



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
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Kalispell, MT 59901
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FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV259-00
October 18, 2000

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Fisheries, & Parks
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, 59624
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715
Rep. Bob Lawson, Box 686, Whitefish, 59937
Rep. Verdell Jackson, 555 Wagner Lane, Kalispell, 59901
Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217
Rep. Rob Raney, 212 S. 6th, Livingston, 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

FWP, Region One, has written Environmental Assessments (EAs) for **Skyles and Spencer lakes.** The Parks project (Skyles & Spencer Fishing Access Sites) proposes to improve the access road and construct a parking lot for vehicles only (no trailers) at Skyles Lake. The Spencer Lake portion of the EA proposes to improve the access road, parking lot, and turn-around for vehicles, and provide a boat dock. The Fisheries project (Skyles Lake & Spencer Lake Rehabilitation) proposes to remove undesirable fish and replace with hatchery trout.

Copies of the Fisheries and Parks drafts are enclosed. Comments will be accepted through November 17, 2000, and should be addressed to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, or Jim Vashro, Fisheries Manager, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

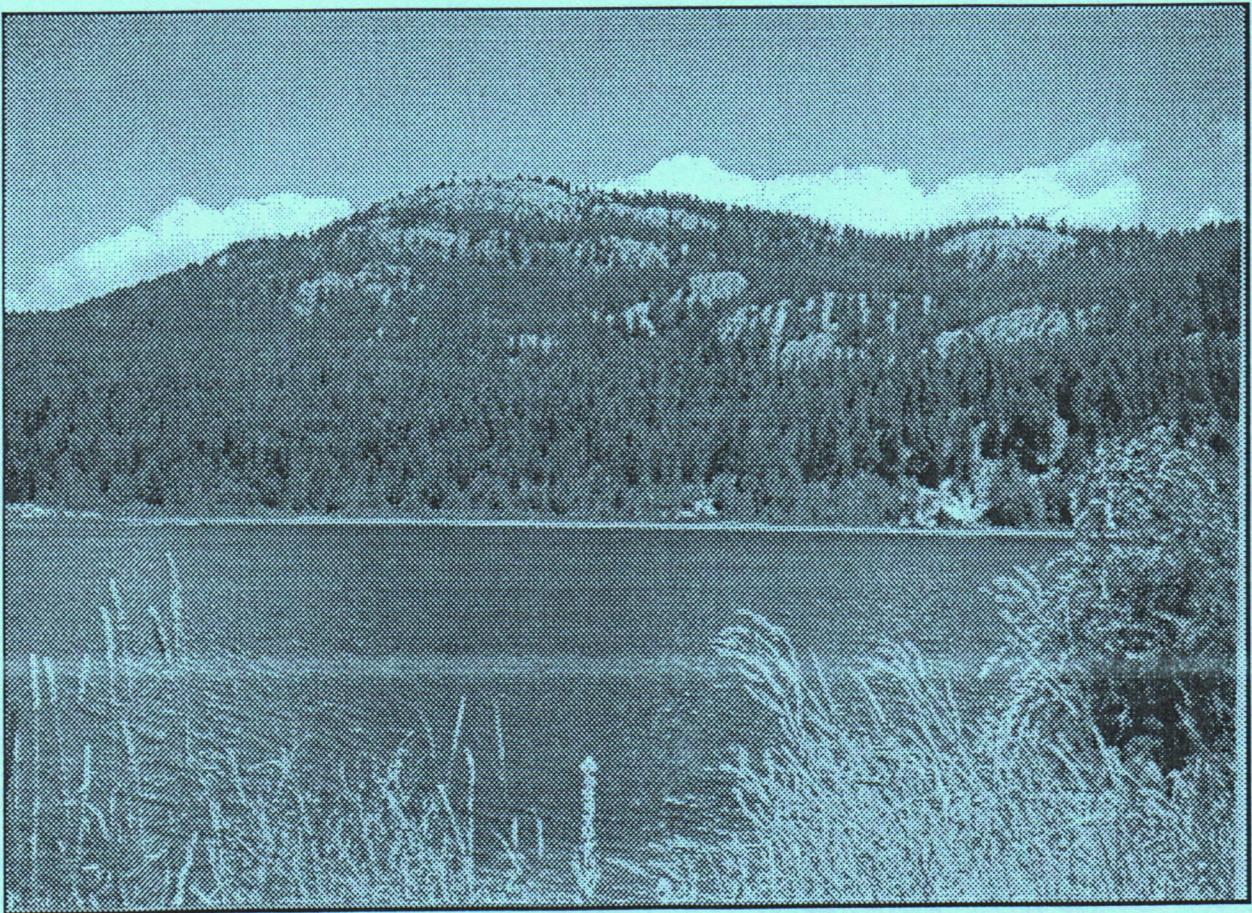
DV/nli
Enclosure

Flathead 200

C: Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901
Flathead County Library, 9 Spokane Ave., Whitefish, 59937
Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main, Kalispell, 59901
Steve Thompson, Natural Resource Consulting, Box 4471, Whitefish, 59937
Jim Mann, Daily Inter Lake, PO Box 7610, Kalispell, 59904
DNRC, 2250 Hwy 93 N, Kalispell, 59901
Warren Illi, Flathead Wildlife, Inc., PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903
Stan Frasier, MT Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, 59624
Ben & Luanne Sagen, Box 1453, Whitefish, 59937
Terry Peterson, PO Box 693, Columbia Falls, 59912
Tony Rucinski, 644 West Lakeshore Drive, Whitefish, 59937
Richard McCarthy, PO Box 1176, Whitefish, 59937
Tom Sagen, 235 Skyles Lake Road, Whitefish, 59937
Pat Whitman, PO Box 2054, Whitefish, 59937
Rick Hubble, 3880 Hwy 93 W, Whitefish, 59937
Ray Zampieri & Linda Christianson, 2755 Hwy 93 W, Whitefish, 59937
Richard & Jessie Deats, 6080 Hwy 93 S, Whitefish, 59937
Roger & Ida Nielsen, 155 Skyles Lane, Whitefish, 59937
David Weldele, Box 536, Whitefish, 59937
Steve & Cynda Smith, 205 Skyles Lane, Whitefish, 59937
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Theresa Conner, 1175 4th Avenue WN, Columbia Falls, 59912
Steve Hawkins, PO Box 187, Eureka, 59917
Bob Hensler, 136 Edgewater Drive, Libby, 59923
Victor McAllister, 333 Light Road, Polson, 59860
Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Road, Kalispell, 59901
Ben Rossetto, 1355 Columbia Avenue, Whitefish, 59937
Rob Shrider, 204 Hwy 93 South, Ronan, 59864
Gary Sloan, 1487 Lion Mountain Drive, Whitefish, 59937
Jerry Smalley, 1142 Columbia Mountain Road, Columbia Falls, 59912
Dale Sommerfield, 627 Foys Canyon Road, Kalispell, 59901
Jay Stuckey, 561 Prospect Creek Road, Thompson Falls, 59873
Fern Nelson, 511 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, 59937
Cornice Trust, PO Box 10292, Kalispell, 59901
Shawn Cowan, 4124 Hwy 40 West, Columbia Falls, 59912
Jacque & Willo Harris, PO Box 295, Whitefish, 59937
Rev. Scott Thomas Peer Trust, PO Box 1086, Whitefish, 59937
Edward & Karen Sundberg, 1425 8th Avenue S, Great Falls, 59405
Jerrold & Marlene Barnes, 210 Armory Road, Whitefish, 59937
Harriet & Gerald Quinn, 245 Twin Lakes Road, Whitefish, 59937
Elmer & Loretta Fauske, PO Box 1874, Whitefish, 59937
Peter Nelson, 3952 Hwy 40 W, Columbia Falls, 59912
June Munski, 241 West Third Street, Whitefish, 59937
Dennis & Ginger Thiessen, 365 Blanchard Lake Road, Whitefish, 59937
Erick Schenk & Steve Howe, 401 Haskell Basin Road, Whitefish, 59937
Kenneth & Mary Alexine Pannell, 57 Trails End Road, Eureka, 59917
Philip Hambley, 89 Riverview Close SE, Calgary, Alberta T2C4C5, Canada
Dennis & Susan Breed, 1744 Mambrino Hwy, Granbury, TX 76048
Jack Fabjanski, 383 Mt. Apex Green SE, Calgary, Alberta T2Z3B8, Canada
Leona & Vicki Hileman, 1026 E Second Street, Whitefish, 59937
Ronald & Jeffery Burns, 1432 Sorensen Road, Helena, 59601
Fred Chase, PO Box 1609, Bigfork, 59911
Jim Hoover, 101 Antelope Trail, Whitefish, 59937

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR
SKYLES & SPENCER LAKES
FISHING ACCESS SITES

October 2000



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

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SKYLES LAKE & SPENCER LAKE REHABILITATION EA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Skyles Lake is located approximately three miles west of Whitefish, just north of U.S. Highway 93. The lake is 39 acres in size with a maximum depth of 18 feet. Public access is gained to the lake over a 30-foot right-of-way, 676 feet long, to the 1.41 acre tract of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) land. Approximately half of the site is upland, the remainder being wetlands. The roadway touches the water's edge at one location just east of a sharp bend in the access road.

Spencer Lake is located approximately one mile past Skyles Lake, adjacent to and south of Highway 93. It is 30 acres in size with a maximum depth of 17 feet. On the west end of the lake, approximately three-fourths of the shoreline is owned by the State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Public access to the lake is gained from several parking areas along Highway 93 and by a road and parking area on the south side of the lake on DNRC land.

Both lakes are presently managed as fishing access sites for traditional dispersed recreational use consistent with FWP's fishing access program and DNRC public access policy. The management goal is to protect the water, land, and air resources, while providing public access for fishing. Fishing was and is presently the major public recreational attraction of the sites; however, use has decreased due to poor fishing and poor conditions at the public access sites.

The first recorded plantings of fish for both lakes occurred in May 1931, with subsequent plantings of trout in 1935, 1956 through 1969, 1972 through 1973, and 1976 to 1984. At this time it was noticed through netting that other fish such as bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, and northern pike had invaded the lakes. FWP has prepared an EA for chemical rehabilitation of Skyles Lake and Spencer Lake, which is located downstream from Skyles Lake, to remove the unwanted fish species and replace with game fish species.

Planning began in 1992 to improve and expand the public access site on Skyles Lake; however, the proposed expansion area was purchased by a private individual who constructed a dwelling on a bluff overlooking the fishing access site. This stopped any future expansion of the site.

FWP attempted to work with the new landowner on Skyles Lake to develop a plan suitable to meet both of their programs and wishes. Before a formal agreement could be developed, the landowner attempted to do some construction work, which had been discussed during the negotiation period. The work was ordered stopped, but the site was left in an undesirable condition, making vehicle travel over half the access road impossible. Some of the work was in violation of the Lakeshore Protection Act. It will be necessary to obtain a Lakeshore Protection Permit from the Flathead Regional Development Office for improvement or development along the lakeshore prior to any further rehabilitation or development work.

In 1996 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks began its Family Fishing Adventure program, which encourages all Montana families to spend time together outdoors. The Montana Angling Youth, or M*A*Y* Club, is one program participants may share in the Montana fishing and aquatic resources. Another aspect of the program is the Family Fishing Sites program. The objective is to develop fishing in and access to bodies of water near towns so families can spend some quality time together in their favorite sport. These sites meet those criteria.

Because of user proximity and because fisheries impacts of the two lakes are interconnected, the EAs have been done simultaneously in this document.

