



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-3101  
April 6, 2006

- \*Governor's Office, Attn: Mike Volesky, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
- Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
- \*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
- \*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
- \*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
  - Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Region 2 Information Officer
- \*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
- \*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
- Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184
- MFWP R2 CAC, Bud Pile, 610 Swanson Lane, Potomac, MT 59823
- MFWP R2 CAC, Chad Bauer, P O Box 8449, Missoula, MT 59807
- MFWP R2 CAC, Chris Marchion, 2105 Garfield, Anaconda, MT 59711
- MFWP R2 CAC, Ed Greef, P O Box 1327, Florence, MT 59833
- MFWP R2 CAC, Edward Hebbe III, 604 Mitchel, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
- MFWP R2 CAC, Jaala Wickman, POB 27, Frenchtown, MT 59834
- MFWP R2 CAC, Jack Reneau, 5425 Skyway Dr, Missoula, MT 59804
- MFWP R2 CAC, Jim Olson, 215 N 10th St, Hamilton, MT 59840
- MFWP R2 CAC, Louie Bouma, Box 188, Lincoln, MT 59639
- MFWP R2 CAC, Margaret Moddison, 1580 Sleeping Child Rd, Hamilton, MT 59840
- MFWP R2 CAC, Pat O'Herren, 2516 Wylie, Missoula, MT 59802
- MFWP R2 CAC, Ray Rugg, 50 Dry Creek Rd, Superior, MT 5972
- MFWP R2 CAC, Rich Lane, 1730 Frey, Missoula, MT 59808
- MFWP R2 CAC, Stephanie Strickland, POB 8249, Missoula, MT 59807-8249
- MFWP R2 CAC, Tim Aldrich, 3340 Rodea Road, Missoula, MT 59803
- MFWP R2 CAC, Tracy Manley, 232 Douglas Creek Ln, Drummond, MT 59832
- Anaconda/Deer Lodge County Commissioners, 800 S. Main St., Anaconda, MT 59711
- Anaconda/Deer Lodge Road Dept., Larry Sturm, 800 S. Main St., Anaconda, MT 59711
- Anaconda/Deer Lodge Sanitarian, 800 S. Main St., Anaconda, MT 59711
- Anaconda Chamber of Commerce, 306 E. Park Ave., Anaconda, MT 59711
- MT Audubon Council, Attn: Janet Ellis, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
- Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
- Deer Lodge National Forest, #1 Hollenback Rd, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
- Dan Burns, 1525 Clark St., Deer Lodge, MT 59722
- MT Parks Foundation, Attn: Wayne Hirst, PO Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
- George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
- Senator Jesse Laslovich, 112 Mtn View, Anaconda, MT 59711
- Representative Dan Villa, 1619 W. Park, Anaconda, MT 59711

Representative Cynthia Hiner, 1027 Kentucky Ave., Anaconda, MT 59711

\*\*Adjacent property owners

\*Mailed electronically

\*\* Received postcard notification of the availability of the EA.

Dear Interested Citizen:

The enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed Lost Creek State Park Campground Host Pad Project. The campground host pad would include a graveled vehicle pull-out and pad with space for an RV and additional single vehicle parking, a water well, electricity hook-ups, a septic tank with drain field, and a storage shed that would also house the well controls and pressure tanks. A generator that would be placed in the storage shed would provide electricity for the well and RV. A water line and hydrant for the lower campground would also be installed as part of this project. The host pad would allow for adding volunteer staff in order to provide site security and better visitor services at Lost Creek State Park.

This Draft EA is available for review in Helena at MFWP's Headquarters, the State Library and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from MFWP at the address provided above, or viewed on MFWP's Internet website at <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Comments should be sent to MFWP by mail at the above address or by email. If you have questions about this Draft EA or project, please contact Lee Bastian at MFWP (phone 406-542-5517; email at [lbastian@mt.gov](mailto:lbastian@mt.gov)).

Sincerely,

*Lee Bastian for*

Mack Long  
Regional Supervisor

# Draft Environmental Assessment



## LOST CREEK STATE PARK CAMPGROUND HOST SITE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

March 2006



*Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks*

**Lost Creek State Park Volunteer Campground Host Site  
Development Project  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

**PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to construct a volunteer campground host site at Lost Creek State Park.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established “for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational, and economic life of the people and their health”. Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives MMFWP “jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments”. Montana amended statute 23-1-117 (3) states that Lost Creek state park may be developed to include a camp host pad, with necessary water, electric, and sewage disposal facilities to meet minimum public health standards for the camp host. The camp host pad must be completed by September 30, 2007, and must be accomplished in the least intrusive manner possible in order to retain the primitive character of Lost Creek state park as a whole, in keeping with the spirit of the Montana Primitive Parks Act.
3. **Name of project:** Lost Creek State Park Volunteer Campground Host Site Development Project
4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is the project sponsor.
5. **If applicable:**  
 Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Summer 2006  
 Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2006  
 Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):** Deerlodge County, T.5N, R.11W, Sec. 9. 1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana Highway 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west. (*Lat 46.201, Lng -112.984*)
7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>  0  </u>
Residential	<u>  0  </u>		
Industrial	<u>  0  </u>	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	<u>  0  </u>

