

# CLARK'S LOOKOUT STATE PARK

Executive Summary & Management Plan



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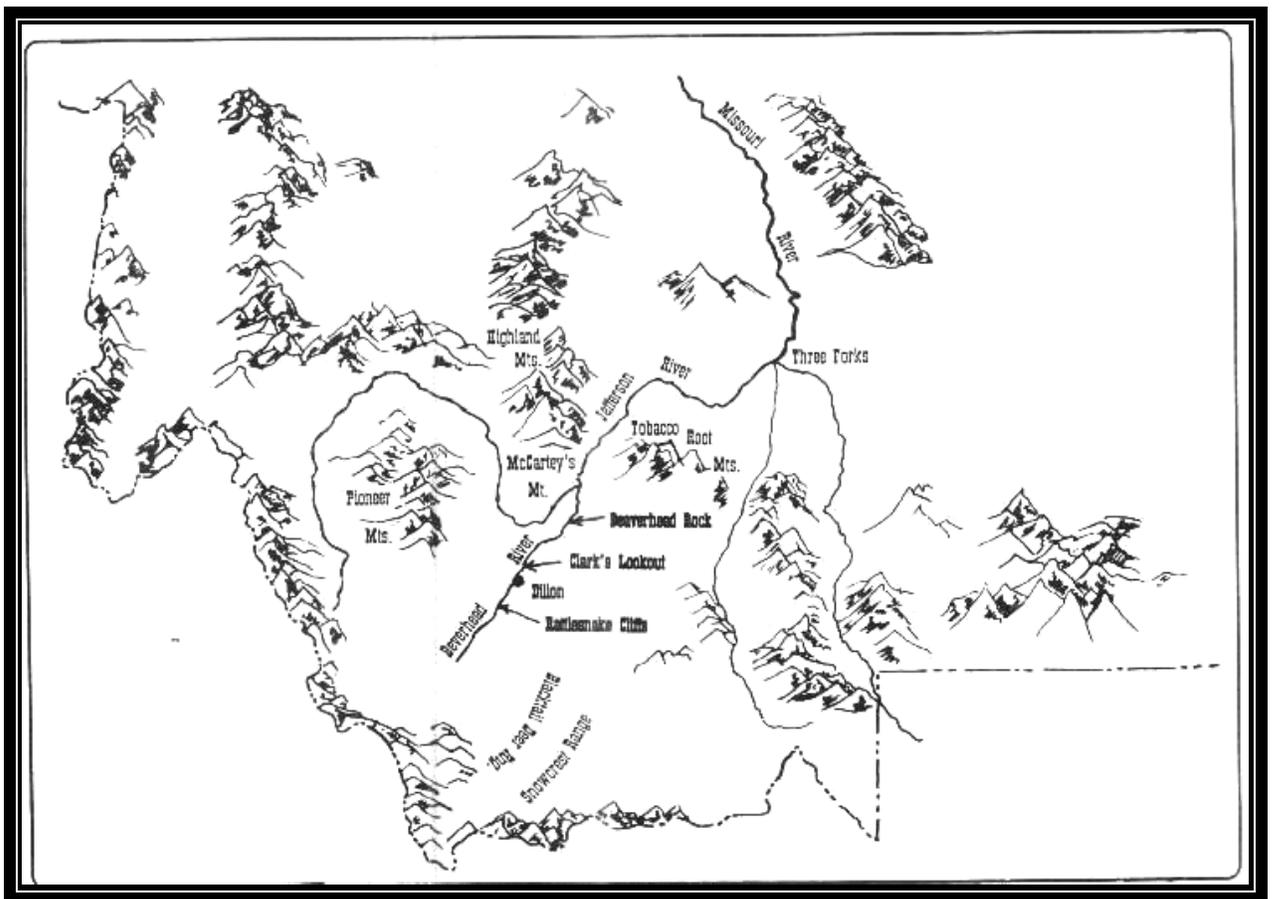
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# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. CLARK'S LOOKOUT OVERVIEW

Clark's Lookout State Park is a culturally, historically and geographically significant state park located one mile north of Dillon, Montana. The site is 7.23 acres. Situated on the north bank of the Beaverhead River, Clark's Lookout is located atop a rocky limestone outcropping rising 35 feet above the surface of the river. The elevation of the site is 5100 feet. The surrounding terrain slopes to the northwest, north, east and south. The promontory is composed of Madison limestone, a marine deposit of the Mississippian System dating to the Paleozoic Era. This strata lies deeply buried throughout the area; however, erosion of the valley floor by the Beaverhead River over the ages exposed this natural feature. The ground surface is characterized by outcroppings of limestone and ground cover of native grasses, prickly pear cactus and weeds. There is a north-south ridge, about 5,700 feet in elevation, approximately one mile to the west.



Clark's Lookout is a key Lewis and Clark site and the location of an observation site used by William Clark on August 13, 1805. This is one of the only locations on the entire expedition route where we can be certain William Clark actually stood and made observations. William Clark ascended the rock outcropping and took compass readings to the Beaver's Head, the course of the Wisdom (Big Hole) River, and to the gap where the river passed through the

mountains. Clark described the site as a “high point of limestone rock on the Stard. Side (of the river).” The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **B. CLARK’S LOOKOUT HISTORY**

Thomas Jefferson had a long-standing interest in the huge area of land that extended west from the Mississippi River. He had expressed his fears that either France or England would seize the region and block the westward expansion of the United States.

