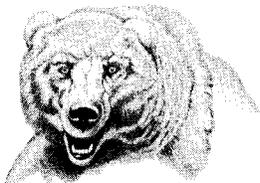


STATE OF MONTANA

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DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana 59601  
June 23, 1975

RECEIVED

JUN 23 1975

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COUNCIL

Mr. John Reuss, Executive Director  
Environmental Quality Council  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear John:

Enclosed are two copies of a negative declaration covering a new well at the Finley Point Recreation Area.

I hope this material satisfies the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Posewitz, Administrator  
Environment and Information Division

JAP/sd  
Encs

cc: Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences  
Department of Highways  
Recreation and Parks Division

AGENCY IMPACT DETERMINATION

FINLEY POINT RECREATION AREA

FG-N-54

Finley Point Recreation Area is located in Lake County on Flathead Lake. It lies approximately 14 miles northeast of Polson, Montana. The area contains 24 acres. Approximately 6 acres of this total are devoted to developed camping, day use and boat access. The remainder of the site (18 acres) is undeveloped open space. The area is owned and operated by the State Department of Fish and Game.

Description of Proposed Action

The present domestic water system consists of a dug hole, 14 feet deep which was lined with a corrugated metal pipe. A concrete platform and hand pump complete the installation. The water level fluctuates with the lake surface and the well goes dry during periods of low lake levels. Recently, water samples have shown the well to be contaminated.

Consultation with the hydrogeologist from the State Bureau of Mines and Geology has indicated the best corrective action to be the construction of a new water well to develop a deep aquifer which is not subject to contamination from the surface.

It is estimated that a hole as much as 200 feet deep will be required to intercept a suitable aquifer. The hole will be six inches in diameter and cased with steel well casing.

A hand pump and cylinder sized to the actual depth drilled and the static water level will be installed over the new well.

The work should be done in July, 1975, and is estimated to cost \$5,500.

### Description of the Environment

Flathead Lake lies at an elevation of approximately 2,892 feet above mean sea level. The site itself ranges from that elevation at the shore to approximately 3,000 feet at the east edge of the property. The grades range from relatively steep to almost flat.

Vegetation. The area is heavily timbered with very little undergrowth in the developed portion of the site. The vegetation consists of the douglas fir vegetation type as inventoried by the Department of Natural Resources.

Ground Water. Ground water in the area is of high quality and lies in alluvium material. This material at Finley Point is estimated to be from 200 to 300 feet thick.

Fish. Flathead Lake is relatively cold, deep, and oligotrophic. The water, therefore, supports a smaller, slower-growing fish population than it would if it were more eutrophic.

The populations of cutthroat and Dolly Varden are migratory, much as some ocean species. They migrate up the tributaries to spawn. The fry then remain in the tributaries for a period of time before descending to Flathead Lake. The lake whitefish was introduced in about 1900.

Mammals. Mammals inhabiting the area include Columbian ground squirrel, pine squirrel, white-tailed deer and mule deer. An occasional black bear undoubtedly wanders through. Many species of birds visit and nest on the site. Among these are the gray jay, blue grouse, Franklin's grouse and assorted ducks and geese. The area is not critical range or corridor for any rare or endangered species.

Geology. Finley Point Recreation Area has alluvium surface

material underlain with glacial moraine and glacio-lucustrine deposits of silt and clay. Underlying the glacial deposits is a thick sequence of limestone, argillite, and quartzite of the Belt supergroup of the Precambrian Age.

The general vicinity is in the northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province. Flathead Lake is a descendent of an arm of the earlier pleistocene glacial Flathead Lake.

Climate. The Finley Point Recreation Area receives an average of 18 inches of precipitation per year. The temperature averages plus 20 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter and plus 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. Summer temperatures may reach 100 degrees and winter temperatures may fall as low as minus 30 degrees. During the recreation season, it is generally dry with warm days and cool nights.

Land Use. The site itself, as the name implies, is dedicated to satisfying the recreational need of the public. The land surrounding the site is used for homesites, summer homes, recreation and fruit orchards. No historic or archaeological sites are present.

Population. Finley Point Recreation Area lies in a rural setting on a penninsula 4 miles northwest of State Highway 35, 14 miles northeast of Polson. Polson is the county seat of Lake County and has a population of 2,464 (1970 census). Other population centers are Kalispell, 10,526, 35 miles north; and Missoula 29,497, 62 miles south.

