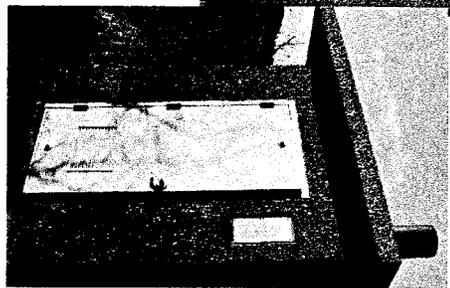
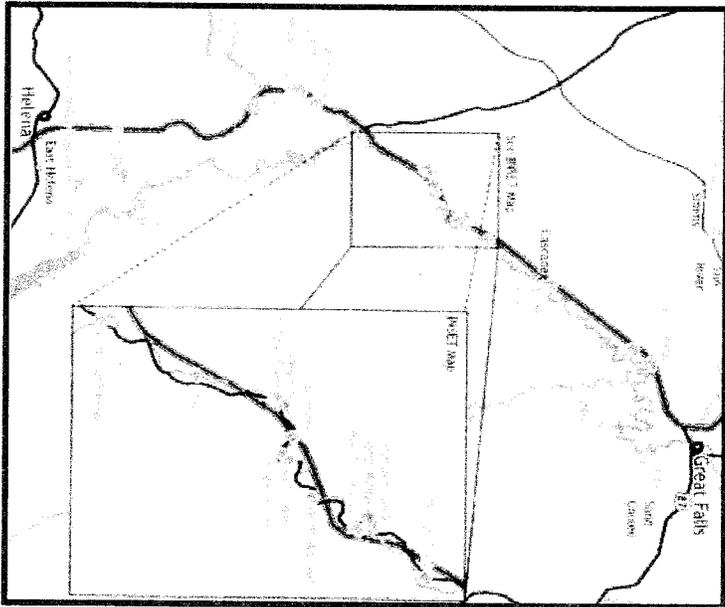


Restrooms and outhouses dominate the landscape of the fishing accesses and the picnic areas along the "Rec Road." FWP shows counts of 14 along the road areas of Spring



Creek to Great Falls. These are existing facilities and are complemented by parking areas that users can begin or end their trail activity at access sites of the proposed trail.



2007 Legislature Senate Bill EC823

SENATE HIGH
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 1-18
BILL NO. SB

A Bill for an act entitled: "An act creating an interim study to be conducted by the Department of Transportation to determine the feasibility of creating a bicycle path between Helena and Great Falls; and providing an immediate effective date."

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of Montana's natural wonders to Montana citizens and the value of their opportunity to recreate within those wonders; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of tourism to Montana's economy; and
WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Legislature to promote public safety whenever possible.

Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:
Section 1. Interim study. The department of Transportation shall conduct a study during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, to determine the feasibility of creating a bicycle path on public right-of-ways adjoining county and state roads between Helena in Lewis and Clark County and Great Falls in Cascade County. The department shall make its findings available to the 2009 legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

Section 2. Effective date. (This act) is effective on passage and approval.

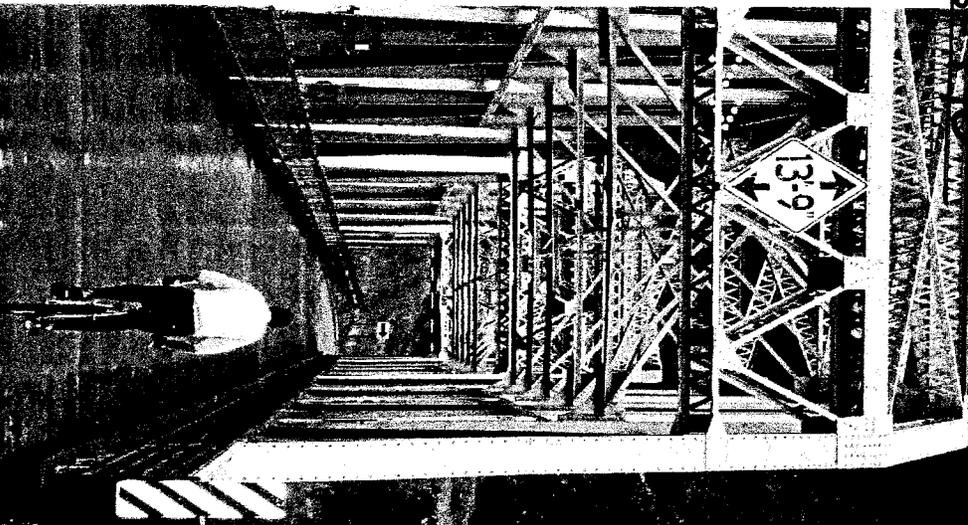
Prepared by Montana Legislative Services

The Bill's primary sponsor includes Transportation Preservation Society of Montana

P.O. Box 1004
Helena, Montana 59624

The Society is dedicated to halting further reductions of Montana's rail system and other transportation corridors through out of service designations, outright abandonment or conversion to trails or other non rail uses.