When Jefferson became president, he took positive action regarding the area. He requested and obtained permission from Congress for an expedition to the west. He received word from his ministers in France early in 1803 that they had negotiated a treaty for the purchase of Louisiana from France. Jefferson appointed Meriwether Lewis to lead the intended expedition. The necessary planning for the expedition progressed and the size of the company that was originally intended was increased. Jefferson thought it was prudent to add a co-leader in case of an accident or the possible death of Lewis. Lewis chose William Clark, a Kentucky frontiersman, as his fellow commander, and instructed him to recruit some young, experienced woodsmen for the trip. (1)

The responsibility for the expedition was turned over to the War department and the leaders and men were enlisted into the U.S. Army. Jefferson named the group the Corps of Discovery and defined their mission. The president's written instructions to Lewis told him to "explore the Missouri River, and such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across the continent for the purpose of commerce." (2)

Also included in the instructions was the following:

*Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri, you will take observations of latitude and longitude, at all remarkable points on the river, and especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands, and other places and objects distinguished by such natural marks and characters of a durable kind, as that may be with certainty recognized hereafter, the course of the river between these points of observation may be supplied by the compass. (3)*

The Lewis and Clark Expedition left its winter camp at Wood River, Illinois, on May 14, 1804. They spent the summer of 1804 traveling up the Missouri River and reached the Mandan Indian villages near present day Bismarck, North Dakota, in the fall. They built winter quarters there and remained until the spring of 1805. In the early spring of 1805 they acquired the services of Touissant Charbonneau as a guide and interpreter. When they left the Mandan villages on April 7, 1805, they were accompanied by Charbonneau, his Indian wife, Sacajawea, and their son, Jean Baptiste.

The expedition headed up the Missouri River and reached the mouth of the Yellowstone River on April 27, 1805. After considerable difficulty with bears, prickly pear cactus, mosquitoes and the Great Falls of the Missouri, they reached the Three Forks of the Missouri on July 25, 1805. Here Sacajawea, a Shoshoni Indian who had been captured by the Minnetare Indians at the Three Forks about five years earlier, began to recognize the surroundings. (4)

From this juncture, the Lewis and Clark Expedition sought a route up the river's headwaters, and across the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Clark observed that the North Fork of the three rivers that formed the Missouri River had the most water and appeared to be the one to follow. (5) When Lewis and the main party arrived at the Three Forks, it appeared to him that the middle fork and southwest fork (Clark's North Fork) were of equal size and the name Missouri should be discontinued. After consultation, the captains decided to call the middle fork Madison's River, the southeast fork Gallatin's River and the south west fork Jefferson's River in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States. (6)

The party left the Three Forks on July 30, 1805. The journey up Jefferson's River became increasingly difficult. The river was much smaller than the Missouri and was filled with rapids. There was no bank to walk on in most places and it became necessary for the men to wade in the water in order to push and pull the canoes upstream.

On August 8, 1805, during the next day's travel after camping the previous night about two miles below the mouth of the Philanthropy River (present day Ruby River), Sacajawea recognized the point of a high plain to the right which she "says her nation calls the beavers head from the conceived resemblance of its figure to the head of that animal." (7)

At that point, Lewis, noting the importance of finding the Shoshoni Indians, obtaining horses and aid from them and crossing the mountains before winter set in--made the decision that he would take a few men and proceed ahead of the main party. Accordingly, Lewis and three men left the main party on August 9, 1805, and traveled directly overland.

Clark, in charge of the remainder of the party, continued up Jefferson's River (present day Beaverhead River) with the boats and passed the rock Sacajawea called the Beaver's Head. On August 11, 1805, Clark and his party passed 3000 Mile Island, estimating that they were that far from the mouth of the Missouri. This island has since disappeared because the river has changed course. They spent most of that day dragging their canoes over the shoals and riffles of the river

On August 12, 1805, the Clark party had a difficult time. Clark wrote that the men were in water most of the day were getting weak, sore and much fatigued. They complained of the difficulty navigation subjected them to and wished to go by land. Clark said he pacified them. At noon, they were drenched by a thunderstorm that lasted half an hour. In all, they traveled twelve miles by water and gained four miles by land that day. (8)

On August 13, 1805, Clark's party spent three-fourths of the time dragging their canoes over the rapids in the river. They came to a stream that flowed into the river from the left opposite a high point of limestone rocks. They called the stream McNeal's Creek, naming it after Hugh McNeal, a member of the party. Clark described the creek as a bold running stream seven yards wide on the larboard side below a high point of limestone rocks 70 feet high on the starboard side. (9) The stream is now called Blacktail Deer Creek and the limestone rocks are called Clark's Lookout.

The dugout canoes were pulled up on the bank. Clark climbed the rocks and viewed the region through a telescope, made a number of compass readings, and sketched a map of the region. (10)

Clark recorded that the "beaver's head bore N. 24 degrees, E. 12 ms. [miles]. The course of the Wisdom River is N. 25 degrees W. The gap at the place the [Beaverhead] river passes thro' a mountain in advance is S. 18 degrees W. 10 ms"<sup>(11)</sup> Clark's magnetic compass bearings are very close to present day readings. <sup>(12)</sup> The Clark party camped that night a few miles southwest of present day Dillon after traveling sixteen miles by water, only five miles by land. <sup>(13)</sup>

Lewis and party continued upriver, crossed the Continental Divide and dropped down the other side along the Lemhi River. They had established friendly relations with a band of the Shoshoni, including Sacajawea's relative, Chief Cameahwait. Both Lewis & Clark met at Camp Fortunate, near the present day Clark Canyon Reservoir. Critical aid for the expedition was supplied by the Shoshoni, in the form of horses, provisions and a knowledgeable guide, who led them across the Lolo Trail and into the Columbia Basin by which they succeeded in their quest to reach the Pacific Ocean.