With this in mind, four alternatives were developed for Skyles Lake for study and review for the rehabilitation and improvements for this fishing access site. They are:

Skyles Lake

Alternative A: Using the existing right-of-way, develop a parking area at the east end of the FWP tract of land for approximately six cars. No trailer parking, boat ramp, or other day-use recreational facilities will be provided. Sanitary facilities, permanent or temporary, may be required at a later date. The site would be managed for carry-on boats only.

Alternative B: Attempt to develop a parking area, through a possible land exchange program with an adjacent landowner, before the sharp bend in the road. Retain an additional length of right-of-way so the public will have motor vehicle access to the water's edge. Manage for carry-on boats only. No trailer parking, boat ramp or other day-use recreational facilities will be provided. Sanitary facilities, permanent or temporary, may be required at a later date. Use what lands are needed in the remaining FWP tract for the exchange program.

Alternative C: Surplus the property and sell it, eliminating the fishing access site. Some work would have to be performed to eliminate any water pollution resulting from the unauthorized roadwork, and dredging and depositing of soil on FWP lands.

Alternative D: No action. Retain as is. The site would have to be rehabilitated to meet Lakeshore Protection Act standards.

Spencer Lake

Three alternatives for Spencer Lake have been developed for rehabilitation and improvements for this fishing access site. They are:

Alternative 1: No action. Manage the lake as is.

Alternative 2: Enter into a cooperative agreement with the DNRC to improve the access road, boat ramp, and construct a dock. DNRC would retain management of the site. DNRC has indicated in a letter dated May 5, 1999, that this alternative is not acceptable.

Alternative 3: Lease the site from DNRC as a fishing access site, improve the access road, turn-a-round, and boat ramp, and construct a boat dock. FWP would assume management of the site.

Comments on this draft Environmental Assessment will be accepted through November 14, 2000. Comments should be addressed to Skyles and Spencer Lakes Fishing Access Sites EA, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. Questions should be directed to Marty Watkins at (406) 752-5501 or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us.

**The cover photograph shows the access point on Skyles lake where the roadway meets the lake.
(Photo by Wayne Worthington)*

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action: Improve the access road and construct a parking lot for vehicles only (no trailers).

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901; e-mail – mawatkins@state.mt.us.

3. Name of Project: Skyles Lake Fishing Access Site

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency): Same

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 12/2001
Estimated Completion Date 12/2001
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 10%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township): Flathead County, S1/2 Sec. 33, T. 31 N., R. 22 W.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential acres
industrial acres

(d) Floodplain:
Approximately acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation 1/2 acre

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland acres
dry cropland acres
forestry acres
range land acres
other

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas 1/2 acre

8. Map/Site Plan: Attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached. See Appendices A & B

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project, Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action:

Skyles Lake is located approximately three miles west of Whitefish, just north of U.S. Highway 93 (Appendix A-1). It is an unmeandered lake of 39 acres, with a maximum depth of 18 feet as shown on the enclosed 1968 lake map (Appendix A-2). As it was not meandered in the official survey in the 1800s, the lake bottom to the high water mark is privately owned. However, the water does belong to the state (Appendix A-5). Any proposed construction or other planned work on these submerged lake bottomlands must be approved by the present landowners. It would also be necessary to obtain a Lakeshore Protection Permit from the Flathead Regional Development Office for improvement or development along the lakeshore or submerged lands.

Public access is gained to the lake over a 30-foot ROW, 676 feet long, to the 1.41-acre tract of land. Approximately half of the land is uplands, the remainder being wetlands. The roadway touches the water's edge at one location just east of the sharp bend in the road (Appendix A-3 and Photo #1). The tract was acquired November 30, 1954, by warranty deed by the Whitefish Rod and Gun Club and donated to the Fish and Game Commission (Appendix A-4). Purpose of the acquisition is for public access to the lake.

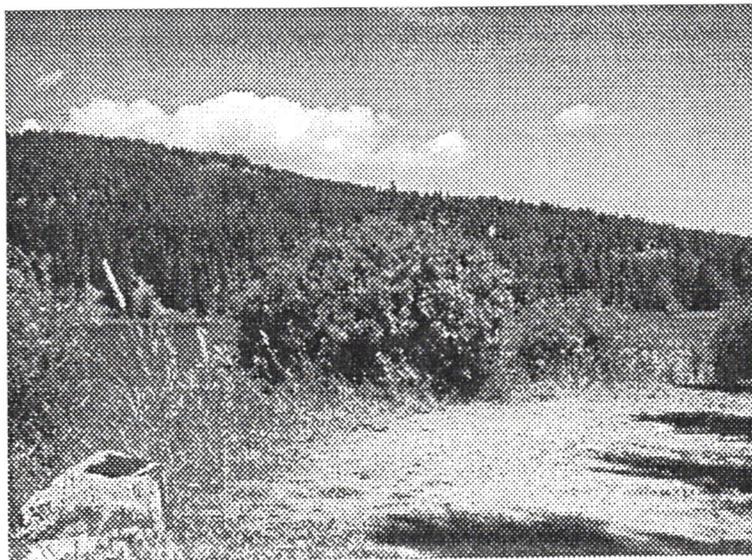


Photo #1—Access to the water at this point. From this point to the east, much of the land area becomes wetlands. (Photo by Worthington)

Skyles Lake is presently managed as a fishing access site for traditional, dispersed recreational use consistent with FWP's fishing access program. The management goal is to protect the water, land, and air resources, while providing public access for fishing.

The first recorded plantings of fish occurred in May 1931, when chinook salmon were planted. Coho salmon and rainbow trout were also planted up to 1935. The lake was chemically rehabilitated in 1955 to eliminate pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and bullheads. Cutthroat trout were planted from 1956 through 1969. Rainbow trout were again planted in 1972 and 1973. Westslope cutthroat trout were again planted from 1976 to 1984. At this time it was noticed through netting that other fish such as bass, yellow perch, and pumpkinseed had invaded the lake. Survival and growth of planted trout declined due to the illegal fish, and planting was halted. FWP proposed chemical rehabilitation of

Skyles and Spencer lakes in 1985, but treated only Spencer Lake due to opposition from Skyles Lake landowners. The Spencer Lake rehabilitation failed due to the recolonization by bass and pumpkinseed from Skyles Lake upstream. Netting was again performed on April 29, 1998, and again pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and now, northern pike were found in the nets. FWP has prepared an EA for chemical rehabilitation of Skyles Lake in conjunction with the improvements planned for this fishing access site. Spencer Lake is also included in the chemical rehabilitation to prevent further contamination from unwanted species in both lakes.

Planning began in 1992 to improve and expand the site; however, the proposed expansion area was purchased in 1993, and a dwelling was constructed on a bluff overlooking the fishing access site. This stopped any future expansion on the site. Permanent dwellings and summer home cabins are mainly located on the southern and western shores of the lake.

Several years ago, FWP began working with the adjacent landowner who constructed his home above the access site. Possible options included a parking lot, with walk-in to use the site for access to the lake for fishing, or a trade for excess land not needed for development, with the landowner doing some of the construction work. Negotiations continued for several years. At some point during this time, the landowner began unauthorized road reconstruction and earth moving, with heavy machinery. On December 3, 1997, the landowner was ordered by Dan Vincent, Supervisor, FWP, Region 1, to discontinue any further road maintenance, construction, or improvements on Department-owned lands or road easements. (Photos #2 through #5 show the result of this work).

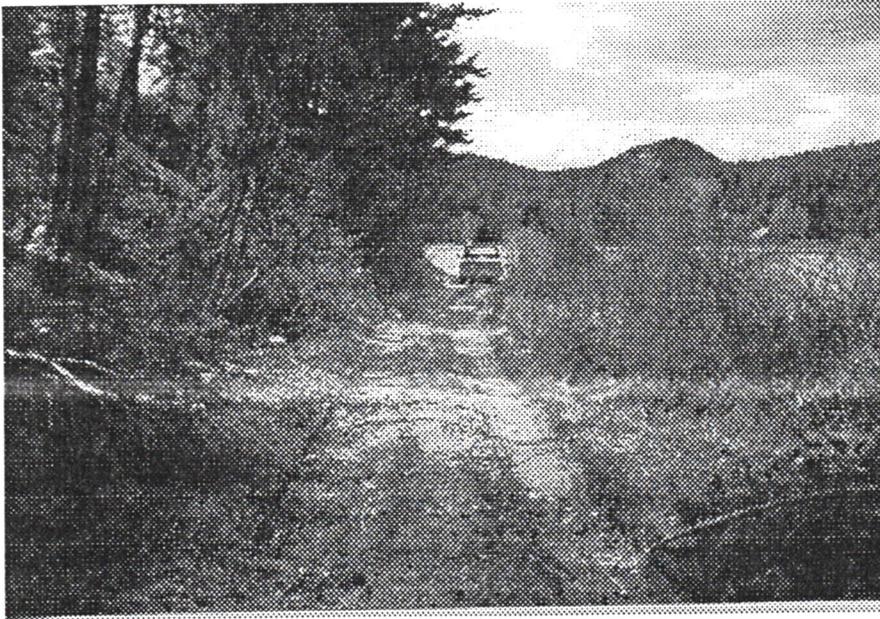


Photo #2—Access road in 1996 prior to any construction. (Photo by Dale Pier FWP)

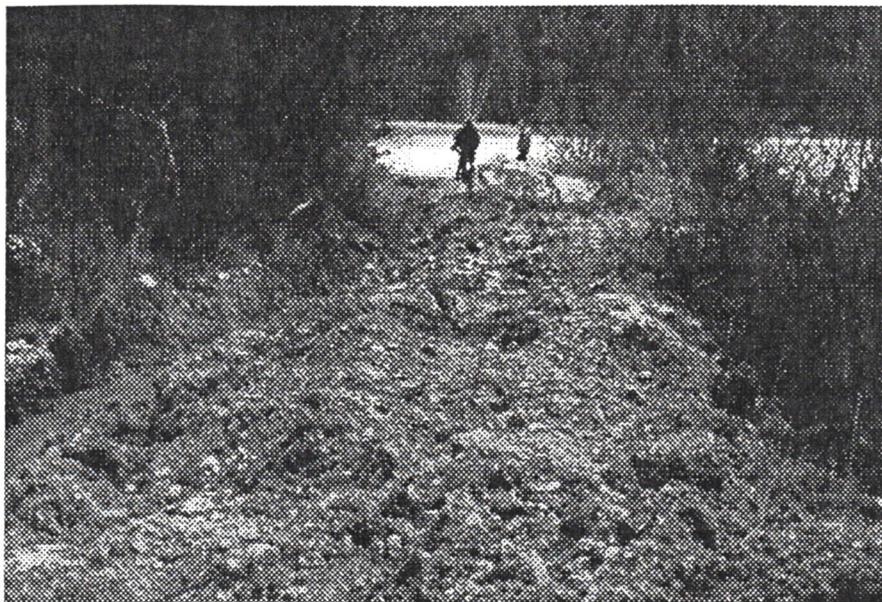


Photo #3—Road bed after unauthorized construction. (Photo by Dale Pier, FWP)