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>1</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

**8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

**(a) Permits:** permits would be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Deerlodge County Dept. of Health	Septic System
Dept. of Environmental Quality	Public Water Supply
State Building Code	Electrical Permit

**(b) Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$72,000

**(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Cultural Artifact Determination

**9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.**

Lost Creek State Park is located in Region 2, six miles from the town of Anaconda (Figure 1). Lost Creek State Park encompasses 974 acres and has a median elevation of about 6300 ft. Impressive gray limestone cliffs and pink and white granite formations rise 1,200 feet above the canyon's narrow floor. Lost Creek Falls, in the northwest corner of the park, cascades over a 50-foot drop to provide one of the most scenic and popular spots in the park. Wildlife viewing is a popular activity at the park, especially of bighorn sheep, which are frequently seen on the cliffs above. While it is possible to drive directly to the falls, hiking is available on the Forest Service trail just north of the Falls parking area. Visitors with Montana fishing licenses can fish for brook trout and other fish in Lost Creek, which is a tributary of the Clark Fork River. Lost Creek State Park is the only public access site along Lost Creek maintained by MFWP. The road through the park is open from May 1-Nov 30, after which visitors can still ski, hike, or snowshoe in.

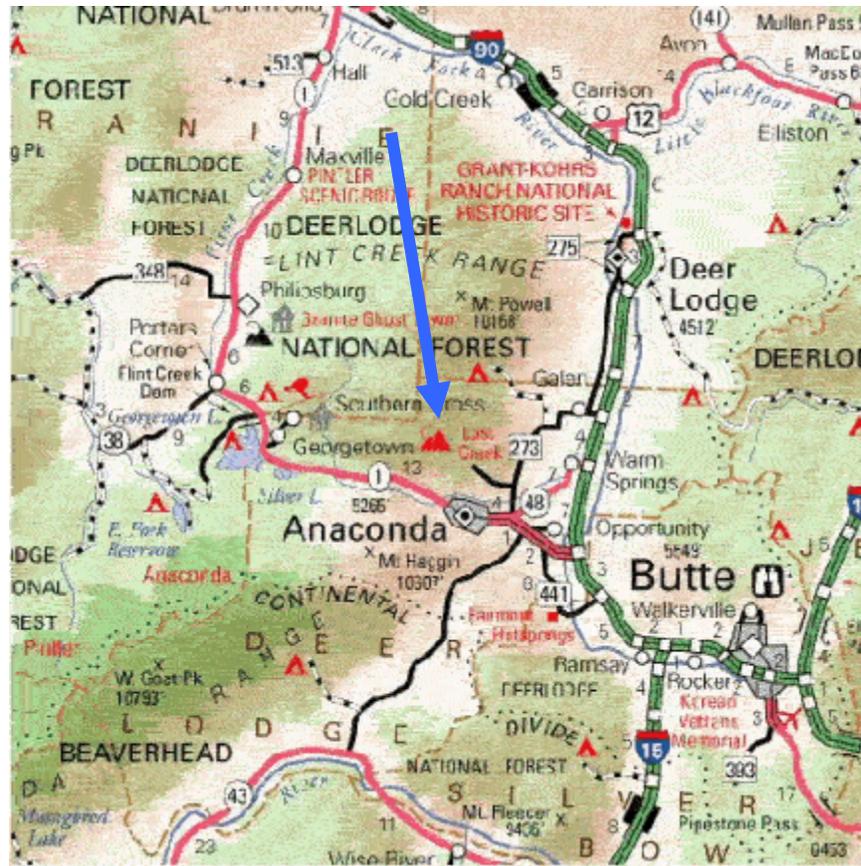


Figure 1. Area map with blue arrow showing location of Lost Creek State Park.

Overnight camping is available at two different campgrounds at Lost Creek State Park, for a total of 25 camping sites. Fire rings, grills, and picnic tables are provided at the campsites, and drinking water and several vault toilets are available as well. Because Lost Creek State Park is designated “primitive”, there are no RV hookups, and RV/trailer size is limited to 23’. The Park’s “primitive” designation is an important feature of the park, helping give visitors more of a rustic experience than what they might experience at more developed parks in the state. However, the parks’ primitive status also sometimes attracts visitors who feel that they can overstep park rules, especially by staying long past the posted 7-day limit. Other problems that the park has been regularly experiencing include vandalism, littering, and alcohol and drug use.