### **C. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Clark's Lookout is associated with the exploration and settlement history of the American West in general, and with the accomplishments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in particular. The expedition's accomplishment in charting and exploring the Upper Missouri and Columbia River basins, identifying a western route to the Pacific, chronicling this vast region and its abundant resources, and establishing relationships with many of the native people in the region on behalf of the United States government make it perhaps the most important national undertaking of the 19th century. The site is a landmark along the route and a well-preserved site of activities important to the success of the expedition's mission. With many Lewis and Clark sites being lost due to meanders of rivers, natural erosion and modern encroachment, recognizing the significance of well-preserved sites such as Clark's Lookout becomes increasingly important.

Sites associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition gain significance for their associations with the explorers themselves, illustrious figures in the history of the region and the nation, and the prodigious contribution these two individuals made to the knowledge of and ensuing history of the American West. A place associated with the activities and accomplishments of the expedition, the top of Clark's Lookout is one of a few locations on the entire Lewis and Clark route where it is known with certainty that William Clark actually stood and made observations. An experienced frontiersman and engineer, William Clark's skills served the party well throughout the expedition. Responsibility generally fell to Clark to sketch and chart maps along the route; the observations made at Clark's Lookout were incorporated into the exhaustive maps he made of the region and the riverways the expedition traversed. Clark's accuracy in charting the route is impressive, and his magnetic compass bearings taken at this site are very close to present day readings.

1. Eide, Henry Ingvard, The Journey of Lewis and Clark, (Rand McNally and Company, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, 1969), p. 4.
2. Ibid, p. 5.
3. Jackson, Donald, ed., Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, (2 vols., Urbana, 1978) "Jefferson's instructions to Lewis." Vol. I, pp. 61-62.
4. Thwaites, Reuben G., ed., Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-06, (Arno Press Edition, New York, 1969), 8 vols., vol. II, p. 260.
5. Moulton, Gary E., ed. The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, II vols., (Lincoln and London, University of Nebraska Press, Vol. 4, p. 428.
6. Ibid, vol. 4, p. 437.

7. Ibid, vol. 5, p. 59.
8. Ibid, vol. 5, p. 76.
9. Ibid, vol. 5, p. 84.
10. Thwaites, op.cit., vol. 8, Map #29-A.
11. Moulton, op.cit., vol. 5, p. 84.
12. Bergantino, Bob, (Telephone interview on geographical locations along the Lewis and Clark route), April 1993.
13. Moulton, op.cit., vol. 5, p. 84.

## **D. CLARK'S LOOKOUT TODAY**

The property containing Clark's Lookout first came into private ownership in 1889 when Susan A. Orem was granted ownership from the United States government by the terms of the Desert Land Act. (15) The land was used for agricultural purposes, i.e., grazing, by subsequent owners. In 1980 during the annual meeting of the National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, local historian Elfreda Woodside proposed that Foundation members support the Dillon community in their endorsement for the development of the area as a state park. A preliminary proposal was put together in 1983 for the 48<sup>th</sup> Montana Legislature. Then in 1985 the site was sold to the State of Montana. Protected in the public trust, it now commemorates the achievement of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the pivotal role that the expedition played in the history of the American West.

At the present time, Clark's Lookout stands bounded on the north and northwest by a large irrigation canal, and lies west of a frontage road that is designated as old U.S. Highway 91. There is a 100-foot railroad right-of-way and a 60-foot county road right-of-way between the property and Highway 91. The south side boundary of the property is a county road designated as Lover's Leap Road. There are no structures on the site. A jack leg fence partially encloses the property, which is owned by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

The limestone outcropping which composes Clark's Lookout is extremely well preserved; no development has occurred on this promontory or within the historic property boundaries. Native vegetation and ground surfaces are intact, marked only by erosion and an old two-track trail ascending the backside of the lookout from the north. The lookout's relationship to the river and the surrounding natural environment is still clear and strong; at the foot of the lookout where the river's floodplain unfolds, the rivercourse which William Clark's party traveled remains largely open and natural, stretching away from the site to the east and southwest.

Historic period development does affect the viewshed, and thus the integrity of the site. There are still expansive views to the north, east and south, but the views are checkered with power lines, buildings, and a future subdivision. The ridge to the west blocks the view in that direction. Skirting the landform now is a pole fence, which partially encloses the property, a county dirt road and ditch for the West Side Canal. Along the East Side of the lookout lie the Union Pacific Railway tracks and Montana Highway 91. While these features do intrude into the setting, the expansive rangelands and the river corridor dominate the setting. Still largely undeveloped and natural, they strongly convey a sense of the grand, open landscape, which Clark's party traversed in 1805.

Currently, the site has no facilities and is unsigned, so it is not identified as a state park. However, it is open to the public and this status provides little protection to this critical historic resource. Many local residents are confused about its land ownership and visitors in the area have trouble locating the park. The park is a valuable cultural heritage site that has national significance and preservation of important cultural sites has been a key part of the Montana State Park System's mission.

With the upcoming Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial, there is the potential for a dramatic increase in interest and attendance at this site. With the increased interest, the park needs to be prepared for the potential increase in visitation. The park will receive a great deal of publicity from many different sources over the next few years as a historic site. Visitation will increase at this site whether or not it is actively managed and protected. It is important that we are prepared for the change in use this site will receive. It is our responsibility to meet these new demands and provide interpretive and educational information for park visitors. Focused management and interpretation of the park will add to the local economy and contribute to Montana's tourism industry.

## **II. THE PLANNING PROCESS**

### **A. OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS**

Work began on the Management Plan for Clark's Lookout in 1998, with a survey designed to get public input and ideas for development of the site. Over 220 surveys were mailed out to Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage members, neighboring landowners and agency contacts. In addition, news releases were sent encouraging the general public to complete surveys that were available in Dillon, or by calling the park. By December 1998, 96 surveys were returned. The survey results, detailed in Appendix #1, overwhelmingly indicated that respondents wished to see only minimum development and facilities at Clark's Lookout State Park. The development desired, according to ranking was #1: directional signing, #2: interpretive signing, #3: parking lot, #4: hiking trail to the top, #5 interpretive brochure. Other responses indicated support for either no development at all or developments such as vault latrines, picnic tables and garbage cans.