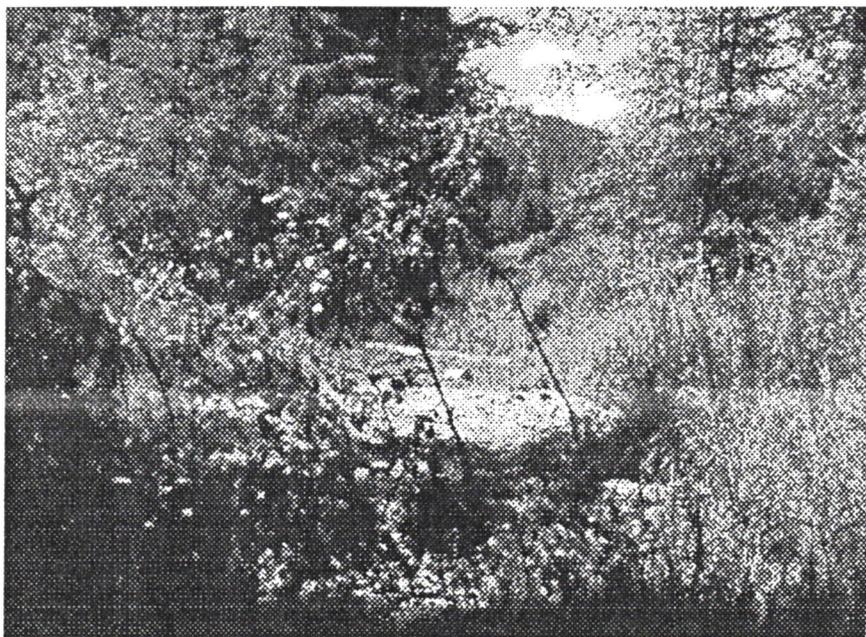


Photo # 4—Road access as it appears today: ungraded, boulders left in the roadway, and trees sawed off and left across the roadway, making it impossible for vehicles to proceed any further past the sharp bend to the east. (Photo by Worthington)

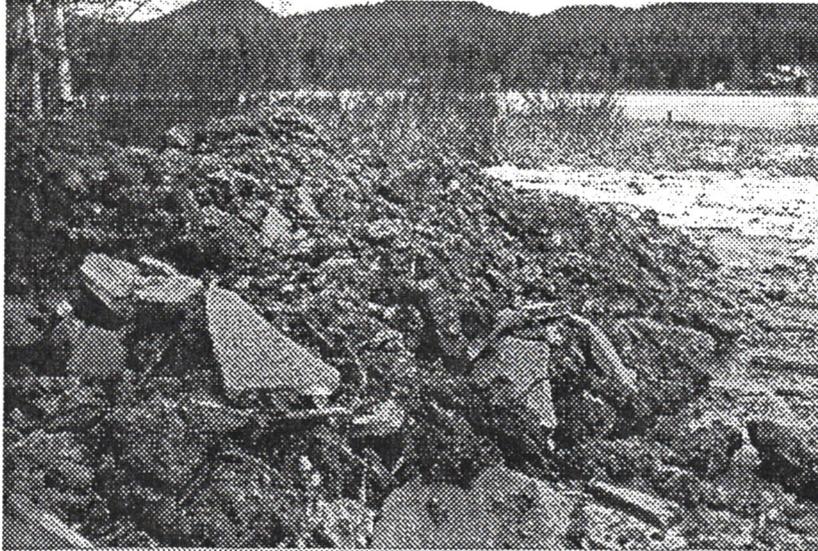


Photo #5—Dredged soil piled upon wetlands on Department-owned lands.
(Photo by Dale Pier, FWP)

Public, individual, and family recreational use for lakeshore fishing had been heavy at times. Small boat carry-in to gain access to the lake for fishing was also an important recreational activity. These public recreational activities have been drastically reduced due to the unauthorized road construction. There have been several confrontations between the public users and an adjacent landowner, when a survey revealed that a portion of the site traditionally used by the public was private land. The landowner installed wooden and wire fences, which the public cut or tore down. As a last resort, the landowner placed boulders along his property line near the lake to keep vehicles from encroaching on his land. The majority of lake recreational use, including fishing and speed boating, comes from the lakefront landowners.

Common loons use Skyles Lake for foraging and resting. No breeding has been documented to date.

In 1996, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks began its Family Fishing Adventure program, which tries to make it easier for all Montana families to spend time together outdoors. The Montana Angling Youth, or M*A*Y* Club, is one program participants may share in the Montana fishing and aquatic resources. Another aspect of the program is the Family Fishing Sites program. The objective is to locate bodies of water near towns so that families can spend some quality time together in their favorite sport. This site meets those criteria, and the following alternatives for improvements at the site are being considered. They are:

Alternative A: (Appendix B-1) Using the existing ROW, develop a parking area at the east end of the FWP tract of land for approximately six cars. No trailer parking or boat launching facilities, or other day-use recreational facilities, will be provided. The site will be managed for carry-on boats only. Use may dictate the need for a vault toilet at some later time. All construction will be kept out of the wetlands. Access to the water will be at the sharp bend in the road. Attempt to acquire adequate land at the intersection to Hwy. 93 to improve access into the site. Provide a sign at the entrance stating the site is for carry-on boats only and there is no trailer and boat access to the water. Retain the remainder of the site in its natural condition.

Alternative B: (Appendix B-2) Develop a parking area, before the sharp bend in the road, through a land exchange program with an adjacent landowner. Retain an additional length of right-of-way so the public will have motor vehicle access to the water's edge. No trailer parking, boat ramp, or other day-use recreational facilities will be provided. The site will be managed for carry-on boats only. Use what lands are needed in the remaining FWP tract for the exchange program. Sanitary facilities, permanent or temporary, may be required at a later date.

Alternative C: Surplus the property and sell it, eliminating the fishing access site. Some work would have to be performed to eliminate any water pollution resulting from the unauthorized roadwork, dredging, and depositing of soil on FWP lands.

The public would lose all access to Skyles Lake, eliminating the potential for family outdoor fishing opportunities and eliminating the conflict between public and private use of Skyles Lake.

Alternative D: No action. Retain as is. Some site rehabilitation work would have to be performed to bring the site up to Lakeshore Protection Act standards.

The continued undesirable, uncontrolled, and unsatisfactory public use at the site will continue. Traffic problems with parked cars in the roadway will continue. Conflicts with adjacent landowners may continue.

10. Listing of Any Other Local, State or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Lakeshore Protection Permit Flathead Regional Development Office 723 5 th Ave. E, Room 414 Kalispell, MT 59901		Will File

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, R-1 490 N. Meridian Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901	\$10,500 to \$20,600

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
None	

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

- Montana Department of Highways
- FWP Fisheries Biologist
- FWP Parks Manager
- Montana State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

SKYLES LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

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

1b: The road will be constructed on the existing roadway, and fill rock and gravel installed in the parking area. This could cause minor or no soil productivity loss or erosion. Disturbed soil will be revegetated.

1d: Some siltation from the site could occur during construction. The site would be stabilized and revegetated. Some rehabilitation work will be required to stabilize the site from its present condition.

SKYLES LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	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)		X				
f. Other _____						

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

2a and 2b: During the construction period there would be some deterioration of the air quality due to odors and dust from the construction equipment. This will cease after the construction is complete.

SKYLES LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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		Yes	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		Yes	3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water 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				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		yes	3h
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: _____						

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

3a, 3b, and 3h: Refer to each alternative regarding surface water runoff. Alternatives A and B will have little effect on water quality since erosion control techniques would be used and there is an area between the road and the lake to filter runoff. Alternatives C and D would have less impact since they require work only to stabilize the site.

SKYLES LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comments 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				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?			X		Yes	4f
g. Other: _____						

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

4e: Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. The site will be stabilized and revegetated. Weed management will be incorporated into the management of the site.

4f: Removal of soil and rehabilitation of the area will be required for a portion of the wetlands due to the unauthorized construction.

SKYLES LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
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				
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		Yes	5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X		no	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: _____						

5f: To mitigate the potential impacts of boating or shore fishing to the unique common loon, FWP will accomplish the following: 1) Monitor the lake just after ice-out through May to determine if a pair of common loons is present; 2) post signs at the access areas indicating that loons may be present, requesting that they not be disturbed; 3) if nesting behavior is observed, place floating signs at the appropriate distance around the nest site, which indicate the area behind the signs is closed due to nesting loons; 4) monitor compliance with the signs; and 5) as needed, educate lake users, using volunteers at the boat ramp, service organizations, newspapers, etc. to increase the understanding and needs of the loons.

5g: Alternatives A, B, and D may result in increased use of the site and legal harvest of fish. The site would be managed for low-intensity use consistent with current use.

SKYLES LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comments Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		No	6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
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: _____						

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

6a: Due to the improvement to the site, it is expected that there may be an increase in the amount of public use, resulting in slightly more noise.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comments 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				
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		No	7d
e. Other: _____						

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

7d: Increased use on this site and the lake will have a visual impact on neighbors. Since the site is for fishermen or carry-in boats only, this increase should not have significant adverse impacts. The site became an official FAS in 1954 when the site was purchased by the Whitefish Rod and Gun Club and deeded to the FWP for public access. Several nearby residences were constructed only several years ago, and the owners were aware of the public access. Lakeshore residents also use the lake for boating, swimming, etc.

SKYLES LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> 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				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
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)		X				
e. Other: _____						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> 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				
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		Yes	9e
f. Other: _____						

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

9.e: It is expected that an improved entrance intersection at US Hwy. 93 will result in a reduction of an existing traffic hazard. Reconstruction and possible relocation of Highway 93 in the area is planned for sometime in the future. This could greatly reduce potential traffic hazards. Posting a **NO TRAILERS** sign at the entrance would help reduce hazards.

SKYLES LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comments Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. 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		Yes	10 a
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. 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				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: _____						

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

10a: Development of the site would provide for improved and safer public access and would require more management of this recreational site. Disposal (Alternative C) would reduce public recreational sites in the area, result in loss of public access to Skyles Lake, and eliminate the need for management.

SKYLES LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		Yes	11a
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X		Yes	11b
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		Yes	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)		X				
e. Other: _____						

11a and b: Improved fishing will attract additional fishing use with boating, which may be disturbing to cabin owners. However, only small, light craft with small motors can be carried to the water's edge. This will preclude any large motor boats gaining access to the water, thus creating no further disturbance to the environment than already created by the surrounding cabin owners.

11c: Alternatives A, B, and D would enhance public use at the site, with less potential for site damage. Alternative C would preclude public use of the site.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
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)		X				
e. Other: _____						

SKYLES LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comments 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 which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
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		Yes	13e
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.						

13e: Some residents around the lake are not in favor of improving the fishing access site, which may increase the use of the lake. Conflicts and impacts could be mitigated by the level of development for access, boating, and fishing provided. These conflicts are social, not environmental, conflicts.

2. 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: (Appendix B-1) Using the existing ROW, develop a parking area at the east end of the FWP tract of land for approximately six cars. No trailer parking or boat launching facilities, or other day-use recreational facilities, will be provided. Use may dictate the need for a vault toilet at some later time. All construction will be kept out of the wetlands. Access to the water will be at the sharp bend in the road. Attempt to acquire adequate land at the intersection to Hwy. 93 to improve access into the site. Provide a sign at the entrance stating there are no trailer parking facilities, turn-around, or boat ramp access to the lake. Retain the remainder of the site in its natural condition.

This alternative will provide the opportunity for those wishing to drop off their light boats without the need to carry them a long distance. FWP will also retain all of their existing ownership, including the wetlands

Alternative B: (Appendix B-2) Develop a parking area, before the sharp bend in the road, through a land exchange program with an adjacent landowner. Retain an additional length of right-of-way so the public will have motor vehicle access to the water's edge. No trailer parking, boat ramp, or other day-use recreational facilities will be provided. The site will be managed for carry-on boats only. Use what lands are needed in the remaining FWP tract for the exchange program. Sanitary facilities, permanent or temporary, may be required at a later date.

Alternative C: Surplus the property and sell it, eliminating the fishing access site. Some work would have to be performed to eliminate any water pollution resulting from the unauthorized roadwork, dredging, and depositing of soil on FWP lands.

The public would lose all access to Skyles Lake, eliminating the potential for family outdoor fishing opportunities and eliminating the conflict between public and private use of Skyles Lake.

