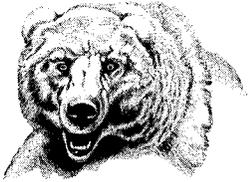


STATE OF MONTANA

Office Copy



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana 59601
January 28, 1976

RECEIVED

JAN 30 1976

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 sewage system 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
Enc

- cc: Water Quality Bureau, DHES
- Water Resources Division, DNR&C
- Division of Architecture & Eng.
- Department of Highways
- Regional Office, U. S. Forest Service
- Dr. S. Thatcher Hubbard
- Flathead Lakers
- Polson Outdoors
- Tony Buechel
- Dick Mayer

AGENCY IMPACT DETERMINATION
FINLEY POINT RECREATION AREA

FG-N-55

RECEIVED
JAN - 6 1976
ENVIRON. RESOURCES

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

A pressure water system will be constructed to facilitate recreationists and serve an administrative site. Electrical, telephone and sewage disposal services will be provided at the administrative site. All utilities will be placed underground at different depths. The deepest will be the water line at approximately six feet. The sewage disposal system will consist of a septic tank and drainfield. The drainfield requires 200 square feet of area and will involve 100 feet of trench excavation. It is to be located on an old roadbed excavation which is 1,500 feet from the nearest well and 3,500 feet from Flathead Lake. Utility lines will be placed in the same trench wherever feasible to minimize site disturbance. Approximately 350 feet of electrical and telephone lines will be buried. The total project will involve 1,100 feet of trench excavation. The road, parking and living accommodations at the administrative site will destroy about 4,500 square feet of grass-type vegetation. The administrative site will be located along the entrance road so that better entrance control of site visitors can be maintained.

This project should be completed by the fall of 1976. The estimated cost is approximately \$17,000. Most of the project will be completed on a contract basis with minor site work done by Fish and Game personnel.

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. Ground water is approximately 20 feet below high water level of Flathead Lake. In the vicinity of the drainfield, the ground water is approximately 65 feet below ground level. The only surface water in the area is Flathead Lake which is 3,500 feet away from the proposed drainfield site. Percolation tests indicate the water intake rate in the drainfield vicinity is 7 minutes per inch.

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-luustrine 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 peninsula 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 Inter-mountain 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 presently underground electrical and phone lines to the former caretaker trailer site. These lines will be extended to the well and new administrative site.

Industry. Major industries in 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 Koocanusa 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 decreased slightly only during time of construction. Exhaust from trenching equipment and the dust from trenching will have minor, short term, effects on air quality.

Surface and ground water quality will remain unaffected. 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.

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 construction equipment and for transportation.

Neither historic nor archaeological sites are present.

Land use will remain unchanged as will the 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 except where trenching and the administrative site occur. This will amount to the destruction of approximately 4,500 square feet of vegetation. Vegetation in the trenched areas will be re-established.

The type and amount of use the area will receive as a result of the project will be unchanged. The social factors appear negligible. The location of the administrative site will enable the caretaker to keep better records of the type and amount of use the area receives.

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

Top soil will be saved in the trench paths and replaced over back-fill material. The replaced topsoil will be reseeded with native grasses. Plans will be reviewed and approved by the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences before construction.

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Non-renewable resources in the form of fuel and oil will be consumed during construction. Minor air pollution will occur. Vegetation will be destroyed by the road, parking, and trailer pad at the administrative site.