With this information in hand, a planning team was formed. A multi-disciplinary, planning team was established that included Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff from several divisions, local Lewis and Clark Camp Fortunate Chapter members and community members. Planning team members were selected on the basis of leadership skills, standing in the community, willingness to work with others to seek constructive, mutually beneficial solutions, and interest in the park and management planning process.

The planning team analyzed public input. They identified and examined issues relating to the site then determined the mission, vision and plan outcomes. After setting goals they developed and analyzed alternative solutions.

### **B. PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS**

#### **FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS MEMBERS**

Cindy Staszak, CHAIR

Bannack, Clark's Lookout and Beaverhead Rock State Parks Manager

Jerry Walker, Regional Park Manager (Region 3)

Lynn Anderson, Lewis and Clark Coordinator, BLM

Jeff Erickson, Parks Division-Outdoor Recreation Planner

Ken Soderberg, Parks Division Visitor Services Bureau Chief

Mike Horn, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Landscape Architect

Tom Lowe, Bannack, Clark's Lookout and Beaverhead Rock State Parks Assistant Manager

Shawn Speaker, Bannack, Clark's Lookout and Beaverhead Rock State Parks Maintenance Worker

#### **CITIZEN MEMBERS**

Garth Haugland, Beaverhead County Commissioner

Dan Pence, Camp Fortunate Chapter Member

Dan Scott, Camp Fortunate Chapter Member

Lois Pence, Camp Fortunate Chapter Member

Bill Kolar, Camp Fortunate Chapter Member

Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner

Al & Kathy Epperson, Park Neighbors

Rick Hartz, Beaverhead County Planner

## **C. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

This management plan will ensure that this key park resource is protected and enhanced. The plan will establish long-term park goals, objectives, strategies, and policies dealing with all significant aspects of the park, including operations, management, maintenance, land issues, capital projects, visitor services and resource protection. This plan will ensure that the park's use and management are consistent with what the resource can support, and that the park resource is protected. This plan will also include the Master Site Plan and Basic Interpretive Plan. These will become Plan amendments as they are finalized.

The production of the Management Plan will follow the steps delineated in the State Park Management Plan Process. The preparation of the management plan will be designed to achieve all four Park's Program outcomes: 1) protection and enhancement of resources, 2) exceeding visitor expectations, 3) education and interpretation, and 4) tourism and economic stability. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will not be developed for the management plan, but will be completed on specific required projects as part of the plan implementation.

## **D. PLANNING TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES, AUTHORITY, RESOURCES, CONSTRAINTS & OPERATION PROCEDURES**

The following were the responsibilities of the planning team:

1. Provide input on the park mission, vision and goals.
2. Provide input on the management planning process.
3. Consider budget needs for the planning process.
4. Assist with planning and conducting public scoping.
5. Plan and design any additional information/data collection method.
6. Prepare and write various components of the plan and combine into plan draft.
7. Provide critical internal review and facilitate review by Regional Supervisor and Parks Division Administrator.

The scope of the planning team's authority was dictated by the State Park Management Planning Process. This process provides direction to the planning committee as to roles and steps to be covered. The time frame established for the plan's completion is Appendix #2. Included in Appendix #3 is the Planning Process sign-off sheet.

## **E. ARRIVING AT THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Before actions and policies could be recommended in the plan, criteria had to be established to narrow down and focus those actions towards achieving the park's mission, vision and established goals and objectives. The planning team used Fish, Wildlife and Parks guidelines, combined with public input to establish that criteria, and the result was the Clark's Lookout Mission, Vision and Outcomes.

### **1. MISSION STATEMENT**

One of the first steps in the planning process was to establish a shared vision of the purpose or mission of Clark's Lookout State Park. The mission statement identifies what and for whom the park does (or should do). It is the ultimate rationale for the existence of the park, a statement of the park's purpose. The Clark's Lookout mission statement had to fit within the framework of the mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the mission of the Parks Division.

#### ***Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Mission***

*The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.*

#### ***Parks Division Mission***

*The mission of the system is to conserve a representative diversity of the state's natural, cultural and recreational amenities, provide resource education and interpretation, and help facilitate sustainable economic development through tourism.*

#### **CLARK'S LOOKOUT STATE PARK MISSION**

***The mission of Clark's Lookout State Park is to provide and protect a pleasant, rustic, well-maintained site that accurately interprets the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as well as local landmarks and geography, and relevant natural and cultural history of the area. The park will provide an opportunity for both local residents and visitors to retrace the footsteps of William Clark and to see the same landmarks that he saw in 1805.***

## 2. VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement is a broad and compelling image of the desired future for the park. It builds on the mission to depict what the park will be like in the future.

### ***Parks Division Vision:***

*“In the year 2020, the Montana State Park system will more accurately reflect the natural, cultural/historic, and recreational diversity of Montana, with a broader geographic balance than at present. The future system will provide a greater diversity of park types, such as recreational waterways, railtrails, and historical routes. The system will also offer a broad range of facilities, experiences and programs that meet an assortment of changing visitor needs and interests, including more educational and interpretive opportunities. Staff will continue to improve resource protection, maintenance, programs, planning, monitoring, site design, visitor information, and overall professionalism, with enhanced connections and communication with other programs both inside and outside FWP. The quality of the system will be more consistent and recognizable between units and staff and financial resources will be sufficient to meet visitor needs. From one end of the state to the other, visitor expectations will be routinely exceeded by the high quality of the experiences provided. Overall, the state park system will be a more integral part of everyday existence in Montana; state parks will be affordable places where Montanans and their visitors from all walks of life feel comfortable and welcome.”*

### **CLARK'S LOOKOUT VISION STATEMENT**

***Clark's Lookout State Park will be a safe, clean, well-maintained park, with enhanced access. Through a well-designed system of interpretation, visitors will have an opportunity to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as well as local landmarks, history, and natural resources. Interpretation will be coordinated with other efforts along the Lewis and Clark Trail. The surrounding vistas will still evoke a powerful sense of what William Clark saw when he stood on the rock. The site will continue to be simple and rustic, while meeting the basic needs of visitors and adjacent landowners. The experience of visiting the site will be rewarding and informational for all visitors.***

## 3. PLAN OUTCOMES

Outcomes represent the end results or impacts of a project, program, or initiative on the intended recipients. All goals, alternatives and strategies developed for the plan must meet at least one of the plan outcomes.