Alternative D: No action. Retain as is. The site would have to be rehabilitated to meet Lakeshore Protection Act standards.

The continued undesirable, uncontrolled, and unsatisfactory public use at the site will continue. Traffic problems with parked cars in the roadway will continue. Conflicts with adjacent landowners may continue.

Preferred Alternative: The Department has not identified a preferred alternative at this time.

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

FWP will work with the adjacent landowner, who performed the unauthorized construction work on the site, to do the necessary work to eliminate any further pollution of the water and restore the site to a usable condition. Such work may include grading, ditching, drainage pipes, seeding, soil removal, and anything necessary to protect the air and water resource.

4. 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:

No, an EIS is not required. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action. Any problems associated with the present degradation of the natural environment as the result of the unauthorized work will be eliminated upon completion of any of the four alternatives. The social problem concerning the use of the

lake by the public may or may not be solved, depending on the alternative chosen; however, the public has the legal right to the recreational use of the surface waters of the state.

FWP will work with the adjacent landowners to determine where the parking lot will be constructed and what FWP land may be exchanged for the parking lot area.

5. 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:

These proposals will be publicized through news releases, legal ads, and placement on the statewide electronic bulletin board. If sufficient public interest is indicated, a public meeting will be held.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

Thirty days – October 18 through November 17, 2000

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

Wayne B. Worthington, Consultant
Landscape Architect
365 Summit Ridge Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752 2916

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1b: The road will be constructed on the existing roadway, and fill-rock and gravel installed in the parking area. This could cause minor or no soil productivity loss or erosion. Disturbed soil will be revegetated.

1d: Some siltation from the site could occur during construction. The site would be stabilized and revegetated. Some rehabilitation work will be required to stabilize the site from its present condition.

2a and 2b: During the construction period there would be some deterioration of the air quality due to odors and dust from the construction equipment. This will cease after the construction is complete.

3a, 3b, and 3h: Refer to each alternative regarding surface water runoff. Alternatives A and B will have little effect on water quality since erosion control techniques would be used and there is an area between the road and the lake to filter runoff. Alternatives C and D would have less impact since they require work only to stabilize the site.

4e: Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. The site will be stabilized and revegetated. Weed management will be incorporated into the management of the site.

4f: Removal of soil and rehabilitation of the area will be required for a portion of the wetlands due to the unauthorized construction.

5f: To mitigate the potential impacts of boating or shore fishing to the unique common loon, FWP will accomplish the following: 1) Monitor the lake just after ice-out through May to determine if a pair of common loons is present; 2) post signs at the access areas indicating that loons may be present, requesting that they not be disturbed; 3) if nesting behavior is observed, place floating signs at the appropriate distance around the nest site, which indicate the area behind the signs is closed due to nesting loons; 4) monitor compliance with the signs; and 5) as needed, educate lake users, using volunteers at the boat ramp, service organizations, newspapers, etc. to increase the understanding and needs of the loons.

5g: Alternatives A, B, and D may result in increased use of the site and legal harvest of fish. The site would be managed for low-intensity use consistent with current use.

6a: Due to the improvement to the site, it is expected that there may be an increase in the amount of public use, resulting in slightly more noise.

7d: Increased use on this site and the lake will have a visual impact on neighbors. Since the site is for fishermen or carry-in boats only, this increase should not have significant adverse impacts. The site became an official FAS in 1954 when the site was purchased by the Whitefish Rod and Gun Club and deeded to the FWP for public access. Several nearby residences were constructed only several years ago, and the owners were aware of the public access. Lakeshore residents also use the lake for boating, swimming, etc.

9e: It is expected that an improved entrance intersection at US Hwy. 93 will result in a reduction of an existing traffic hazard. Reconstruction and possible relocation of Highway 93 in the area is planned for sometime in the future. This could greatly reduce potential traffic hazards. Posting a NO TRAILERS sign at the entrance would help reduce hazards.

10a: Development of the site would provide for improved and safer public access and would require more management of this recreational site. Disposal (Alternative C) would reduce public recreational sites in the area, result in loss of public access to Skyles Lake, and eliminate the need for management.

11a and b: Improved fishing will attract additional fishing use with boating, which may be disturbing to cabin owners. However, only small, light craft with small motors can be carried to the water's edge. This will preclude any large motor boats gaining access to the water, thus creating no further disturbance to the environment than already created by the surrounding cabin owners.

11c: Alternatives A, B, and D would enhance public use at the site, with less potential for site damage. Alternative C would preclude public use of the site.

13e: Some residents around the lake are not in favor of improving the fishing access site, which may increase the use of the lake. Conflicts and impacts could be mitigated by the level of development for access, boating and fishing provided. These conflicts are social, not environmental, conflicts.

SPENCER LAKE

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action: Improve the access road, parking lot, turn-around for vehicles, and provide a boat dock.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901; e-mail - mawatkins@state.mt.us.

3. Name of Project: Spencer Lake Fishing Access Site.

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency): Same

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: 12/2001

Estimated Completion Date: 12/2001

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 0%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township): Flathead County, N 1/2 Sections 4, 7, & 5, T. 30 N., R. 22 W.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
 residential __ acres
 industrial __ acres

(d) Floodplain __ acres
 approximately

(e) Productive:
 irrigated cropland acres
 dry cropland acres
 forestry acres
 range land acres
 other

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
 recreation 1 acre

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
 areas __ acres

8. Map/Site Plan: Attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached. See Appendices A & B.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Spencer Lake is located approximately four miles west of Whitefish, one mile west of Skyles Lake, adjacent to and south of Highway 93 (Appendix A-1). It is an unmeandered lake of 30 acres, with a maximum depth of 17 feet as shown on the enclosed 1968 lake map (Appendix A-5). Approximately 3/4 of the lake is surrounded by

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation lands (DNRC), all located in the western portion of the lake. There are no cabins located on private lakeshore lands on the east end of the lake.

Access is gained to the lake on the south side through use of DNRC lands by a dirt road intersecting with Tally Lake Road, several hundred feet south of Highway 93 (Appendix A-5). Additionally, there are several wide spots along Highway 93 where fishermen park to gain access to the lake for ice fishing or float-tubing. There is presently no management program for access to the lake. Maintenance to the access road has not occurred in present times.

The lake itself is managed for traditional, dispersed recreational use consistent with FWP's public fishing program. The management goal is to protect the water and air resources, while providing for public fishing opportunities.

Records indicate that the first recorded planting of fish occurred on July 19, 1929. Through the years additional plantings of bass, coho salmon, grayling, brook trout, cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout occurred. Both Skyles and Spencer lakes were proposed for chemical rehabilitation in 1986. Due to resistance from Skyles Lake landowners, only Spencer Lake was rehabilitated in 1987, and the lake was subsequently managed for trophy rainbow trout in an attempt to control reinfestation. The last planting occurred in 1993. At this time it was noted, through netting, that other fish such as yellow perch, pumpkinseed, and bass had invaded the lake from Skyles Lake upstream. Survival and growth of the planted trout declined due to the other fish, and planting was halted.

FWP is presently preparing an EA for chemical rehabilitation of Spencer Lake in conjunction with the proposed rehabilitation for Skyles Lake. As the two lakes are connected by a small stream, it is important that these two bodies of water be treated as one unit.

As the fishing improves, providing more fishing and recreational opportunities, and with the recreational and fishing improvements planned for Skyles Lake, access improvements at Spencer Lake are important so that it will provide a total recreational experience in the area.

Common loons have been reported as singles or pairs on Spencer Lake. Successful nesting by common loons has also been reported in both 1997 and 1998. Nest abandonment or flushing from the nest site occurs when an intruder, either on shore or in a boat, comes too close to the nest (within 50-100 feet). If the egg(s) are left for too long (15-30 minutes), they may cool or be subject to predation by ravens, gulls, or other species. Repeated disturbances may prevent renesting attempts.

SPENCER LAKE

With this in mind, the following alternatives have been established for Spencer Lake:

Alternative 1: No action. Retain as is.

Alternative 2: Enter into a cooperative agreement with DNRC to improve the access road, dirt boat ramp, and construct a dock. DNRC to retain management of the site. In a letter dated May 5, 1999, DNRC has indicated that this alternative is unacceptable to them. (Appendix B-3)

Alternative 3: Lease the site from DNRC as a fishing access site, improve the access road, turn-around, and boat ramp, and construct a boat dock. FWP will manage the site, using recommendations for loon management noted on Page 27, Fish/Wildlife Environmental Assessment Form, Number 5.

10. Listing of Any Other Local, State or Federal Agency That has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Lake shore Protection Permit Flathead Regional Development Office 723 5 th Ave. E, Room 414 Kalispell, MT 59901		Will File

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, R-1 490 N. Meridian Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901	\$15,000-\$20,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation 2250 Hwy. 93 North Kalispell, MT 59901	Landowner

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

FWP Fisheries Biologist
FWP Parks Manager
Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana State Historic Preservation Office

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SPENCER LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Mitigated	Comment
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
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				
f. Other _____						

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

1b: The road would be reconstructed on the existing roadway. This could cause minor soil productivity loss or erosion during construction. Disturbed soil will be revegetated.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	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 _____						

2a and 2b: During the construction period there could be some deterioration of the air quality due to odors and dust. This will cease after the construction is complete.

SPENCER LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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		Yes	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water 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				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		Yes	3h
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: _____						

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

3a and 3h: There may be some runoff into the lake during the construction period. However, proper and adequate design and construction will eliminate runoff, except from the boat ramp which slopes into the water. A hard surface ramp would greatly reduce any soil contamination running into the lake.

SPENCER LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comme 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				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other: _____						

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

4e: Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. Weed management will be incorporated into the management of the site.

SPENCER LAKE

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
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				
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		Yes	5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
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: _____						

5f: To mitigate the potential impacts of boating or shore fishing to the common loon, FWP will accomplish the following: 1) Monitor the lake just after ice-out through May to determine if a pair of common loons is present; 2) post signs at the access areas indicating that loons may be present, requesting that they not be disturbed; 3) if nesting behavior is observed, place floating signs at the appropriate distance around the nest site, which indicate the area behind the signs is closed due to nesting loons; 4) monitor compliance with the signs; and 5) as needed, educate lake users, using volunteers at the boat ramp, service organizations, newspapers, etc. to increase the understanding and needs of the loons.

SPENCER LAKE

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				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
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: _____						

ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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				
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: _____						

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

SPENCER LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> 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				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
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: _____						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> 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				
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		No	9e
f. Other: _____						

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

9.e: Use may increase as the result of the lake rehabilitation, fish restocking, and new boat ramp; however, it is not anticipated that these activities will create a threat to the public.

SPENCER LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. 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				
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. 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				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: _____						

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
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				
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: _____						

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

SPENCER LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
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: _____						

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

SPENCER LAKE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE 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 which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
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. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed): 13.g
A 310 permit will be required from the County Conservation District.

2. 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 1: No action. Retain as is.

Alternative 2: Enter into a cooperative agreement with DNRC to improve the access road, boat ramp, and construct a dock. DNRC to retain management of the site. In a letter dated May 5, 1999, DNRC has indicated that this alternative is unacceptable to them. (Appendix B-3)

Alternative 3: Lease the site from DNRC as a fishing access site, improve the access road, turn-around, and boat ramp, and construct a boat dock. FWP will manage the site.

Preferred Alternative: The Department has not identified a preferred alternative at this time.

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

FWP will work with MDNRC to provide the recreational facilities and protection to the natural environment of the area.