At this time, Lost Creek State Park does not have any full-time staff member at the park. A caretaker who lives in Anaconda comes by the park two days a week to check on the grounds and deal with any obvious issues, but it is often difficult to detect and effectively deal with problem visitors during such limited time. In light of these problems and concerns, MFWP managers have proposed developing a host site for volunteer campground hosts to stay for extended periods of time during the open season and help park managers monitor and assist park visitors.

# LOST CREEK STATE PARK

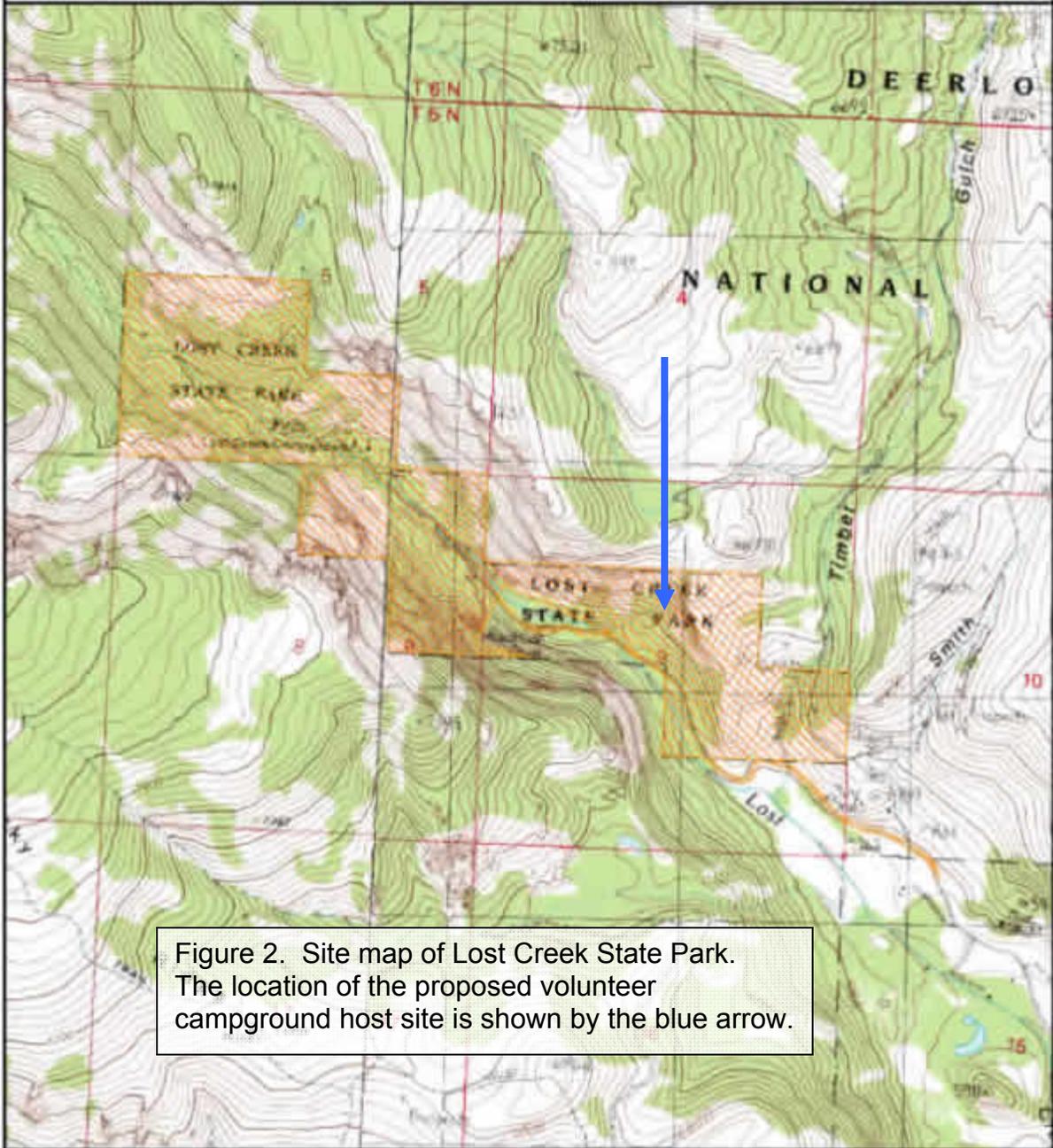
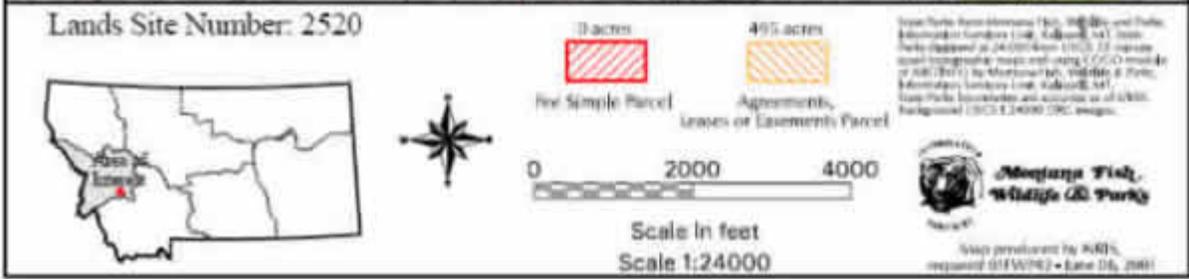


Figure 2. Site map of Lost Creek State Park. The location of the proposed volunteer campground host site is shown by the blue arrow.