### ***PARKS DIVISION OUTCOMES:***

- 1. Protection and enhancement of the resources*
- 2. Exceeding visitor expectations*
- 3. Education and interpretation*
- 4. Tourism and economic stability*

## **CLARK'S LOOKOUT MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES**

- 1) Park visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about the Lewis and Clark expedition, as well as local and natural history, landmarks and geography. Visitors will come away from the site with the sense that they have viewed many of the same landmarks that were observed by William Clark as he stood on this very site.***
- 2) The park is an economic benefit to the town of Dillon, and a source of pride to residents; it is a place they want to take their visitors. The park will be a good neighbor to surrounding residents.***
- 3) The resources in the park are protected, and the park is safe, clean, accessible, and well maintained.***

## **4. IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES**

At the first meeting of the Clark's Lookout planning team, all issues relating to the park were identified. Issues included those voiced by the public through the survey comments and those raised by members of the planning team. The issues dealing with land, acquisition, access, maintenance and development were considered as one. The following issues were identified:

### **1. Appropriate access /County road right of way**

Beaverhead County has expressed concerns with the current parking area. They are concerned with safe access to the site over the railroad crossing, limited parking, and turn around space for recreational vehicles and buses. The existing access is considered unsafe for the increasing numbers of visitors to the site, and the increasing traffic on Lover's Leap Road once the new Clark's Lookout Subdivision is developed. There is a county road right of way through a good portion of the park. In addition, the railroad has a 75-100 foot right of way in the park. The county is looking at the potential for a road accessing the site from the north, on the county road right of way. This road passes directly in front of several residences, presenting a concern to them. Beaverhead County has identified the need to have a through road in the park. This road would provide access for emergency use only, on the west side of the tracks.

#### **1a. Land issue**

Due to the small size (7.25 acres) of the park, neighboring land development creates concerns. The proximity of the park to Dillon and the increase in visitation leads to maintenance and vandalism concerns. Additional acquisition could preserve the viewshed and the historic integrity of the site.

#### **1b. Subdivision Development**

The most recent subdivision development proposed is located west-southwest of Clark's Lookout on the opposite side of Interstate I-15. Concerns include increased traffic and dust conditions in the vicinity of the park. In addition, the proposed development is within the viewshed of Clark's Lookout and will impact the historic landscape. As part of the

subdivision agreement, the owner of the subdivision agreed to pave the Lover's Leap Road past Clark's Lookout, in a partnership with Beaverhead County and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. After final plat approval, FWP has 3 ½ years to contribute \$20,000 to the road paving project. As part of the agreement for FWP to contribute to paving Lover's Leap Road, the County will also work on development of the new Railroad crossing and proposed North entrance to the park.

### **1c. Site Development & Maintenance**

There is a need to consider installing a latrine, picnic tables, locking gates, better fencing and an emergency access road. There is a need to fund routine site maintenance including noxious weed control and litter removal.

### **2. Interpretation**

There is a need for interpretive information to be in place before the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. An interpretive plan that determines appropriate signing, trails and brochures will be a part of this planning effort. Signing should conform to standards established by the Montana Tourism and Recreation Initiative (MTRI) Interpretive Sign Strategy as well as to FWP standards.

### **3. Staffing & Funding**

There is a need for a budget for maintenance, upkeep and development of this site, as well as the allocation of personnel authority to fund a caretaker position. Grants need to be investigated.

### **4. Safety, Vandalism & Liability**

The railroad crossing creates a safety issue for visitors. The current turnoff from Hwy 91 is located on a curve in the railroad tracks where visibility for an approaching train is limited. There is not a turning lane before the entrance to the park causing a potential traffic hazard when a vehicle is required to stop and wait before turning into the park. The use of the park by rock climbers is also a concern from a safety and liability standpoint. Rock climbing causes degradation of the fragile limestone rock face. Climbing bolts embedded in the rock are unsightly and cause permanent damage. There have been incidents of vandalism at Clark's Lookout and there is potential that this could increase as promotion and use of the site increases. There is a need to investigate locking gates, secure fences and caretaker services, as well as periodic patrols to prevent vandalism. Additional safety concerns at Clark's Lookout include the irrigation ditch, steep cliff face, rattlesnakes, and fire.

It is the intention of this management plan to address the immediate issues that have been identified for this park. The plan would establish the overall direction for the provision of visitor services, the management of the natural and cultural resources, and the development of all associated facilities. The management plan would be a working document guiding the day-to-day operation of the park as well as the basis for long-range management actions.

## **5. SETTING GOALS**

The next step was to develop goals to address each issue brought up. The planning team divided up into issue focus groups and developed several goals for each issue statement.

## 6. EVALUATING THE ALTERNATIVES

The next step was to look at various methods of achieving each goal. For many goals, several alternatives were considered. These alternatives varied from no action to high levels of development and protection. When one alternative was not the obvious choice to the focus group, they rated each alternative according to the chart below. This helped focus the discussion on the mission, vision and outcomes established for the park, and facilitate the selection of the preferred alternative.

