficient and less costly.
4. Freeway access to 714<sup>th</sup> St. B.W. is proposed which will eliminate the current access building.

We are <sup>so</sup> ~~sure~~ <sup>glad</sup> that the community has seen fit to support the growth of Heritage Park is significant as is the very high usage the Park enjoys.

and in the interest of assuring that IIT's fishing license permits, the C.F. H. C.F.C. For these reasons, we request approval of the requested building projects at Giant Springs/Heritage Park.