4. 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:

No, an EIS is not needed. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action. Of the seven environmental items that have been identified as minor problems, six have been mitigated. The seventh, traffic increase, has been determined not to be a major hazard. Social concerns from recreationists and others can best be handled through the EA process.

5. 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:

A public meeting will be held in Whitefish for Skyles and Spencer Lakes at the same time during the public comment period. News releases, legal ads, and placement on the statewide electronic bulletin board will occur.

6. Duration of comment period, if any:

Thirty days – October 18 through November 17, 2000

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

Wayne B. Worthington, Consultant
Landscape Architect
365 Summit Ridge Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-2916

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1b: The road would be reconstructed on the existing roadway. This could cause minor soil productivity loss or erosion during construction. Disturbed soil will be revegetated.

2a and 2b: During the construction period, there would be some deterioration of the air quality due to odors and dust. This will cease after the construction is complete.

3a and 3h: There may be some runoff into the lake during the construction period. However, proper and adequate design and construction will eliminate runoff, except from the boat ramp which slopes into the water. A hard surface ramp would greatly reduce any soil contamination running into the lake.

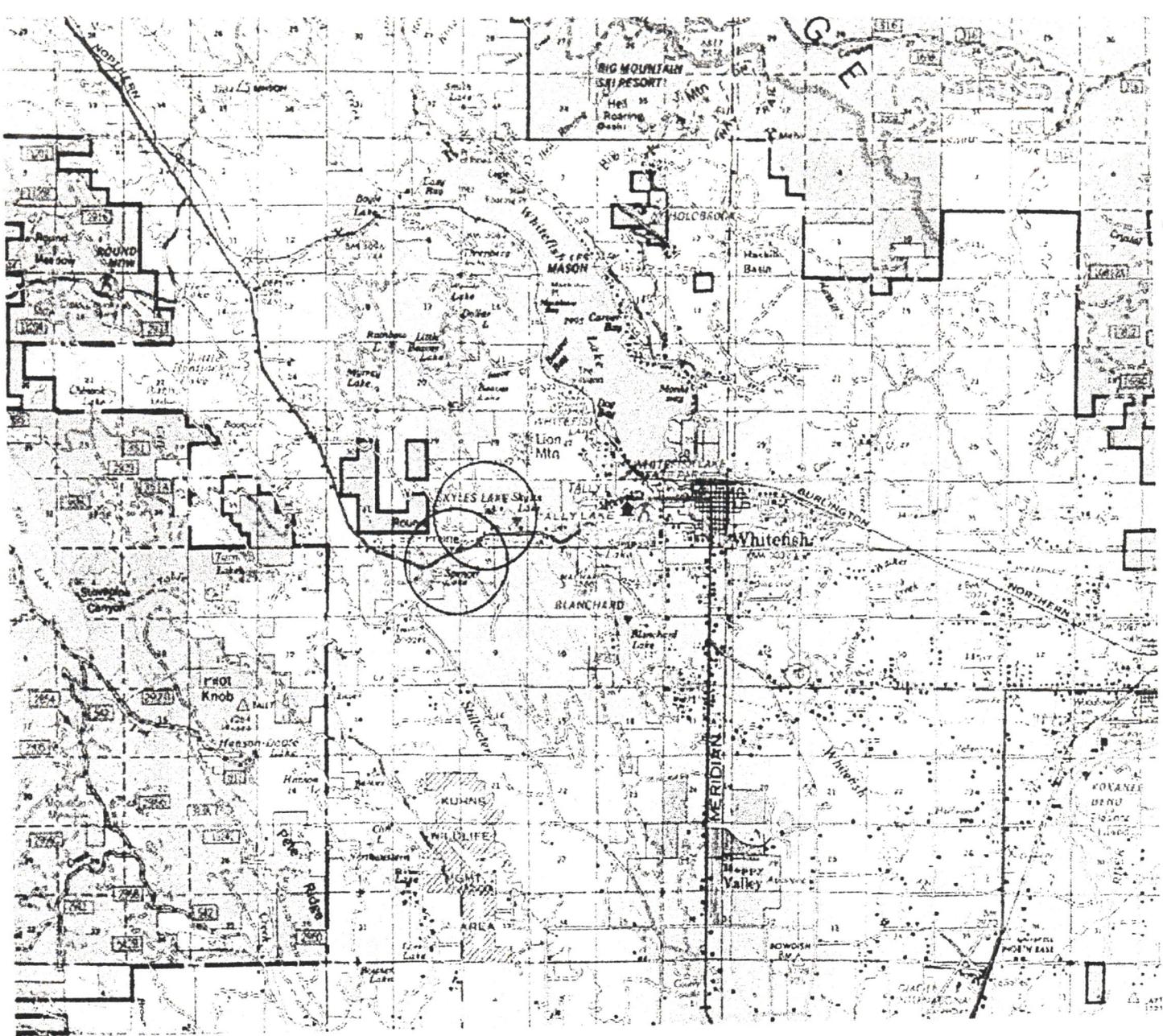
4e: Ground disturbance will invite noxious weeds. Weed management will be incorporated into the management of the site.

5f: To mitigate the potential impacts of boating or shore-fishing to the common loon, FWP will accomplish the following: 1) Monitor the lake just after ice-out through May to determine if a pair of common loons is present; 2) post signs at the access areas indicating that loons may be present, requesting that they not be disturbed; 3) if nesting behavior is observed, place floating signs at the appropriate distance around the nest site, which indicate the area behind the signs is closed due to nesting loons; 4) monitor compliance with the signs; and 5) as needed, educate lake users, using volunteers at the boat ramp, service organizations, newspapers, etc. to increase the understanding and needs of the loons.

9.e: Use may increase as the result of the lake rehabilitation, fish restocking, and new boat ramp; however, it is not anticipated that these activities will create a threat to the public.

APPENDIX—A

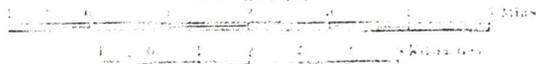
- A-1 Area Map**
- A-2 Skyles Lake Map**
- A-3 Map Showing Legal Description (Skyles Lake)**
- A-4 Ownership Document (Skyles Lake)**
- A-5 Spencer Lake Map**



MONTANA PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

1993

Scale 1:250,000



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | US BLM Land | | National Forest Land |
| | Private Land | | National Wildlife Refuge Land |
| | State Land | | National Park Land |
| | Indian Reservation | | National Monument Land |
| | Federal Highway | | National Wildlife Refuge (Water) |
| | State Highway | | National Wildlife Refuge (Land) |
| | County Road | | National Wildlife Refuge (Forest) |
| | Township Boundary | | National Wildlife Refuge (Park) |
| | Range Boundary | | National Wildlife Refuge (Wildlife) |
| | Section Boundary | | National Wildlife Refuge (Wildlife) |

SKYLES & SPENCER LAKES

T31N-R22W-S23
FLATHEAD COUNTY

1N



SKYLES LAKE

T31N-R22W-S23
FLATHEAD COUNTY

TOTAL SURFACE ACRES-39

CONTOUR INTERVAL-5FT.



MONTANA FISH & GAME - 1968

This map is not intended for navigational purposes. Navigational hazards are not shown. Access areas shown are public. Other places may be open to public use through the consent of

APPENDIX A-2

Skyles Lake

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

TRACT 1

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE NW 1/4 SE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 22 WEST, P.M.M., FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE EAST ONE-QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 33 WHICH IS A BRASS CAPPED MONUMENT; THENCE S89°57'49"W, ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE SE 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 33 A DISTANCE OF 2423.41 FEET TO A FOUND IRON PIN; THENCE S00°01'12"E, 1199.28 FEET TO A FOUND IRON PIN AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE N76°58'56"E, 283.87 FEET TO A FOUND IRON PIN; THENCE N49°50'56"E, 403.74 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF SKYLES LAKE; THENCE S71°10'51"E, ALONG SAID SOUTH SHORE 95.01 FEET; THENCE N69°18'00"E, ALONG SAID SOUTH SHORE 222.37 FEET; THENCE S78°27'57"E, ALONG SAID SOUTH SHORE 95.06 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID SOUTH SHORE S00°27'12"W, 198.36 FEET TO A FOUND IRON PIN; THENCE S78°27'57"E, 85.06' FEET TO A SET IRON PIN; THENCE S48°50'56"W, 393.65 FEET TO A SET IRON PIN; THENCE S78°27'57"E, 195.03 FEET TO A SET IRON PIN ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY 110.33, HIGHWAY NO. 93; THENCE S88°26'13"W, ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 110.33 FEET TO A SET IRON PIN ON SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY; THENCE N00°00'35"E, 12.19 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 1.41 ACRES MORE OR LESS ALL AS SHOWN HEREON.

PURPOSE OF SURVEY

THIS SURVEY IS FILED WITH THE INTENT TO QUALIFY FOR THE EXEMPTION FOUND IN:

"RETRACE THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES OF AN EXISTING PARCEL AND NO DIVISION OF LAND IS HEREBY CREATED, AND PROVIDES MATERIAL EVIDENCE NOT APPEARING ON ANY MAP FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER OR CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 78-3-404(1)(G).

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEYOR

REGISTRATION NO. 7318-S
GOMCHER & ASSOCIATES
46 2ND AVENUE EAST
KALISPELL, MT. 59901
PH. (406) 752-5700

APPROVED _____, 19____

EXAMINING LAND SURVEYOR REG. NO. _____

STATE OF MONTANA
COUNTY OF FLATHEAD SS

FILED ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 19____ A.D.
AT _____ O'CLOCK _____ M., PAID FEE _____

CLERK & RECORDER

BY _____ DEPUTY

BOOK _____ PAGE _____

INSTRUMENT REC. NO. _____

CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY NO. _____ 12084

1/4	SEC.	T.	R.
33	33	31 N	22 W
SHEET 1 OF 1			
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MONTANA			

LEGEND

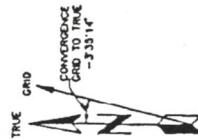
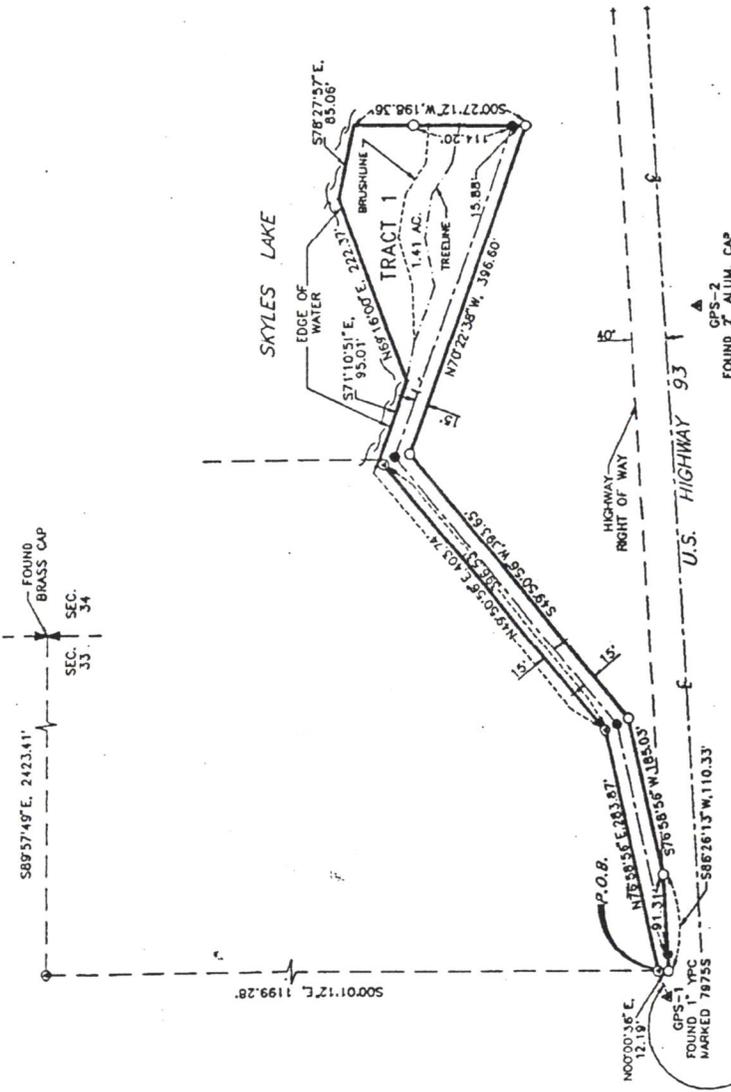
- ▲ MONTANA STATE PLANE CONTROL POINT STAMPED AS NOTED ON PLAT
- SET 5/8" X 2 1/2" REBAR WITH MONTANA CAP, STAMPED 7318S MARKS 2 1/2" ALUM. CAP, STAMPED 7318S
- FOUND 5/8" REBAR
- ⊙ FOUND 1 1/4" YPC MARKED 4739 S
- GPS GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
- P.O.B. POINT OF BEGINNING

OWNER OF RECORD
STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH,
WILDLIFE AND PARKS

SURVEYORS NOTE : PLAT BEARINGS ARE REFERENCED TO TRUE NORTH AND PLAT DISTANCES ARE IN GROUND PLANE DISTANCE.