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

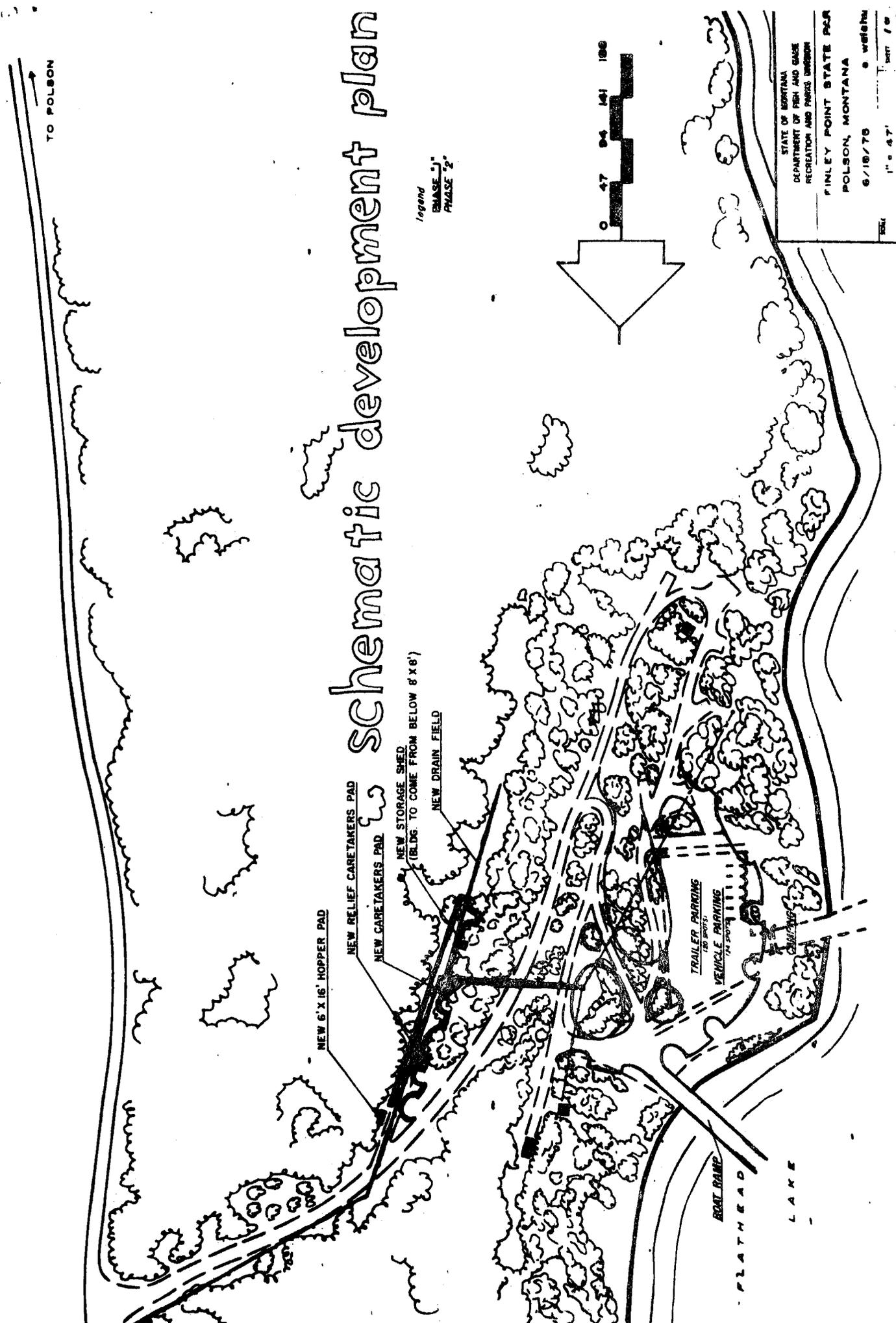
No action would mean poor entrance control in the park. Presently, the administrative site consists of an electrical hookup for a small, self-contained trailer next to a high density, visitor parking area. It is not on the entrance road or near the entrance to the park. Changing the location of the site will make more day use space available. The new location of the administrative site would allow the caretaker to be available to the public for information as they enter the area. From this vantage point, he could readily observe and better control recreation use. Moreover, he would attain more privacy here as his camp would not be in the high density, day use and parking area.

Without the pressure water system, there would be no water at the administrative site.

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

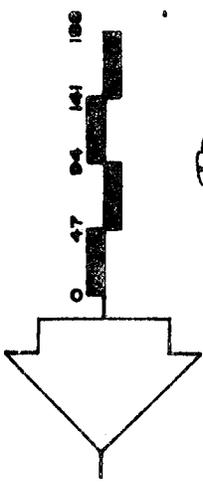
Registered Landscape Architect, Montana and Colorado.
Member, American Society of Landscape Architects. President, Montana Board of Landscape Architects.

REM:DH:op
12/10/75



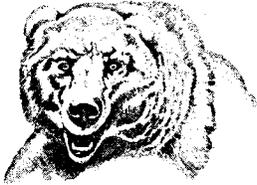
schematic development plan

Legend
 PHASE 1
 PHASE 2



STATE OF MONTANA
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION
 FINLEY POINT STATE PARK
 POLSON, MONTANA
 6/18/78
 1" = 47'

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana 59601
March 2, 1976

Mr. David Nunnallee, P.E.
Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division
Department of Health & Environmental Sciences
P. O. Box 1031
Kalispell, Montana 59901

MAR 10 1976

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Dear Mr. Nunnallee:

We are in receipt of your letter of February 25, 1976 concerning the Negative Declaration for Finley Point. I will attempt to answer your questions.

Engineering studies are being handled by Thomas, Dean & Hoskins of Great Falls. At this time they are not complete. When plans and specifications are finished the Department of Health will be asked to review them. These documents will detail all items referred to under Item 1 of your letter.

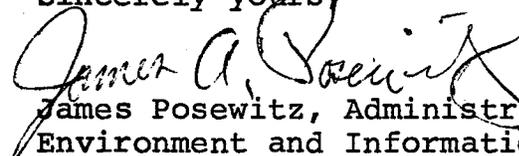
The proposed drainfield will serve only the caretaker and relief caretaker facilities. These will consist of small trailer houses. Design will be based on a two bedroom size for each trailer. No hookups will be provided for recreationists. The drainfield will be used from approximately May through October of each year.

The location presently proposed for the drainfield location lies on a relatively steep slope where there is an existing old road cut. The field could be expanded in a linear fashion if it should become necessary.

I hope this answers your questions adequately, If it wouldn't be too much trouble I would also request that you contact the Kalispell office of Thomas, Dean and Hoskins to further coordinate the proposed design.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


James Posewitz, Administrator
Environment and Information Division.

JP:RM:hm

cc: RMayer

TBuechel

DWillems

TDH

Environmental Quality Council