Transportation. Access to the site is via State Highway 35. The region is served by the Burlington Northern Railroad which offers Amtrack passenger service three times weekly. Daily jet service to Kalispell is provided by Hughes AirWest. Bus lines

include Intermountain Transport, Brown's Busline and Clark Fork Valley Busline. No direct commercial transportation systems are available at the site, the nearest scheduled bus stops being Kalispell and Polson, and in the case of the railroad, Whitefish which lies 14 miles north of Kalispell.

Utilities. Utilities are limited to a small underground local electrical service line to the caretaker's trailer, and the well which is to be abandoned.

Industry. Major industries of the region are logging and lumber mills, light manufacturing, especially of wood products, and agriculture including beef cattle, dairying, grain crops, and fruit production.

An increasingly important industry in the region is recreation and tourism. Attractions such as Flathead Lake and its environs, Glacier National Park, Hungry Horse Reservoir, and Lake Kootanusa make this region an important vacation area. Winter sports also attract many visitors as well as local participants. Over 50% of the Montana resident users of all public recreation facilities in this area come from outside the area. In addition, approximately 38% of all out-of-state tourist parties who pass through Montana visit the Kalispell area.

In 1974, there were 96 season camping permits and 753 overnight camping permits sold at Finley Point Recreation Area. No figures are available for day use.

#### Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

Air quality will be unaffected either during time of construction or during subsequent use of the well. Access to the drilling site is via paved road and the limited construction related traffic will cause no dust problems.

Surface water quality will remain unaffected. Drill cuttings and drilling water will not be allowed to enter the lake.

Ground water quality will not be affected. Only potable water will be used for drilling purposes. Tools and hardware will be cleaned prior to use. Ground water zones of different strata will be isolated by well casing to prevent mixing of aquifers. The casing will be grouted for at least ten feet near the surface and will be capped with a watertight sanitary well seal to prevent entry of ground water. The pump hardware will pass through the well seal with a watertight fit. If for some reason, the well must be abandoned, it will be plugged with bentonite or other suitable tamped fill seal to prevent contamination of aquifers.

The annual withdrawal of water will not exceed 100,000 cubic feet per year for the foreseeable future.

Fish and wildlife will not be affected.

Public health and safety will be better safeguarded by installing a deep well water supply which is much less subject to contamination than are spring, lake or shallow well water systems. The kind or amount of use the site receives will not be influenced by this project.

Energy consumption will be increased during the construction period due to fuel requirements of the drill and for transportation.

Neither historic nor archaeological sites are present.

Land use will remain unchanged as will level of use as a result of this project. However, use of the site is expected to increase over the years.

Soil and vegetation will remain unchanged. Drill cuttings will be collected and settled in a small earth basin and then hauled away.

When one considers that the type and amount of use the area will receive as a result of the project will be unchanged, the social factors appear negligible. If, on the other hand, the water system were not improved, it would have to be removed from service causing inconvenience to the public and the caretaker.

The economic impacts of the project are also negligible. It will not create new jobs or revenue. It will not take land from productive use or change the tax base. Public use fees are charged but assuming the project is implemented, revenue from this source will not be changed.

#### Mitigating Measures

Drilling and development techniques will be employed which will safeguard the integrity of the aquifer and public health. As discussed earlier, drilling tools will be cleaned prior to use and the entire system will be sterilized before being put into service with a carrier of free chlorine such as HTH tablets. Aquifers of different strata will not be allowed to mix. Separation will be accomplished by casing the hole. Surface water and contamination will be kept out of the well with grout and a proper well seal.

The site will be restored by removing drill cuttings from the area.

#### Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Energy will be consumed during construction and water will be withdrawn from the aquifer.

#### Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses and Long-term Productivity

The type and amount of use the park receives will not change as a result of the project.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Fuel and oil will be consumed by the construction equipment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

No Action. The consequences of this alternative would be a "dry" park. A large number of users would be inconvenienced. The Department of Fish and Game would have a difficult time justifying charging at a site without drinking water.

**Prepared by:** Richard E. Mayer, American Society of Landscape Architects; Chief, Bureau of Design and Development, Recreation and Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish and Game, Helena, Montana 59601.

**Education:** B.S. of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

**Affiliations:** Registered Landscape Architect, Certificate #12, Colorado, 1968 - present. Member, American Society of Landscape Architects, 1960 - present. Past president, Montana-Idaho Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects; trustee, Montana-Idaho Chapter; past president, Colorado Section; past president, Washington Society.

**Experience:** Staff Landscape Architect, Land Planner; Clark-Coleman & Assoc.; Seattle Parks Department; Denver Parks Department; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Department of Natural Resources, Montana; Department of Administration, Montana.