COORDINATE CONTROL TABLE
MONTANA STATE PLANE (NAD 83) IN METERS

PT. ID	NORTHING	EASTING	PLAT GRID TO GROUND FACTOR	BEARING CONVERGENCE GRID TO TRUE
GPS-1	472938.7728	237134.1303	x 1.0004288	
GPS-2	472913.5835	237373.8420	x 1.0004288	-3°35'14"



SCALE IN FEET
BASIS OF BEARING
GPS OBSERVATION

PREPARED BY :

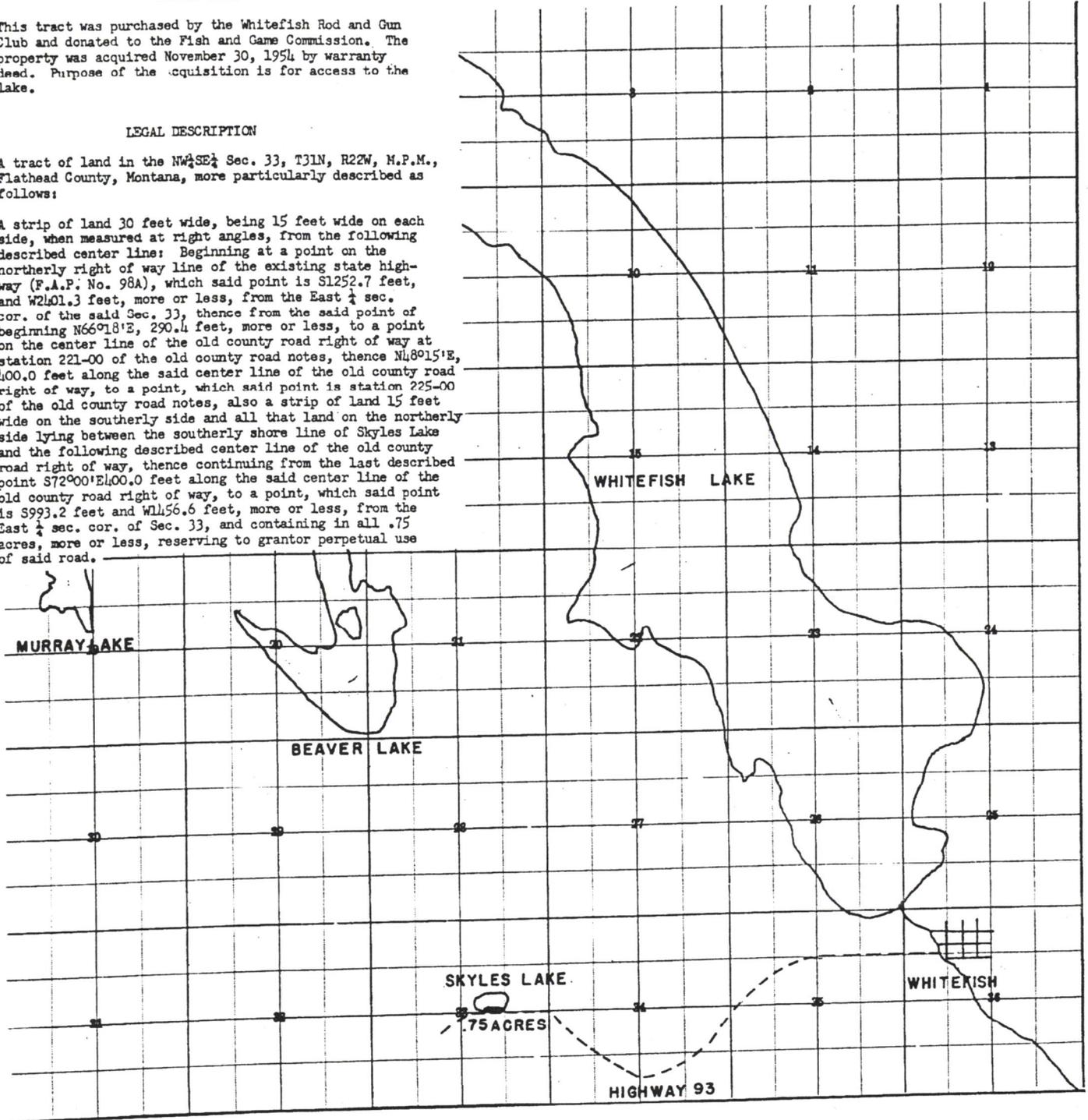
DEUYWESTER JOHNSON & ANDERSON
CONSULTING SURVEYORS & LAND SURVEYORS
2801 BROADWAY, MISSOULA, MONTANA
1/27/11/09/01/04.DWG

This tract was purchased by the Whitefish Rod and Gun Club and donated to the Fish and Game Commission. The property was acquired November 30, 1954 by warranty deed. Purpose of the acquisition is for access to the lake.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A tract of land in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33, T31N, R22W, M.P.M., Flathead County, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

A strip of land 30 feet wide, being 15 feet wide on each side, when measured at right angles, from the following described center line: Beginning at a point on the northerly right of way line of the existing state highway (F.A.P. No. 98A), which said point is S1252.7 feet, and W2401.3 feet, more or less, from the East $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. cor. of the said Sec. 33, thence from the said point of beginning N66°18'E, 290.4 feet, more or less, to a point on the center line of the old county road right of way at station 221-00 of the old county road notes, thence N48°15'E, 400.0 feet along the said center line of the old county road right of way, to a point, which said point is station 225-00 of the old county road notes, also a strip of land 15 feet wide on the southerly side and all that land on the northerly side lying between the southerly shore line of Skyles Lake and the following described center line of the old county road right of way, thence continuing from the last described point S72°00'E, 400.0 feet along the said center line of the old county road right of way, to a point, which said point is S993.2 feet and W1456.6 feet, more or less, from the East $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. cor. of Sec. 33, and containing in all .75 acres, more or less, reserving to grantor perpetual use of said road.

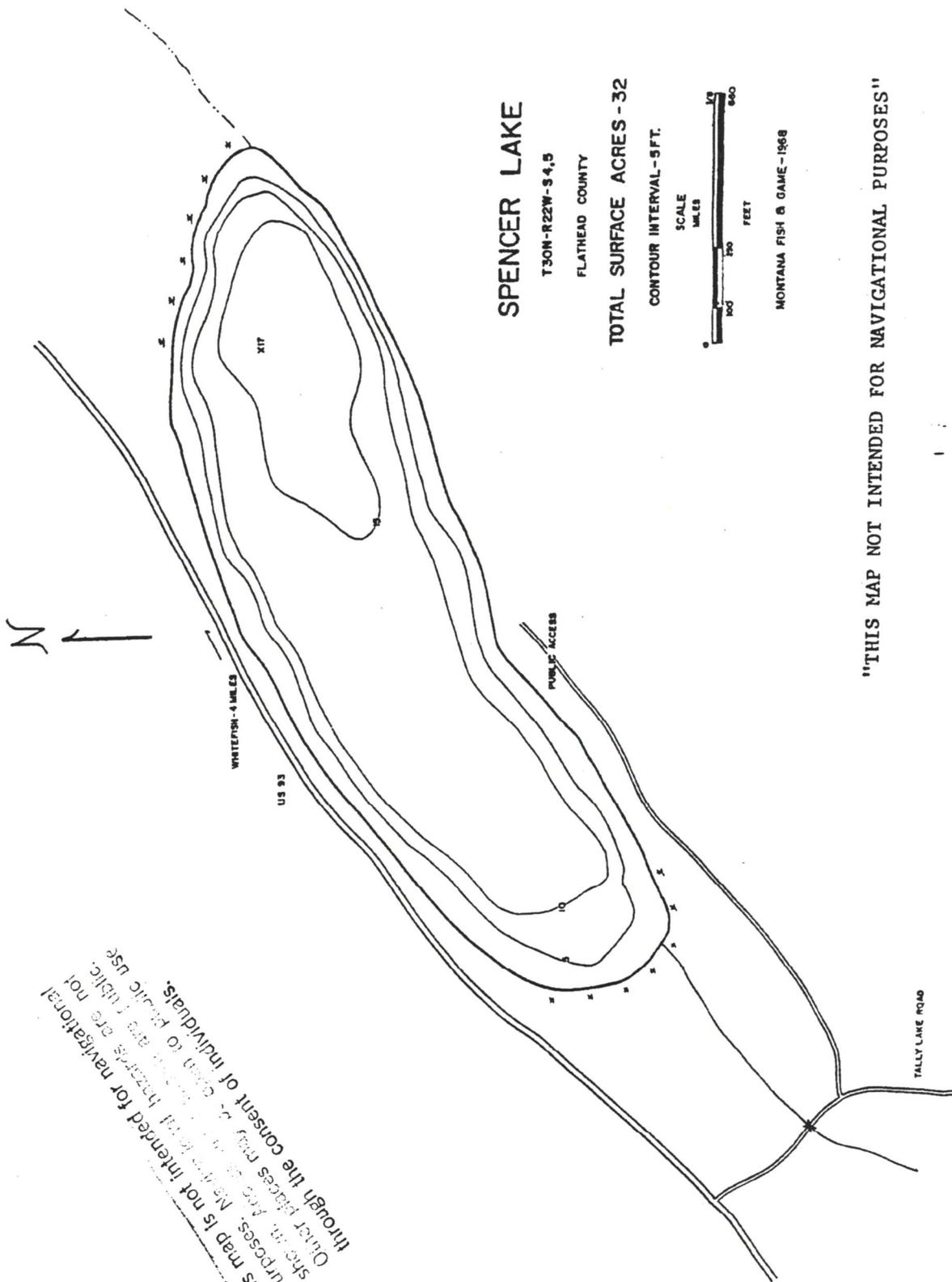


66-A TOWNSHIP PLAT.

SKYLES LAKE ACCESS

SCALE: 40 CHAINS TO AN INCH

NO. 232

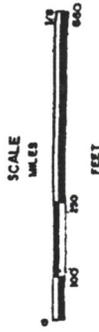


SPENCER LAKE

T30N-R22W-S4,5
 FLATHEAD COUNTY

TOTAL SURFACE ACRES - 32

CONTOUR INTERVAL - 5 FT.