B. ALTERNATIVES To Achieve the Goal	Maintains a rustic & simple site	Well maintained site/clean	Interprets L&C history accurately	Interprets landmarks & geography	Interprets natural & cultural history	Preserve landmarks	Provides for a safe site	Accessible site	Good neighbor	Protect resources	Economic benefit	Interpretation coordinates with State & Federal	Require extra staff?	Is the cost high, medium or low? Accomplish in 10 years?	Include in plan?

# III. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## ISSUE #1: ACCESS, ACQUISITION & SITE DEVELOPMENT

**ISSUE STATEMENT:** “Clark’s Lookout needs to be developed and maintained in a manner that maintains the simple, rustic appearance of the site and preserves the historic integrity and landscape while still providing for the needs of its visitors.

**GOAL #1a. To provide a safe area to enter and park at Clark’s Lookout, to facilitate the use of the park by the public in a variety of vehicles including large buses and motor homes, and provide emergency access for first response agencies through the park.**

### DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT

The team looked at four alternatives to achieve this goal:

1. Use the north access as it currently crosses the tracks.
2. Use another access (350 feet to the north) that would need to be developed, but is supported and preferred by the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad (NOTE: Richard Miller, Beaverhead County Road Superintendent, had talked to the UP Railroad, and they would not support improvements to the current crossing due to safety concerns, but would prefer that a new crossing be developed 350 feet to the north.).
3. Use the south access.
4. Access the park along the irrigation ditch.

The team went through the checklist and rated each criterion. (Appendix #4) It was determined that access to the park along the irrigation ditch was not physically possible. While both North access routes rated higher than the South access, the new crossing 350 feet to the north was the preferred alternative selected due to public safety and liability.

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** Develop a new access about 350 feet north of the current access. Incorporate an emergency access road through the park.

### ACTION ITEMS

- 1a-1: Get approval from the UP Railroad to develop the new crossing.
- 1a-2: Secure an easement for the road in the park with the UP Railroad.
- 1a-3: Work with Montana Department of Transportation on the highway to examine and review the speed limit on Hwy 91 N. and to develop a left turn lane at the entrance to the park.
- 1a-4: Coordinate with Beaverhead County regarding road access to park boundary.
- 1a-5: Formalize and define encumbrance of the existing county right of way with the Beaverhead County Attorney.
- 1a-6: Research and secure funding for the project.
- 1a-7: Complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project if FWP contributes funding.
- 1a-8: Clear-up/formalize all easements and right of ways in and around Clark’s Lookout.

**GOAL #1b. To provide basic amenities to accommodate public use and protect the natural resources of Clark's Lookout while still maintaining the simple, rustic atmosphere.**

**DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alternatives considered included:

1. Basic Level of Development (gravel entrance road and parking, low level of interpretation, a dirt trail/path to the top and pack-in/pack-out policy for litter).
2. Medium Level of Development (dust abatement on the gravel entrance and parking lot, a sealed vault latrine, medium level of interpretation, picnic tables, garbage cans and a gravel trail to the top, pave the Lovers Leap Road alongside of Clark's Lookout, construct a parking lot capable of handling 2-3 RV's or buses and up to 14 cars at one time, install benches on the trail to the top of the Lookout and near the parking lot).
3. High Level of Development (paved entrance and parking lot, a flush toilet, high level of interpretation and programming, picnic tables, grills, garbage cans, a paved or surfaced trail, accessible to the top of the rock for people with disabilities, a well and water).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** After rating the three alternatives, the team chose the medium level of development. They recommended withholding the picnic tables and using a pack-in/pack-out policy until the volume of use dictates the installation of garbage cans. This alternative would maintain the rustic and simple atmosphere, but still be a good neighbor and provide sanitation. It was decided that adopting a pack-in/pack-out policy would eliminate the site being used for household garbage dumping, dogs and wildlife tipping over cans and the need for additional maintenance hours and personnel at the site. However, the option would remain open to add trash cans at a later date. The group agreed there were many alternative sites for picnicking near Clark's Lookout, and it was unnecessary here. Instead, benches would be installed along the trail and near the parking lot.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1b-1: Research and secure a funding source (possibly grants, etc.).
- 1b-2: Complete an environmental assessment.
- 1b-3: Implement the plan.
- 1b-4: Secure funding/budget (\$20,000) to contribute to paving the Lovers Leap Road past Clark's Lookout.

**GOAL #1c. To preserve the viewshed from the Lookout through land easements and/or acquisitions.**

**DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public and the planning team agreed that the value and significance of the site was tied to the historic viewshed from the top of Clark's Lookout. The site had the potential to be a virtual "island" in the middle of a city, at some point in the future. The plan needed to address this issue, and take action to prevent the view that Clark saw from being totally lost to development over the next century.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The only alternative to doing nothing was to recommend actions to help preserve the viewshed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1c-1: Prioritize conservation easements, land acquisitions and zoning in a manner that will limit visual intrusions on the historic landscape as viewed from the top of Clark's Lookout.
- 1c-2: Pursue funding for acquiring easements and acquisitions in order to protect the site.

## **ISSUE #2: INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION**

**ISSUE STATEMENT:** Clark’s Lookout State Park needs to provide for the education of its visitors through high quality, informative interpretation that reflects the significance of the site, is focused on the primary and secondary interpretive themes and fulfills the “visitor experiences” established. Clark’s Lookout State Park also needs to provide for appropriate recreational activities.

As a first step in setting goals and developing alternatives for the interpretation issues section of the Clark’s Lookout Management Plan, the planning team identified the following areas to be addressed:

### **1. Site Significance**

This site is significant because it is one of the few locations along the Lewis and Clark trail where we can be certain a member of the Corps of Discovery stood. This is known because of Clark’s description of the site and the triangulated reading he took and recorded in his journal.