Volunteer campground hosts are private citizens who play an important role in private and public campgrounds nationwide. Volunteer campground hosts fulfill a wide range of duties, including helping visitors find suitable campsites, explaining park policies and attractions, monitoring the park and its guests, and being first responders in emergencies. In exchange for providing these services, volunteer campground hosts receive free camping at the park. Competent volunteer campground hosts are highly desirable because of the many services they provide at little cost to parks. However, it is often difficult to persuade volunteer campground hosts to stay long-term at parks without basic water, sewer, and electricity hook-ups for their private recreational vehicles. Volunteer campground hosts who do agree to stay in unimproved sites either stay for only short periods of time or are often unreliable. Neither scenario is very satisfactory for the needs of that park.

Lost Creek State Park does not currently have a volunteer campground host site, because the parks' "primitive" designation prohibited the installation of amenities that would customarily be provided at volunteer campground host sites. However, the 2005 Montana legislature passed Senate Bill 76 that permits this type of development at Lost Creek State Park. All development allowed by this bill must be completed by the end of September 2007.

The proposed volunteer campground host site would be located on the north side of the road (Figures 2 and 3) approximately 2058 feet up the road from the cattle guard at the entrance to the park. This location would allow the host to closely monitor the lower camping area and observe all the visitors entering and leaving the park. This location would also make the volunteer campground host site highly visible and easy for visitors to find if they need information or assistance. The volunteer campground host site would include a graveled vehicle pull-out and pad with space for an RV and additional single vehicle parking (Figure 4), a water well (Figure 6), electricity hook-ups, a septic tank with drain field, and a storage shed which would also house the well controls and pressure tanks (Figure 6). Electricity for the well and RV use would be provided by a generator, which would be housed in the storage shed. A water line and hydrant for the lower campground would also be installed as part of this project (Figures 5 and 7). The entire project is budgeted at \$72,000.

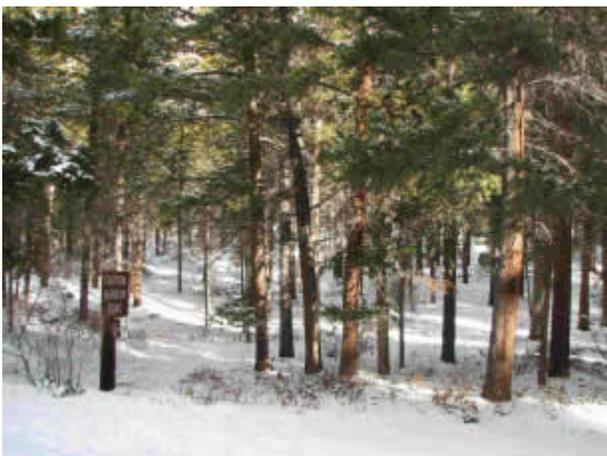


Figure 3. Future location of proposed volunteer campground host site, taken from the main park road facing north.



Figure 4. Approximate location of the gravel host pad and vehicle parking area.



Figure 5. Site of water hydrant for the lower campground.

