STATE OF MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, MT 59601
September 18, 1979

Mr. Terry Carmody, Executive Director
Environmental Quality Council
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Terry:

Enclosed are two copies of FG-N-114, Docks and Piers Statewide. This document covers work scheduled in well developed recreation areas with good access roads. Generally, the projects will consist of the addition of boat docks to presently existing facilities. In several cases, swimming areas will also be designated.

We hope this document will satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act. If you have any questions, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

James A. Posewitz, Administrator
Ecological Services Division

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cc: Water Quality Bureau
Division of Architecture & Engineering
Flathead County Commissioners
Lincoln County Commissioners
Lake County Commissioners
Wheatland County Commissioners
Fallon County Commissioners
Supervisors, Regions 1, 2, 5 & 7

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

DOCKS AND PIERS STATEWIDE

FG-N-114

Prepared by: Walt Anderson
Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Parks Division
8/21/79

I. Project Location

The work scheduled for this project will take place at nine different locations around the state. The various sites are as follows:

1. Yellow Bay State Recreation Area -
   East shore of Flathead Lake, approximately 15 miles NE of Polson.

2. Wayfarer State Recreation Area -
   North end of Flathead Lake, approximately 15 miles SE of Kalispell.

3. Big Arm State Recreation Area -
   West shore of Flathead Lake, approximately 15 miles NW of Polson.

4. Logan State Recreation Area -
   On Middle Thompson Lake approximately 40 miles W of Kalispell on U.S. Highway 2.

5. Glenn Lake Fishing Access Site
   Approximately 4 miles SW of Eureka on U.S. Highway 93, then east 6 miles on county road.

6. Whitefish State Recreation Area -
   On Whitefish Lake, one mile W of the town, Whitefish.

7. Lambeth Memorial State Recreation Area -
   7 miles NW of Dayton on Lake Mary Ronan.

8. South Sandstone State Recreation Area -
   13 miles W of Boulder on U.S. Highway 12, then 7 miles south to South Sandstone Reservoir.

9. Deadman's Basin State Recreation Area -
   18 miles E of Harlowtown on U.S. Highway 12.

II. Project Description

A. Description of Proposed Action

All nine sites are well developed recreation areas with good access roads. Generally, the project will consist of the addition of boat docks to the present facilities. More specifically, the proposed actions for each site will be as follows:

1. Yellow Bay S.R.A. -
   64 feet of pile-driven pier ending with a 24 foot "L" section. Also, 7 piles will be driven in such a manner as to designate a swimming area next to the pier.

2. Wayfarer S.R.A. -
A 24 foot catwalk, 64 feet of pile driven pier ending with a 24 foot "L" section. Also, 5 piles will be driven in such a manner as to designate a swimming area next to the pier.

3. Big Arm S.R.A. -
Extending on existing pile-driven pier 12 feet and adding a 24-foot "L" section. Again, a swimming area next to the pier will be designated by driving approximately 6 piles in a specified pattern.

4. Logan S.R.A. -
64 feet of floating dock with a 16 foot "T" section on the end.

5. Glenn Lake S.R.A. -
A catwalk, 48 feet of floating dock with a 16 foot "T" section on the end.

6. Whitefish S.R.A. -
One catwalk, 96 feet of floating dock with a 16 foot "T" section on the end.

7. Lambeth Memorial S.R.A. -
One catwalk leading to 64 feet of floating dock.

8. South Sandstone S.R.A. -
A catwalk leading to a 16 foot floating dock.

9. Deadman's Basin S.R.A. -
A 20 foot catwalk connected to a 20 foot floating dock.

B. Description of the Area

1. Flathead Lake Area -
The first three sites listed above for improvements, Yellow Bay, Wayfarer, and Big Arm S.R.A.'s lie on the shores of Flathead Lake. The lake shore environment is basically the same. Dense mature stands of fir, larch, and pine are most common, although selected areas of birch, ash, and cottonwoods can also be found. Undergrowth is generally dense.