- At Clark’s Lookout visitors can literally stand in the place where William Clark stood. Clark’s Lookout State Park allows people to make a physical connection with an important part of American history.

Other circumstances affecting the expedition during the time Clark took those observations help further define its significance. These include:

- Jefferson’s mandate to map the waterways. Clark had already used the same navigational methods he applied at Clark’s Lookout many, many times to fulfill this mandate.
- The need to find the Shoshones. This was key to the success of the Corps at the time. Clark’s observations from this point provided additional information needed to continue the expedition.

### **2. Interpretive Themes**

The park’s primary interpretive themes are the concepts or ideas that every visitor to the site should understand. They are the connections between the park’s resources and the significance of the site. One or all of these themes should be reflected in any interpretive material or program presented at the park.

#### **Primary Themes**

- William Clark used Clark’s Lookout as a navigational tool. The site is a prime example of many sites used along the route to “...take careful observations of latitude, longitude at all remarkable points on the river...” which in part fulfilled the Corps of Discovery mission set forth by President Thomas Jefferson.
- Clark’s Lookout remains today as one of the few known points where the famed explorer stood. Because this site is protected as a State Park, visitors can stand where William Clark stood. Preserving sites like this is important to our heritage because it helps us make physical connections with past events.

## **Secondary Themes**

- At the time Clark's party was near the site, the Corps was keenly interested in finding the Shoshoni Indians and trying to obtain horses from them which was an important task if the Corps was to cross the mountains before winter. The Corps split apart, with Lewis travelling overland and Clark continuing up the present day Beaverhead River.

### **3. Visitor Experiences**

Visitor experiences describe the desired physical, emotional and intellectual experiences a visitor should have when visiting the park.

Visitors to Clark's Lookout State Park will:

- Further their understanding of the natural and cultural resources in the area.
- Find the park from major routes.
- Easily locate the park entrance.
- Enjoy as unobstructed a view from the top as possible.
- Enjoy the park regardless of their physical ability. Interpretive opportunities for the physically disabled will be provided near the parking area.
- Feel like they are in a special place, which contributed to the success of an expedition and is important to American history.
- Be able to locate the features that William Clark documented in his journal.
- Understand methods used by the Corps for navigation and measurement of distances.
- Understand the impacts the Corps of Discovery had on the American West and how it helped shape the local area.
- Understand the importance of the Native Americans in the Corps' success.
- Have the opportunity, on a very limited basis, to engage with a volunteer interpreter or staff member as the budget will allow.
- Know where and how they can see other Lewis and Clark related sites in the area and access additional Lewis and Clark information.
- Understand the regulations of the park.

### **4. Visitor Profile**

While there is not a detailed visitor survey for Clark's Lookout it is safe to say that Clark's Lookout has not been a heavily visited site. Primary use of the site has been by local visitors and Lewis and Clark enthusiasts, who have been able to find the site without the aid of directional signing.

It is anticipated that with the increase in interest in the Lewis and Clark expedition bicentennial, visitation to Clark's Lookout will change, perhaps significantly. The primary non-local visitor is expected to be a Lewis and Clark enthusiast with some knowledge of the expedition.

A study from the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research forecasting visitation to Montana in relation to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, indicates that people between the age of 41-50 years of age are most likely to be interested in visiting Lewis and Clark sites. The study also indicates that 74% of those surveyed that had traveled for pleasure in the past 5 years visited a historical site.

Montana History is part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum in the Dillon school system. The site may be used as a part of the curriculum.

The site will no doubt be visited by the Lewis and Clark “expert” who has sought out every Lewis and Clark site as well as the novice just passing through. The interpretive elements in the park need to address both levels of understanding.

### **5. Connecting Management Goals and Interpretation, Education and Recreation**

Interpretation can influence certain management goals at the park including vandalism control, directing pedestrian traffic, staffing and resource management issues. By determining the location and type of interpretive elements to use in the park some management issues can be addressed.

#### **GOAL # 2**

- a. Develop a quality interpretive site that will increase the community’s support and establish a sense of pride for the site, which in turn may reduce vandalism.
- b. As both a good neighbor and a host, the interpretation at the site should make visitors feel welcomed. It should help them understand where they are in relation to the facilities, features and boundaries of the site. It should let them know where they are allowed to walk.
- c. The site should be recognized as part of the larger community. Information about the site and the local area should be readily available regardless of staff presence.
- d. The site should be clean and well kept; visitors should feel a sense of responsibility to assist in keeping the site clean.
- e. The site should be safe for visitors to enjoy. The interpretive elements should be designed in such a way as to help reduce risk to the visitor.
- f. Discourage damage to the site resources and prohibit climbing.

#### **DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Many of the goals established regarding Interpretation, Education and Recreation were closely related and the following preferred alternatives address one or more parts of the overall goal.

#### **Site Directional Signing and Site Location Information**

Alternatives considered included:

1. No Action Alternative (keep site unsigned as it is today with no directional signing on interstate or secondary roadways; visitors will have to obtain information about the site from guidebooks, maps marked with the site, brochures or knowledgeable local residents).

2. Limited Signing Alternative (sign the site only in the immediate Dillon vicinity and at entrance; maintain site location information in brochures and other printed media).
3. Comprehensive Signing and Location Information Alternative (erect signs on interstate 15 and secondary routes).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** The team chose the comprehensive signing and location information alternative. In addition to signs on Interstate 15, “trail blazing” signs along secondary routes will lead to the site and entrance sign. In addition to the directional signs, the team proposed working with the community in Dillon to establish a series of map signs placed at key locations to identify local attractions, including Clark's Lookout.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 2-1: Identify groups or individuals that can assist in developing a method to provide visitors with information about the site and other opportunities in the Dillon area.
- 2-2: Coordinate with Montana Department of Highways and local officials on placement of signs after site improvements have been made.