MONTANA FISH & GAME - 1968



This map is not intended for navigational purposes. Navigational hazards are not shown. This map is not to be used for public use through the consent of individuals.

"THIS MAP NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES"

APPENDIX- B

B-1 Map of Alternative A (Skyles Lake)

B-2 Map of Alternative B (Skyles Lake)

B-3 DNRC Letter of 5/5/99 Stating Alternative 2 is Unacceptable

B-4 Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

ALTERNATIVE A

SKYLES FISHING ACCESS SITE

FWP PROPERTY OPTION



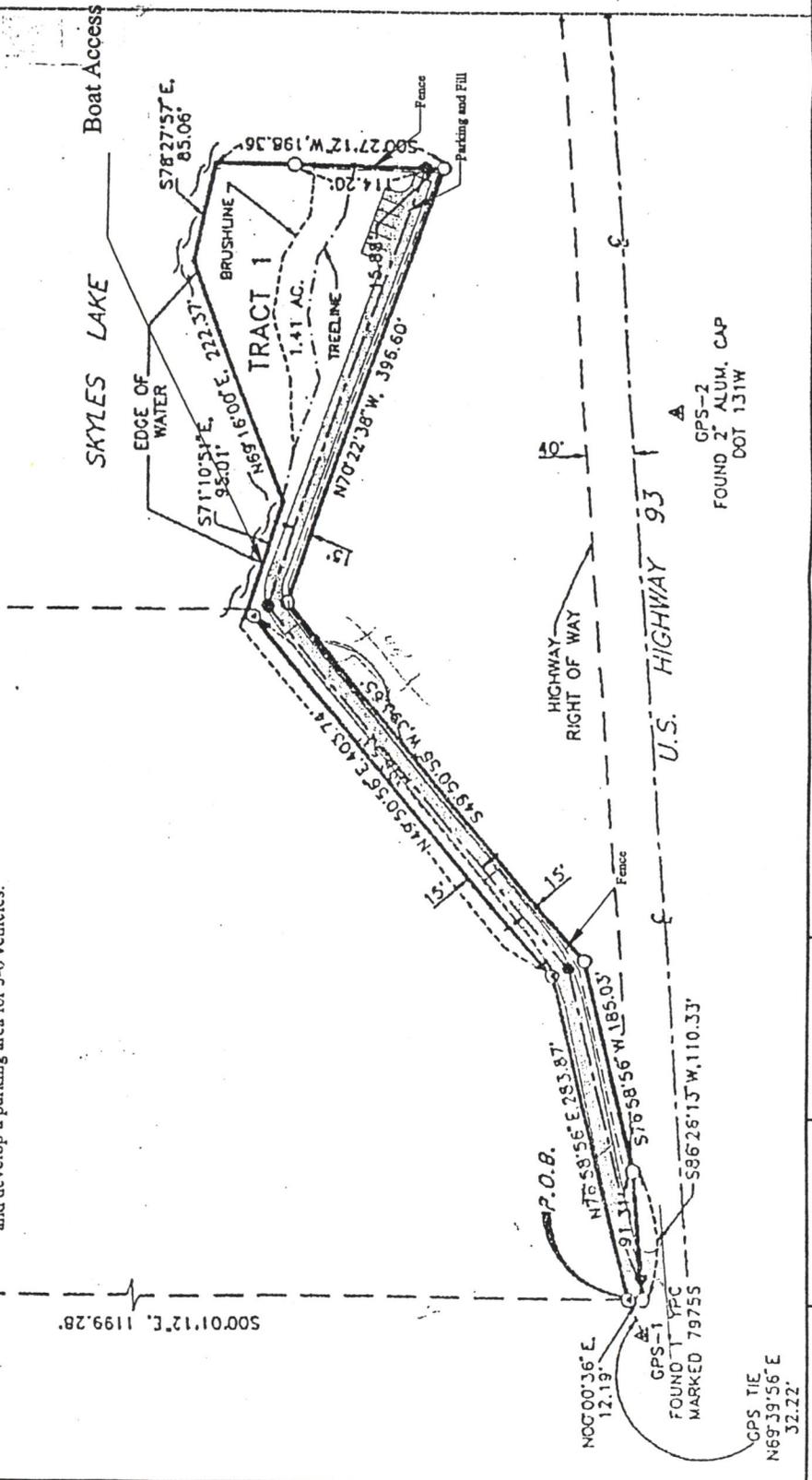
NORTH
SCALE 1" = 100'-0"

SHEET 1 of 1

FOUND BRASS CAP
SEC. 33
SEC. 34
S89°57'49"E. 2423.41'

- 1) The entrance to be signed for NO TRAILER ACCESS. The road should be improved to the area at the far east side of the site, and develop a parking area for 3-6 vehicles.

S00°01'12"E. 1199.28'



A
GPS-2
FOUND 2' ALUM. CAP
DOT 131W



SKYLES
NEAR WHITEFISH

DESIGNED BY	DATE	APPROVED BY	DATE
REVIEWED BY	DATE	APPROVED BY	DATE
CHECKED BY	DATE	APPROVED BY	DATE

ALTERNATIVE B

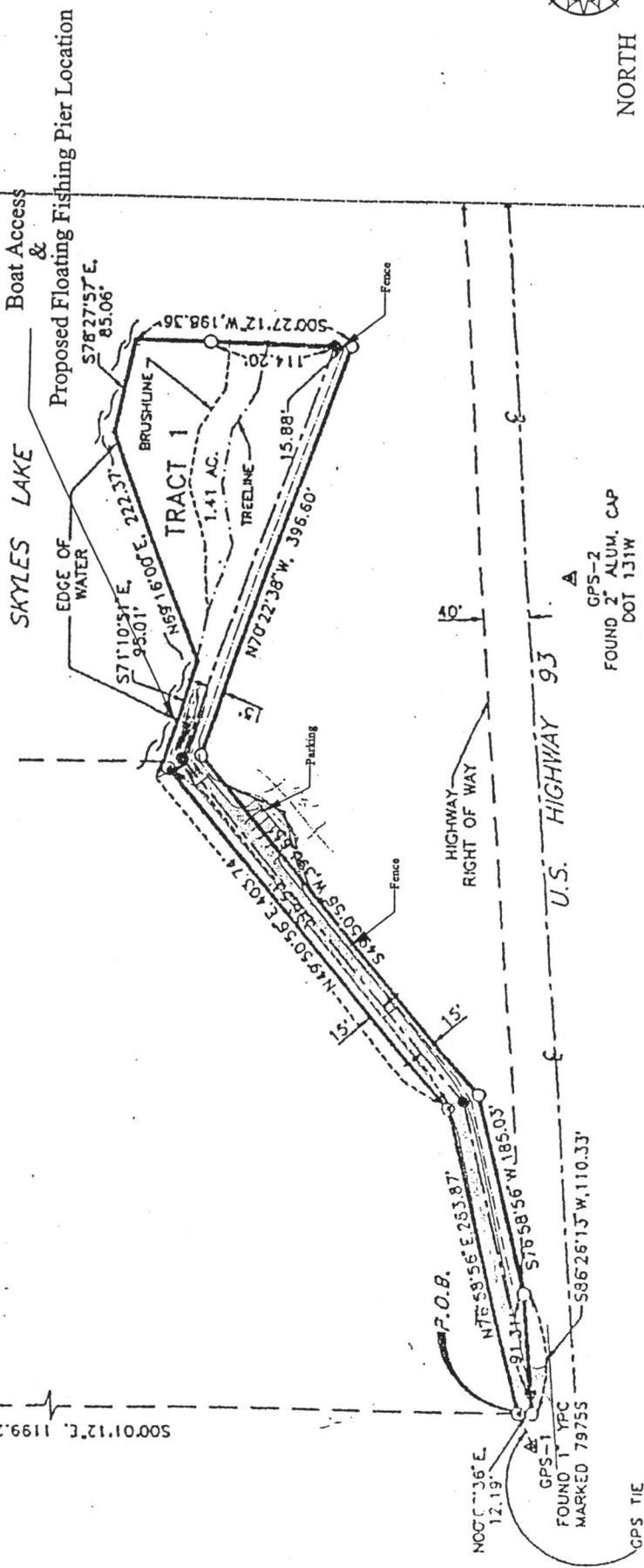
SKYLES FISHING ACCESS SITE

LAND EXCHANGE OPTION

FOUND BRASS CAP
SEC. 33
SEC. 34
589°57'49"E. 2423.41'

- 1) The entrance shall be signed for NO TRAILER ACCESS.
- 2) FWP will acquire land of other ownership for a parking area for FWP equal value land. Parking lot may be located on either side of the access road, not necessarily as shown on this map.

500°01'12"E. 1199.28'



NORTH
SCALE 1" = 100'-0"

SHEET 1 of 1

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
SKYLES NEAR WHITEFISH

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
APPROVED BY:	APPROVED BY:	APPROVED BY:	APPROVED BY:
REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY:	CHECKED BY:



MEMO

KALISPELL-PLAINS UNIT

TO: Marty Watkins, Supervisor, FWP Region One Recreation

FROM: Bill Wright, Kalispell-Plains Unit Manager

SUBJECT: Skyles and Spencer Lakes Fishing Access Sites
Section 5, T30N, R22W

DATE: May 5, 1999

Marty, thanks for the opportunity to comment on the EA for Skyles and Spencer Lakes fishing access sites.

I have no comments on the Skyles Lake proposed action.

With the proposed action alternatives being on School Trust Land, I do have comments on the Spencer Lake alternatives.

Alternative 3 would be the selected alternative of choice for the DNRC. The DNRC does not have the resources nor the program direction to manage and maintain a fishing access site, so Alternative 2 is not acceptable. The DNRC would be willing to work with FWP to provide a Land Use License (LUL) for a fishing access site.

On page 22, Number 10, a) Permits: The LUL would be listed here if Alternative 3 is selected.

The details about the actual construction aspects of the project such as road development next to a body of water; construction of parking area; sanitation facilities; and actual location of the access site are not discussed at any level in the document.

If you want to discuss this further with me, please do not hesitate to call me at 751-2263.

APPENDIX B-3



State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Historical Society

1410 8th Avenue • PO Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • (406) 444-7715 • FAX (406) 444-6575

September 28, 1999

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Cultural Resource File Search - Skyles & Spencer Lake FAS, FH CO.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above cited project area. There are currently three previously recorded historic sites within the designated search locale. The site 24FH251 is a historic bridge that dates to the 1930's. The sites 24FH579 and 24FH580 are both historic residences. If you wish to obtain further information on these sites you may contact the University of Montana Archaeological Records Office at (406)-243-5525. According to our records there have been no previous cultural resource inventories in the specified project area.

We feel that based on the presence of cultural properties and the lack of previous inventory that there is the potential for sites to be affected by this undertaking. Therefore we would recommend that a reconnaissance survey be conducted in order to determine whether or not such sites exist and if they will be impacted. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me at (406)-444- 7767 or by e-mail at pmelton@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Phillip E. Melton
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/Fisheries/1999

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR
SKYLES & SPENCER LAKES
REHABILITATION

October 2000



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 GENERIC CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action: Lake Rehabilitation Using Rotenone
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: (Use of poison to control undesirable fish.) MCA 87-1-201.
3. Name of Project: Skyles Lake and Spencer Lake Rehabilitation
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
Fisheries Biologist Grant Grisak (406) 751-4541
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
5. If Applicable:
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: October 2001
Estimated Completion Date: December 2001
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) N/A

NOTE: Timing of this project contingent on water level and feasibility of another planned lake rehabilitation project. If the rehabilitation is not completed in 2000, it will occur during the same period in 2001.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township):
Flathead County Skyles Lake: T31N, R22W, Section 33
Spencer Lake: T30N, R22W, Sections 4 & 5
7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:
 - (a) Developed:
residential.....0 acres
industrial0 acres
 - (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation0 acres
 - (c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas.....0 acres
 - (d) Floodplain..... 0 acres
 - (e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... 0 acres
dry cropland..... 0 acres
forestry 0 acres
rangeland 0 acres
other.....39 acres Skyles
32 acres Spencer-Lake (aquatic)

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

(Map attached.)