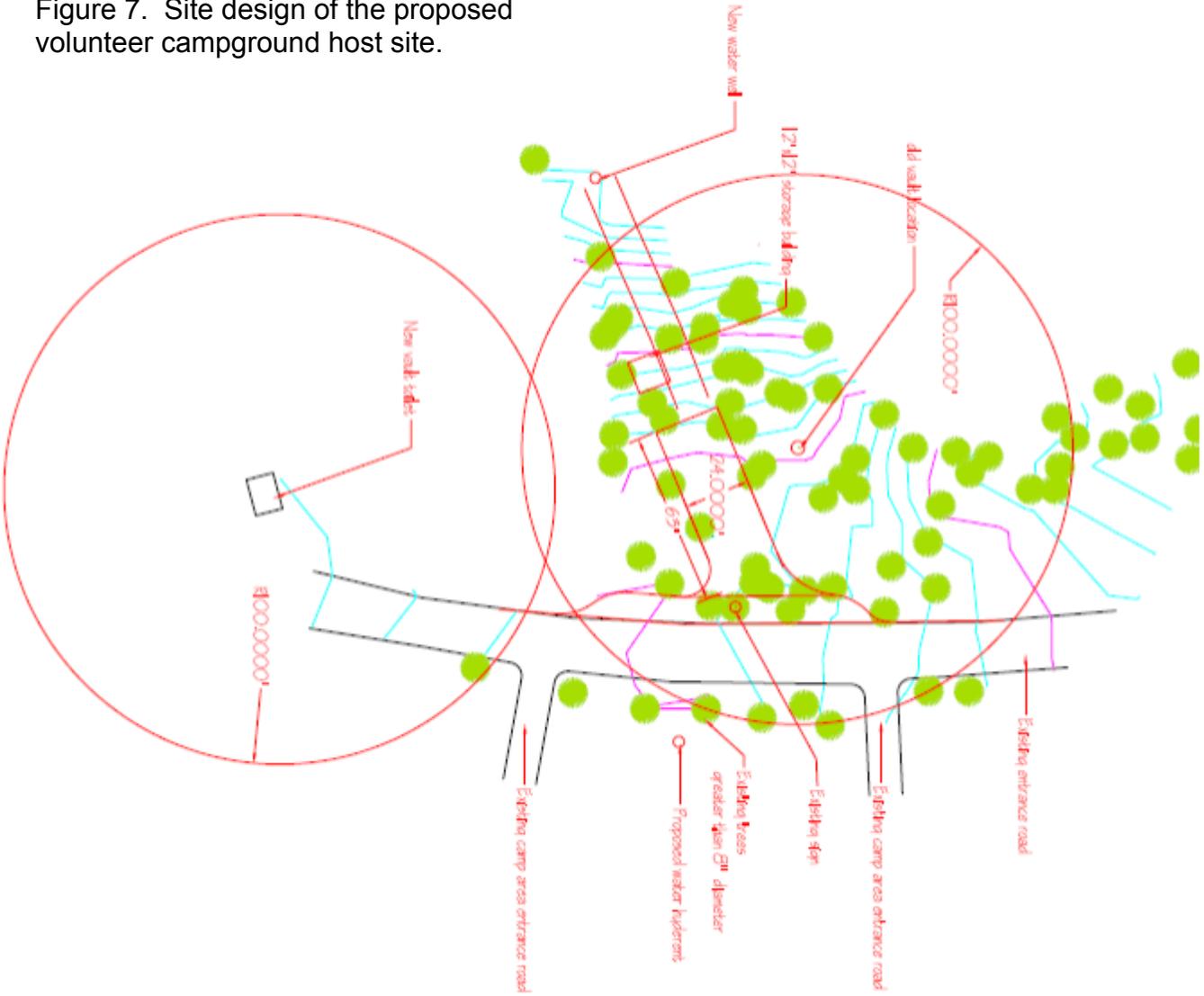


Figure 6. Approximate location of the storage shed (foreground) and well (background).

Vegetation in the area of the proposed volunteer campground host site consists of an overstory of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) with an average diameter of 15 inches, and an understory of wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), and a variety of forbs and grasses. Approximately 8-10 of the lodgepole pine trees and several square yards of understory vegetation would have to be removed in order to complete the proposed project, but such an action would be too small to affect the plant community in this park in any appreciable way.

In summary, Park managers believe that the addition of a volunteer campground host site to Lost Creek State Park would greatly increase site protection of the park. Volunteer campground hosts would help monitor visitors, thereby greatly reducing incidents involving vandalism, littering, drug and alcohol use, and “squatting”. Volunteer campground hosts would alert park managers or law enforcement officials to any serious problems, but usually the mere presence of a volunteer campground host deters most potential law-breakers. Volunteer campground hosts also assist visitors by providing information about the Park, the region, and the state as a whole. The proposed project would have no significant environmental effects and would help to increase public enjoyment of Lost Creek State Park.

Figure 7. Site design of the proposed volunteer campground host site.



## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

- 1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

### **Alternative A: No Action**

If no action is taken, a volunteer campground host site would not be added to Lost Creek State Park, and the Park would continue to have problems monitoring and dealing with inappropriate or illegal behavior by park visitors. It is unlikely that monies would be found in the Parks budget for a permanent MFWP staff member at the park, and it has been shown that it is very difficult to get competent volunteer hosts to stay at primitive, undeveloped host sites.