The area shows evidence of being selectively logged many years ago.

Flathead Lake contains a variety of fish life including Kokannee salmon, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, mackinaw, and cutthroat trout.

Wildlife found around the lake are principally ground squirrels, marmots, rodents, and a few deer. A variety of small bird species are present along with migrating ducks and geese.

- The lake area is not critical range or corridor for any species.

Flathead Lake is a descendent of an arm of the earlier Pleistocene glacieral Flathead Lake. Consequently, the area consists primarily of glacial lake deposits. This material is mainly silt and clays.

The air and water quality of the area is generally considered good.

There are no historical or archaeological sites located in the lake area as listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Good access is provided to all three sites, via paved highways and graveled roads.

Land use in the lake area is oriented towards recreation, the lumber industry and agriculture.

2. Whitefish State Receration Area

The terrain in the area of this site is smooth and rolling. The primary vegetative species are dense stands of Douglas Fir, Ponderosa pine, and larch. Because of tree density, undergrowth is limited.

Whitefish Lake is cold and clear supporting a smaller population. Game fish present are; cutthroat, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon. Non-game fish include the long nose sucker, Columbian River chub, and pigmy whitefish.

In the lake vicinity whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, pine squirrels, mink and beaver can be found. Birds found in the area include Canada jay, Stellar's jay, blue grouse, and Franklin's grouse. The receration area is not critical habitat or corridor for any species.

The area is typical glacial terrain with large deposits of clays and silts. Gravel and sand layers transfer high quality groundwater to within 35 feet of ground surface.

The air and water quality in the area is considered good.

Use of the land is reserved primarily for agriculture, logging and recreation.

A preliminary archaeological survey was performed prior to previous development but no important evidence was found. No historic or archaeological sites are present in this area.

Vehicular access to the site is via U.S. Highway 93.

3. Logan State Recreation Area

The physiography surrounding this site is basically smooth rolling glaciated benches, terraces and slopes. Consequently, the surface is underlain by clays, silts and fine sands.

Vegetative cover is primarily dense stands of conifers with some willow trees. Undergrowth is mainly grasses.

The area contains a variety of fish and wildlife. Middle Thompson Lake on which the site is located supports a diversified population of fish including; rainbow, lake and cutthroat trout along with some largemouth bass and kokanee salmon. Wildlife in the area includes deer, both mule and whitetail, an occasional bear, beaver, pine squirrels, and mink. A variety of songbirds exist with some grouse and migratory ducks and geese.

Air and water quality in the area is generally considered good.

Logging, agriculture, and recreation make up the primary uses of the surrounding land.

A preliminary archaeological survey was performed prior to previous development. Although no evidence was found, prehistoric evidence in the area is suspected. No historic or archaeological sites are listed for the area in the National Register of Historic Places.

Good access is provided by U.S. Highway 2 and a well graveled road connecting the highway with the site.

4. Glenn Lake Fishing Access Site

Glenn Lake is situated in the upper northwest region of Montana. Mountains densely forested with conifers support a wide variety of wildlife. Mule and whitetail deer, beaver, squirrels, black bears, and an occasional grizzly due to its close proximity to Glacier National Park, can be seen. Songbirds, migratory ducks and geese, and other large game and non-game birds are also present.

Excellent fishing is provided by the lake due to its good populations of Kokanee salmon and Rainbow trout.

Geologically, Glenn Lake lies on valley fill consisting of sand, silt, and gravel.

The air and water quality in the area is generally considered good.

There are no sites in the immediate vicinity listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The economic base of the immediate area is logging, agriculture, and tourism.

Vehicular access to Glenn Lake is via a well graveled road leading east from U.S. Highway 93 just south of Eureka.