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Illegal fish introductions have occurred in more than a hundred waters throughout Northwest Montana. In most cases where introduced fish have become established, they will persist indefinitely. Illegal introductions in lakes typically consist of warm water species such as yellow perch, pumpkinseed, and pike, that provide good fishing initially, then overpopulate and stunt. When illegal introductions occur in productive trout lakes, trout usually face increasing competition and predation. The result is a decline in returns of planted trout and poor angler catch rates. In some instances, chemical rehabilitation can be used to remove introduced species and restore productive salmonid fisheries.

Skyles and Spencer lakes have experienced illegal introductions of yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*), and largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) introductions. Formerly, the lakes were productive trout fisheries. Chemical rehabilitation would allow the trout fishery to be reestablished. The lakes are being proposed for concurrent treatment because they are connected by a small stream, which allows movement of fish between them.

The lakes will be treated with rotenone at a concentration not exceeding 2 ppm in the fall just prior to ice formation, and rotenone will detoxify prior to thaw the next spring. Hatchery trout will then be planted the following spring to reestablish the fisheries.

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

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
MT Dept./Env. Quality	Discharge Permit for Rotenone	Pending
MT Dept. of Agriculture	Applicator License for Rotenone	1997/1-07-14689-15

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Bonneville Power Administration/FWP	\$38,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Manages and owns lands adjacent to Skyles Lake
DNRC	Manages lands adjacent to Spencer Lake

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality
Montana State Historic and Preservation Office
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACTS				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		x				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
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. Other: _						

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

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACTS				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?		x				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			x		Yes	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. Other: _						

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

2b. Petroleum carrier for Rotenone has an objectionable odor, but impacts are minimal and short term due to the dilution of the compound, short active life, and timing of application (just prior to ice formation). Objectionable odors may also result from fish decomposition, but application will occur in cold water temperatures (slowing decomposition), human use of the lake is minimal in fall, and predators will consume many of the dead fish. As many dead fish as possible would be collected and removed from the site.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACTS				Can Impacts 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, turbidity or pathogens?			x		Yes	3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water 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		Yes	3f.
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in the risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		x				
i. Violation of the Montana Non Degradation Statute?		x				
j. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
k. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?			x		Yes	3k.
l. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
m. Other: _						

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

3a. Rotenone and carrier will be distributed throughout the lake and is lethal to gill-breathing organisms. Rotenone is a naturally occurring organic compound that interferes with oxygen transfer across gills. At the levels used, fish will be killed and aquatic invertebrates will be reduced, but not eliminated. Birds, mammals, reptiles, and other species lacking gills are not harmed by the chemical. Rotenone detoxifies naturally over time. Any inlets and the stream connecting the lakes will also be treated. Any outlets running surface water at the time of rehabilitation will be detoxified using potassium permanganate. Rotenone and potassium permanganate will be used in extremely low concentration (parts per million). These chemicals will be introduced for short periods of time and, apart from their intended toxic effects on fish, are relatively benign in the environment.

3f. If surface waters within the project area infiltrate into groundwaters, the groundwater could be affected. However as with surface water quality, these effects are minimal (see 3a). Rotenone is usually adsorbed to the soil.

3k. Bioassays on mammals indicate that at the concentration used, rotenone will have no effect on humans, livestock, pets, or other mammals that may drink the treated water (Schnick 1974). However, we will supply bottled or filtered drinking water for any user that requests it.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (continued)

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impacts 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				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		x				
f. Other: _						

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

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			x		Yes	5b.
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			x		Yes	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		Yes	5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			x		Yes	5g.
h. Other: _						

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

5b & c. Rotenone will be lethal to yellow perch, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, northern pike, and any remaining trout. We will transplant as many largemouth bass as possible prior to the project, but treatment with rotenone will eliminate the existing fish community. The lakes will be stocked to reestablish the fishery the following spring. The abundance and growth of salmonids is expected to increase after treatment.

Birds and Mammals: Piscivorous birds and mammals may be affected temporarily by removal of fish. However, most migratory birds have left by late October, and we will stock as early as possible the following spring to provide a food source. Rotenone is not hazardous to birds or mammals at the concentration proposed.

Amphibians and Reptiles The status and distribution of amphibians and reptiles at the project site is not currently known. However, pretreatment surveys are scheduled for summer of 1999, as well as post-treatment surveys. Rotenone is toxic to most gill-breathing, larval amphibians, but is not harmful to adults (Schnick 1974). Because treatment will take place in October, nearly all amphibians will have metamorphosed into adults or have burrowed into the mud for winter. Effect of rotenone on amphibians is described in Schnick (1974).

Reptiles are apparently not affected by rotenone treatment.

Aquatic Invertebrates In general, most studies report that aquatic invertebrates, except zooplankton, are much less sensitive to rotenone treatment than fish (Schnick 1974). One study reported that no significant reduction in aquatic invertebrates was observed due to the effects of rotenone, which was applied at levels higher than those proposed for this project (Houf and Campbell 1977). In all cases, the reduction of aquatic invertebrates was temporary, and most treatments used a higher concentration of rotenone than proposed for this project (Schnick 1974). In a study on the relative tolerance of different types of aquatic invertebrates to rotenone, Engstrom-Heg et al. (1978) reported that the long-term impacts of rotenone are mitigated because those insects that were most sensitive to rotenone also tended to have the highest rate of recolonization. The authors of this study also suggest that it is probable that (in stream environments) only mild and temporary damage to aquatic invertebrates would occur in treatments using rotenone at levels ten times higher than the levels proposed for this project.

We have monitored aquatic invertebrate communities before and after previous lake rehabilitation projects and have noticed no obvious effect on species composition or abundance of aquatic invertebrates. Crayfish commonly burrow into the mud to overwinter, and this should buffer them from the effects of rotenone.

5f. Common loons have been documented at Spencer Lake once in the past seven years. However, there is no evidence of nesting. No significant effects on other endangered or sensitive species that may be present at the project site have been identified. Trout would be planted as soon as possible the following spring to reestablish a food supply for fish eating birds (grebes, loons, etc.).

5g. Temporary removal of fish and reduction of aquatic invertebrates will result in decreased food resources for certain species. Late fall treatment minimizes these effects. This impact will abate after fish populations are reestablished and insect populations recover following treatment.

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				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		x				
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 Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> 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				
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: __						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> 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		Yes	8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		x				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			x		Yes	8c.
d. Other: __						

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

8a. Rotenone is applied with a petroleum carrier. Both substances are environmentally safe, degrade quickly, and are approved for use by U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). When properly applied, Rotenone is not harmful to humans. However, we will provide drinking water for lakeshore residents using wells or stock watering areas if requested.

8c. There is a minor risk of a health hazard for project personnel associated with eye or skin contact, or drinking the commercial formulation of rotenone. Project personnel will be trained in safety procedures and will wear rubber gloves and safety goggles when mixing or handling fish toxicants.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> 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				
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: __						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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. 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				
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. 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				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		x				
e. Other: __						

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

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			x		Yes	11a.
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		Yes	11c.
d. Other: _						

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

11a & c. Rehabilitation will cause a large fish kill; aesthetics and odor may be temporarily displeasing. We will collect fish that wash ashore. The rehabilitation will be conducted in late fall when recreational use is minimal. Treatment of the lake will result in short-term (off season) loss of angling opportunity for the purpose of long-term benefits to the fishery.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impacts 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				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural or historic values?		x				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
d. Other: _						

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

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impacts 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 which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
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			13e.
f. Other: _						

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

13e. Residents of Skyles Lake blocked a proposed chemical rehabilitation in 1985, stating a preference for the bass fishery over trout and opposition to increased public use of the lake. Impacts at Skyles Lake can be mitigated by Fisheries and access management. Spencer Lake was chemically treated at that time and successfully reverted to trout management, but that program ultimately failed due to recolonization by bass and pumpkinseeds from Skyles Lake upstream.

Anglers have commented that salmonids previously caught out of the lake had a "muddy" taste when cooked. The cause of any objectionable taste is unknown, but may be related to the original source of fish harvested, time of year, or individual preference of angler.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

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:

- a. No Action: Continue managing lakes in current state where fishery is extremely limited and survival of stocked salmonids is low. Warm water fish species are providing a marginal fishery.
- b. Rehabilitate the lake to reestablish a productive sport fishery for trout.
- c. Rehabilitate the lake, and reestablish trout and bass fishery.
- d. Rehabilitate the lake, and reestablish a trout fishery. Manage Skyles Lake for large trout with special regulations; manage Spencer Lake for family fishing with high stocking rates and liberal regulations.
- e. Biological Control: Introduce piscivorous predator to help reduce abundant prey populations.

Alternatives b, c, d are the most acceptable alternatives based on the current state of the fishery and recovery potential using other alternatives. No Action or delayed rehabilitation would result in maintenance of the current low quality fishery. Predator species candidates for biological control (northern pike and largemouth bass) are already present and are not suppressing pumpkinseed and perch populations. The preferred alternative (among b, c, d) will largely be determined by angler preference and fishery management staff recommendations.

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

Currently Skyles and Spencer lakes have standard fishing regulations for the Western District of Montana. We plan to temporarily lift bag limits to allow as many fish to be caught as possible prior to treatment. We will remove and relocate as many largemouth bass as possible prior to treatment.

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

An EIS is not required under MEPA because the project lacks significant effects to the physical and human environment.

Adverse impacts are short-term, can be mitigated, and are addressed through the EA. The effects of this project primarily involve removal of nonnative, illegally introduced fish species.

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?

Public involvement will include notice in the local newspaper, FWP News Release, State Bulletin Board, and distribution of the DRAFT EA to those involved and interested parties for a 30-day comment period. A public meeting will be scheduled in the Whitefish area if necessary.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

30-day comment period – October 18 through November 17, 2000

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

Grant Grisak, Fisheries Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
(406)751-4541 – or e-mail to ggg@digisys.net.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Skyles and Spencer lakes have the potential to be outstanding put-grow-and-take salmonid fisheries due to their productivity and proximity to a population center (Whitefish, MT). Chemical rehabilitation is the only feasible way reestablishing these fisheries through removal of illegally introduced warm water species.

Adverse effects of the project that have been identified are short-term and mitigatable. The most significant effects will be temporary removal of all fish species from the lake and the period following treatment when stocked trout become reestablished. These short-term effects should be offset by long-term benefits of the sustainable fishery.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

After considering potential impacts and alternatives to the proposed action, FWP recommends treatment of Skyles and Spencer lakes with rotenone to restore productive salmonid sport fisheries.

PART V. LITERATURE CITED

Engstrom-Heg, R., R. T. Colesante, and E. Silco. 1978. Rotenone tolerances of stream-bottom insects. *New York Fish and Game Journal*. 25(1):31-41.

Houf, L. J. and R. S. Campbell. 1977. Effects of antimycin A and rotenone on macrobenthos in ponds. *Investigations in Fish Control*, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D. C.

Schnick, R. A. 1974e. A review on the literature on the use of antimycin A in fisheries. USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Fish Control Laboratory, La Crosse, Wisconsin. NTIS PB-235 454/AS.