### **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. An Environmental Review Checklist begins on page 12.

In the preferred Alternative, MFWP would place a volunteer campground host site in Lost Creek State Park opposite the lower campground on the north side of the main park road. The volunteer campground host site would include electricity and water hookups; a well that would supply the host site and the lower campground with water, a septic tank and drain field, a gravel parking area and vehicle pull-out, and a storage shed. The total estimated cost of this project is approximately \$72,000. Electricity for RV use and well requirements would be supplied by a propane generator, which would be installed in the storage shed. A well would be dug at the north edge of the host site and water lines run to the host pad and the lower campground. A pre-fabricated 196 sq. ft. storage shed with manual garage door would house the generator, well controls and other miscellaneous maintenance-related items. A fire ring and three picnic tables would also be provided. MFWP managers feel confident that this investment would enable them to regularly attract competent private citizens to act as volunteer campground hosts for Lost Creek State Park. The presence of a volunteer campground host can effectively deter vandalism and inappropriate behavior in the park, such as excessive noise after-hours and public consumption of drugs and alcohol. The reduction of such incidents improves the experience for the public and encourages return visits.

### **Alternative C:**

Alternative C is essentially the same as Alternative B, except that electrical power lines would be run to the volunteer campground host site instead of using a propane generator. This is not the preferred alternative because the estimated cost (\$70,000) of running electrical lines to the volunteer campground host site is prohibitively high. That amount of money is almost equal to the entire budget for this project, and therefore would leave no money left for the construction and installation of the other amenities, such as a well, a septic drain field, phone service, host pad, and storage shed.

**2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

There are no formal stipulations of mitigation or other controls associated with the proposed action. This action does not involve any permits or granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

**PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

Lost Creek State Park is one of Montana’s “hidden gems”. It does not get the tourism pressure that some of Montana’s better-known state parks receive, but it is well-loved by locals and does receive a fair number of out-of-the region and state visitors who value the primitive status of the park and its quiet beauty. While the vast majority of visitors to the park follow park rules, a small minority do cause problems at the park, including littering, vandalism, excessive noise, drug and alcohol use, and staying past the posted 7-day limit. MFWP Region 2 park managers have been having an increasingly difficult time monitoring these visitors and enforcing park rules. Budget constraints do not allow for Lost Creek State Park to be staffed 24-hours a day 7 days a week during the open season (May 1-Nov 30). Park managers believe that the solution is to install a volunteer campground host site in the park and advertise for volunteer campground hosts to come and stay at the park and help monitor visitors. Volunteer campground hosts provide their valuable services for free, requiring only that their camping fees are paid for. However, it is extremely difficult to persuade competent volunteer hosts to stay in “primitive” host sites for long periods of time, if at all. In light of this, MFWP has proposed providing a gravel pad, electricity, water, and a septic tank and drain field for hosts. Park managers feel they would be more successful at attracting good volunteer campground hosts if they have these services to offer.

This EA did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. No threatened or endangered species have been observed in the area, and no unique or physical features would be affected. In short, the proposed project would help Region 2 MFWP park staff provide better visitor services and site security, help reduce the undesirable activities that do occur, thereby increasing visitor enjoyment of the site without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

**PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**1. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The public would be notified by way of: a statewide press release; legal notices in the *Missoulian*, *Helena Independent Record* and *Anaconda Leader* newspapers; and public notice on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page <http://fwp.mt.gov> (under “Recent Public Notices”). Individual notices would be sent to the region’s standard EA distribution list and to those that have requested one.

**2. Duration of comment period, if any.**

Comments will be accepted for a period of not less than 30 days. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Comments should be mailed to:

Lee Bastian  
Region 2 Park Manager  
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804

Or emailed to **lbastian@mt.gov** or telephoned to 406-542-5517.

**PART V. EA PREPARATION**

**1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.**

Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed volunteer campground host site project. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

**2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Lee Bastian  
Region 2 Parks Manager  
3201 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5517

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith  
Independent Contractor  
1027 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 495-9620

**3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Parks Division

Wildlife Division

Fisheries Division

Design & Construction Bureau

Lands Division

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism

Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

**PART VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST**

**3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.**

**A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b.
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?			X			1e.
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 1a. The excavation of the trench for the water pipeline and hydrant for the lower campground would not affect geologic substructure or soil stability.
- 1b. Soil would be disturbed to clear ground for the gravel pull-out and RV pad, for construction of the storage shed, and the installation of the well, pipeline, septic tank and drain field, but the effects would be small. No previously undisturbed ground would be disturbed by the phone lines.
- 1c. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action.
- 1e. There would be a very minor risk of injury to people at the volunteer host site from a rockslide.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			2b.
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)						
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 2a. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by heavy equipment during construction, but would end after completion of the project.
- 2b. The electrical generator would create petroleum-based odors when it was running which would be noticeable within the immediate vicinity of the host site.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			3b.
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?			X			3f.
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?			X			3g.
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)						
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)						
n. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 3a. The proposed action would not result in a discharge of any material into surface water or cause an alteration of the quality of surface water including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.
- 3b. The gravel host pad and parking area would increase surface run-off in that area but the effect would be negligible.
- 3f. The host pad's septic drain field would have a very low yield production and is not anticipated to have an effect above a regulatory or measurable standard.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