5. Lambeth Memorial State Recreation Area

The scenic lake-forest surrounding of Lake Mary Ronan, on which this site is located, is more typical of northwest Montana's remote back-country. It is enclosed by dense wooded acres of conifers broken only by small meadows. Undergrowth is dense where sunlight permits.

The lake contains a good population of largemouth bass, cutthroat, and rainbow trout, and Kokanee salmon.

Wildlife inhabiting the area include deer, bear, beaver, mink and small rodents. A variety of songbirds and large game birds are also present.

The area was once covered by glaciers, the lake itself being formed by a terminal morraine. The lake bottom and surrounding terrain is partially made up of locustrine sediments which are silts, clays, and fine grained sands. It also contains some glacial drift.

Land use is directed towards agriculture, logging, and recreation.

Air and water quality is generally considered good.

No historic or archaeological sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Vehicular access is provided by U.S. Highway 93, a paved county road, and finally an abandoned logging road.

6. South Sandstone State Recreation Area

South Sandstone Reservoir lies in the gently rolling upland plains of southeastern Montana. With an annual precipitation rate of only 13 inches, the area supports only grasses and is used primarily for ranching, and farming with little or no irrigation.

Wildlife in the area includes many species of song birds, migratory waterfowl, upland game birds, and various game animals.

Primary species of fish existing in the reservoir are northern pike, walleye and yellow perch.

The watershed is part of what is called the tertiary aged Fort Union formation consisting of siltstone, shale, and limestone. Some oil is presently being pumped but coal is the principal mineral resource.

The air and water quality in the area is generally considered good.

An archaeological survey of the area was conducted prior to previous major development of the recreation area. It was determined that no significant antiquities would be endangered. The watershed does not contain any places listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Excellent vehicular access is provided by U.S. Highway 12 and an improved gravelled road.

7. Deadman's Basin State Recreation Area

The lands surrounding Deadman's Basin Reservoir are gently rolling plains covered by grasses and sagebrush.

The principal wildlife species are mule and whitetail deer, antelope, numerous smaller animals including songbirds and game birds.

The reservoir supports rainbow and brown trout, Kokanee salmon, and suckers.

The reservoir bed is composed of quaternary aluminum underlain by colorado shale of cretaceous age. Directly to the east of the Eagle Sandstone, Claggert and Judith River formations are exposed.

The air and water quality is assumed to be very good due to the lack of heavy industry in the region.

The majority of the area is devoted to agricultural pursuits.

The general area is rich in early explorer and settler history. No sites of significance are known to exist in the immediate vicinity.

Vehicular access is provided by U.S. Highway 12.

III. Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve the water-based recreation facilities at nine different sites around the state. The proposed actions are needed to match the growing demand for public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

IV. Impacts

Since the areas considered for improvements are developed recreation areas with facilities for camping, picnicking, boating and sanitation, the usual major impacts to a natural undisturbed area have already taken place. Minor impacts to be expected are disruption of the lake bottom and roiling of the water. These are temporary and would occur only through the duration of construction. Possible uprooting of trees and shrubs may occur but a clause covering the reseeding and replanting of grasses, trees, and shrubs is included in the contract.

A five percent solution of pentachlorophenal shall be applied to the piles. When the piles have been driven and cut off at the approved elevation, a longitudinal hole will be drilled down to the low waterline and filled with the 5 percent solution of pentachlorophenal. The longitudinal hole shall be plugged with a tight fitting plug. With proper inspection of the piles prior to driving and supervision during the treating process by the engineer, this method should minimize the introduction of preservative into the lake water and any impact thereof. No other preservatives shall be used.

Positive impacts to be considered would be increased safety and ease of boat operation in the immediate vicinity of the boat ramps. The designation of swimming areas would separate the boaters from the swimmers and thus eliminate possible accidents. By providing docks and piers next to the boat ramps, boaters would not have to beach they're boats as often as before. The final result would be a safer and more orderly atmosphere with the possiblity of social conflicts being reduced.