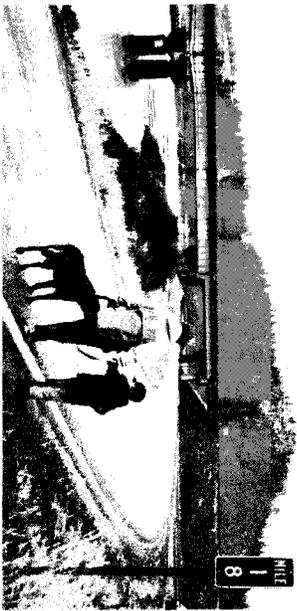
Recreation Trail



A dawn to dusk
trail for exploring
lifetime activities in
scenic Lewis & Clark
and Cascade Counties.

The study of a proposed Recreational Trail

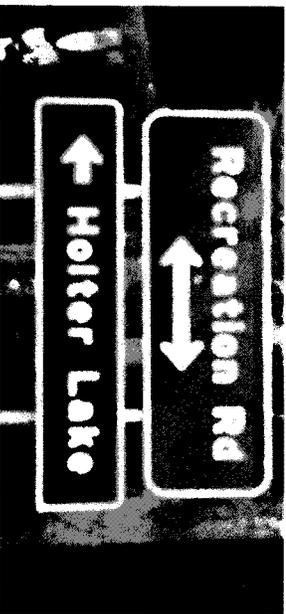
This is a proposed study to assist recreationalists and trail seekers to enjoy a scenic trail in Cascade and Lewis and Clark counties. The trail program enjoins the highways and recreational road in one of Montana's most picturesque areas that includes the Wolf Creek Canyon.



Lewis and Clark Counties await the proposed Recreational Trail

Ninety-five miles of trail can be used for day hiking, biking and running possibilities to encourage safe activities for all ages and lifestyle programs. The right of way along the designated Recreational Road allows *30 feet or more* for trail activity. The right-of-way for the "Rec Road" is for both sides with a suggestive 10 to 12 feet for the trail. The route passes through small Montana communities with existing amenities. The value of making use of the "Rec Road" is that the Departments of Transportation and Fish, Wildlife and Parks do not have to adjust budgets for the personal use areas. The existing facilities appropriately placed accommodate the populations that recreate along the route.

The current route can be traversed by hikers, bike riders, runners and others via existing recreation, county and frontage roads along the route.



The route follows Interstate 15 North from Helena or South from Great Falls bordering the Missouri River with scenic views of the Dearborn and Little Prickly Pear Creek. Continue the proposed trail south of Great Falls at Jim to Joe's Trail and make the entire route a journey back in time when Captains Lewis & Clark witnessed the views of the canyon walls and exciting wildlife environment.

The "Rec Road" offers views of the BNSF Railroad Line and the Interstate while maintaining a pristine exposure for a bike trail and walking path.



The Recreation Road meanders through 35 miles of scenic canyons and river valleys. The trail seeker will find opportunities for leisurely sight seeing, frequent photo stops, picnicking and fishing. Easy return to Interstate 15 is provided at the north end and three intermediate points along the way.

Modern day recreationalists can experience a natural world and the wealth of both outdoor and sportsman activities that the past 200 years have brought. Since the days of early Montana history, the Helena to Great Falls experience is prime country to offer the communities along the "Rec Road" the economic benefits of the recreating public.



Wolf Creek Relay, an annual running event covers 26 miles of the Recreation Road with teams throughout Montana competing for the opportunity to witness the Fall seasonal colors and the enjoyment of a favored route. Runners, walkers, bike riders and fly fishermen know the atmosphere of the road and take advantage of the scenery daily year-a-round.

Peak periods of population changes challenge the numbers May through August. Counts taken for those who have found this route with Sunday the most populous. Saturday and Sunday counts from the Department of Transportation in '05 shows the road count on vehicles to be a high of 1,100 with and average of 454 in May to 841 in August. A contrast to the Interstate 15 adjacent to the Recreational Road where the numbers are greater: 3,890 in May to 4,514 in August. These numbers have not changed drastically in the last ten years.

Montanan's and recreationalists have challenged the entertainment value of the "Rec Road" with the convenience of rest-room facilities, picnic areas and off-road parking. Sometimes the classic cars and motorcycles make this the pursuit route of the Montana landscape. A bike trail and walking path can only add to the value of this outdoor activity.