- 3g. The proposed project would not affect the quantity of groundwater in any appreciable amount, as the usage would be seasonal and limited.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 4a. The location of the proposed volunteer campground host site would be in the lower campground, to the north of the main park road. The lower campground is semi-developed (gravel driveways in camping sites, fire rings, picnic tables, etc). Vegetation in the area of the proposed volunteer campground host site consists mainly of lodgepole pine, serviceberry, wild rose, Oregon grape, and assorted forbs and grasses. The implementation of the proposed project would result in the removal of 8-10 lodgepole pine trees and temporarily reduce the abundance of the other plant species in the area around the volunteer campground host pad. The gravel parking pad and vehicle turn-out would permanently cover 24' X 60' of ground. The combined effects of these actions do not constitute significant or potentially significant changes to the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species in the area.
- 4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed that Lost Creek State Park, and thus the proposed project site fall within the historic range of lynx (a threatened species). However, there are no documented sightings of this species within the park, and it is highly unlikely that this project would affect present or future populations of lynx, because the area affected is so small (<1 acre) and because the campground is already semi-developed. Please see Appendix B for the complete Species of Concern Data Report.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

- 4e. The proposed project could lead to the establishment and spread of noxious weeds in the vicinity of the host site. However, MFWP personnel have stipulated that all necessary prevention and control measures would be taken to ensure against that occurrence.

<b>** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?			X			5a.
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?	X					5c.
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			5g.
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)						
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)						
j. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 5a. Please see comment 5g.
- 5c. There is insufficient data available to determine if the proposed project would affect the diversity or abundance of non-game animals within the vicinity of the host site or Lost Creek State Park as a whole.
- 5f. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Lost Creek State Park area. Please see comment 4c and Appendix B for additional information about Species of Concern within and around Lost Creek State Park.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

- 5g. The presence of a host may result in minor disturbance to wildlife due to noise from the generator and continuous human presence and activity. The presence of a volunteer campground host at Lost Creek State Park may also result in an overall decrease in conditions such as harassment, illegal harvest, excessive noise, etc., that could cause stress to or limit abundance of wildlife populations.

**B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a.
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X			6b.
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 6a. There would be a temporary increase in noise level during construction of the gravel parking pad vehicle pull-out, storage shed, the digging of the well, and installation of the septic tank and drain field and of water, and electricity lines and hook-ups. The propane generator would also create intermittent noise on a regular basis May-Nov. Recent innovations have produced generators that are much quieter than earlier models. Some generators on the market today produce only 72-80 decibels, which is comparable to a handheld hair dryer. The generator would be housed in the storage shed, which could reduce the noise levels by as much as 50%, especially if the building is constructed of 8" hollow block walls, as is being considered. Exhaust louvers with noise restriction baffles would also be installed, which would reduce the noise even further. With such measures in place, MFWP engineers believe that the noise level in the host site would be around 40 decibels, which is comparable to a human voice. Such a level would have only a minor impact to wildlife or public camping in the area, and the positive affects of a host would more than outweigh this impact/concern.
- 6b. Although every effort would be made to reduce generator noise, it is possible that people camping in close proximity would still be able to hear it, which might be a nuisance to them or detract from their recreational experience.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. <b>LAND USE</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				7a.
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

7a. There would be no alteration or interference with the existing land use in the greater Lost Creek State Park area.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <b>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?			X positive			8b.
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 8a. There is a very minor risk of explosion from the stored propane used for the generator.
- 8b. As the preferred alternative does not include the installation of electric and phone lines, emergency communications would be handled through the use of radios and cell phones. Law Enforcement grade radios currently work well in communicating to the Sheriff's Office, so setting up the host with one of these would be critical in handling emergencies.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				9a.
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

9a. It is unlikely that the proposed project would have any discernable effect on the community surrounding Lost Creek State Park.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				10a.
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			10c.
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d.
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 10a. Electricity would be supplied by an on-site generator, so no new services would be required. Water and sewer would be installed with the project and would meet all appropriate state standards and permit requirements. No new services would be required from outside Lost Creek State Park.
- 10c. Please see comment 10a.
- 10d. Please see comment 10a.
- 10e. The cost of the project is estimated at \$72,000. Funding would come from Parks (Earned Revenue).
- 10f. Additional maintenance costs for the host site per year would be approximately \$1,000 for propane, and regular upkeep.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

<b>** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>				<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated *</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
	<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>Unknown *</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor *</b>		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

11c. The proposed project is not expected to affect the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings. Please see Tourism Report in Appendix C.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				12b.
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)						
e. Other:		X				

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

- 12a. The proposed project would not result in the destruction or alteration of any site, structure, or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance. Please see the clearance letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed project in Appendix D.
- 12b. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) believes that the proposed volunteer campground host site development project would have a low likelihood of impacting unique cultural resources. Please see the clearance letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed project in Appendix D.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

13. <b>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a.
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)						
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

13a. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action.

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\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.  
 \*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).  
 \*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.  
 \*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**APPENDIX A**  
**HB495**  
**PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**Date** Feb 1, 2006

**Person Reviewing** Linnaea Schroeer-Smith

**Project Location:** Lost Creek State Park, Deerlodge County, T5N, R11W, Sec. 9

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to place a volunteer campground host site at Lost Creek State Park. The volunteer host site would include a gravel pull-out and parking pad, electricity, a water well, septic drain field, and storage shed. Park managers are hoping that by constructing a host site with these amenities, they would be able to attract volunteer campground hosts to stay at the park during peak visitation and help monitor visitors and thus avert potential problems. There is currently no full-time MFWP staff presence at the park, only a caretaker who comes and checks on the park 2 days a week.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check  all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: None
- B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: A 196 sq. ft. storage building would be built to house the generator, well controls, and maintenance equipment.
- C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?**  
Comments: The digging of the trench for the well and water pipeline might require excavation of 20 c.y. or more.
- D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**  
Comments: None
- E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?**  
Comments: None.
- F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?**  
Comments: None.

- G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?**  
Comments: SHPO clearance has been obtained for the proposed project.
- H. Any new above ground utility lines?**  
Comments: None.
- I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?**  
Comments: None.
- J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?**  
Comments: None

**If any of the above are checked, HB 495 rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.**

## APPENDIX B

### Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Lost Creek State Park Area

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database ([nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal](http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal)) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site.

#### Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

**Montana Species of Concern.** The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

#### ▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

#### Status Ranks

Code	Definition
<b>G1</b> <b>S1</b>	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G2</b> <b>S2</b>	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G3</b> <b>S3</b>	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
<b>G4</b> <b>S4</b>	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
<b>G5</b> <b>S5</b>	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

### 1. *Primula incana* (mealy primrose)

State: **S2**  
Global: **G4**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This vascular plant species has been observed in areas south west of the boundaries of Lost Creek State Park, but not within the park. Therefore, the proposed project would have no affect on this sensitive species.

### 2. *Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi* (Westslope Cutthroat Trout)

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S2**  
Global: **G4T3**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:  
U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Westslope cutthroat trout occur in many tributaries to the Clark Fork River Basin, including Lost Creek. The presence of volunteer campground hosts would decrease the likelihood that illegal harvest or capture of this species was occurring.

### 3. *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon).

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S2B**  
Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: DM  
U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Lost Creek State Park encompasses an area that historically had falcon eyries and is seen has an excellent site for possible reintroduction of this sensitive species. The proposed project would not affect any future efforts of reintroduction, as the volunteer campground host site is located in the creek bottom of the canyon, which is not a preferred breeding and nesting area, and the area affected is probably too small to be a factor in the future success of this species in the Lost Creek State Park area.

### 4. *Lynx canadensis* (Lynx).

Natural Heritage Ranks:  
State: **S3**  
Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: LT  
U.S. Forest Service: Threatened  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

The proposed site location falls within the boundary for element occurrence of this species but no other information is available for the project area. Nonetheless, it is highly unlikely that the proposed project would affect the success of this species, as the area of land affected is extremely small and in an area that is already semi-developed.

**APPENDIX C**  
**TOURISM REPORT**  
**MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator  
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce  
PO Box 200533  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620-0533

**Project Name:** Lost Creek State Park Host Pad Development Project

**Project Location:** The proposed project would take place in Lost Creek State Park, Deerlodge County. T5N, R11W, Sec. 9

**Project Description:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to put a volunteer campground host site at Lost Creek State Park. The volunteer host site would include a gravel pull-out and parking pad, electricity, a water well, septic drain field, and storage shed. Park managers are hoping that by constructing a host site with these amenities, they would be able to attract volunteer campground hosts to stay at the park during peak visitation and help monitor visitors and thus avert potential problems. There is currently no full-time MFWP staff presence at the park, only a caretaker who comes and checks on the park 2 days a week.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the addition of campground host facilities would add to the safety and feeling of well being of campers and visitors to Lost Creek State Park.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

The project would improve the quality of the recreation/tourism opportunities and settings at the state park through the addition of host services.

Signature Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, Travel Montana  
Date February 6, 2006

**APPENDIX D**

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Clearance letter for the proposed project.

555.1



**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201  
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

January 30, 2006

Paul Valle  
FWP  
PO Box 200701  
Helena MT 59620-0701

RECEIVED  
JAN 30 2006  
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

RE: LOST CREEK STATE PARK, POWER/PHONE LINES, WELL, SEPTIC, DRAIN  
FIELD, AND GRAVEL PAD PROJECT. SHPO Project #: 2006012703

Dear Mr. Valle:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 9, T5N R11W. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the areas. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at [dmurdo@mt.gov](mailto:dmurdo@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo  
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/PARKS/2006