#### **Entrance and Site Orientation**

Alternatives considered included:

1. No Action Alternative (maintain site as it is today with no on-site information, no identification as a state park or as an important historic site).
2. Limited Site Orientation (simple entrance sign with site name and regulations, fee station).
3. Comprehensive Site Orientation (signs, interpretation and fee/information station).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** The team chose the comprehensive site orientation alternative. This alternative will consist of an entrance sign to compliment the site's importance. An interpretive sign to display the park hours would be placed far enough in advance of any closed gate to allow large vehicles the opportunity to turn around. An information station near the parking area would include a welcoming message with site regulations and fee station.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 2-3: Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan that will include designs for entrance signs.
- 2-4: Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan that will include designs for site orientation.

#### **Site Interpretation / Education**

Alternatives considered included:

1. No Action Alternative (maintain site as it is today with no on-site interpretation).
2. Limited Site Interpretation (use site brochures for any on-site interpretation).
3. Comprehensive Site Interpretation (combination of signing, brochures and interpretation).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** The team chose comprehensive site interpretation. This alternative includes a combination of signs, brochures and limited personal interpretation (as budget and staff will allow). Signs will allow a greater number of visitors to experience the site's history through a combination of graphics and text. The majority of the interpretive signs would be placed near the parking area; any placed at the top would be low profile retaining the natural view. Brochures at the site would provide greater detail of the interpretive story. Develop alternatives for people to “virtually visit” the site through travelling trunks, a web page tied to the existing FWP web site and curriculum guides for teachers' use.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 2-5: Develop and implement an interpretive plan for the site.
- 2-6: Develop school curriculum for the site with a 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade focus.

#### **Recreation**

Alternatives considered included:

1. No Action Alternative (maintain the site as it is today with no recreational amenities, allow climbing the cliff face to continue).
2. Limited Recreation Alternative (provide basic amenities for recreational activities).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** The team chose the limited recreation alternative. The primary use of Clark's Lookout should be consistent with its mission as an interpretive site. There may be an opportunity for the site to serve as a trailhead for a trail system in the Dillon community. Provide basic amenities for recreational activities such as a small number of benches. Do not allow rock climbing. The trail to the top of Clark's Lookout will remain a hiking trail only.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 2-7: Remove climbing bolts.
- 2-8: Prohibit climbing on the rock face and inform the public of this action.
- 2-9: Work with community planners to incorporate Clark's Lookout in future community recreational trails plans.
- 2-10: Include limited bench seating and basic amenities in the new park design.

## **ISSUE #3: OPERATIONS, STAFFING AND FUNDING**

**ISSUE STATEMENT:** Upon the development of the site, people will be attracted to visit this Montana State Park. There will be the need to maintain the facilities and grounds to provide for an informative, safe and enjoyable visit.

**GOAL #3a. Provide resources (budget and staff) to construct facilities and maintain and operate the site into the future.**

### **DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

The planning team proposed five alternatives:

1. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) staff and budget.
2. Contract for maintenance.
3. Cooperative agency management.
4. Internship program to provide staffing through University of Montana-Western (UM-W).
5. Work study program through a cooperative agreement between UM-W and FWP.

### **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:**

In rating the various alternatives, the FWP and Cooperative Agencies alternatives rated the highest. However, the committee proposed that the park could be managed most efficiently if the FWP alternative was selected. This would allow for single source supervisory guidance as well as consistent and enforceable standards of operation and maintenance. If funding becomes an issue for FWP, either the cooperative agreement with Beaverhead County or the work study/internship with Western Montana College alternatives would be preferred.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Objectives to achieve the selected alternatives:

- 3a-1: Apply for capital development funding with FWP or for an agency grant.
- 3a-2: Prepare environmental assessment for park development project.
- 3a-3: Apply to Parks Division for operations budget and personnel authority to maintain park, or form a coalition of groups to raise funding to operate and maintain park.
- 3a-4: Provide training to caretaker.
- 3a-5: Implement maintenance program at park.
- 3a-6: Contact University of Montana-Western about intern program or work study program for the park.
- 3a-7: Research other grant opportunities including partnerships with non-profit groups.

**GOAL #3b. Manage and operate Clark's Lookout State Park in an efficient manner while assuring public safety and a high level of maintenance and cleanliness.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There are no alternatives. (It would not be acceptable to operate the park in an inefficient, haphazard fashion.) There are alternative management formats FWP, County, Volunteers, etc. (Action items to be addressed would not change).

**ACTION ITEMS**

Objectives to achieve the selected alternative:

- 3b-1: Determine operating and maintenance parameters for park.
- 3b-2: Establish season, days and hours of operation.
- 3b-3: Determine staff schedules.
- 3b-4: Prepare checklist of caretaker responsibilities and standards.
- 3b-5: Establish site security and law enforcement needs such as gate opening/closing, random patrols by wardens, private security, sheriff deputies, etc.
- 3b-6: Develop caretaker training regime.
- 3b-7: Develop group registration process and protocols for special events or interpretive tours.
- 3b-8: Develop and maintain neighbor relations.
- 3b-9: Develop and maintain ditch company relations.
- 3b-10: Develop and maintain railroad relations.
- 3b-11: Control noxious weeds in a manner consistent with criteria in Region 3 Noxious Weed Management Plan. Communicate on a regular basis with the Beaverhead County Weed Supervisor.

## **ISSUE #4: SAFETY, VANDALISM & LIABILITY**

**ISSUE STATEMENT:** Clark's Lookout State Park needs to be designed to provide a safe site for its visitors without compromising the historic integrity of the site. The site also needs to be designed to reduce potential vandalism to the site.

**GOAL #4a. Reduce the dangers and hazards to park visitors at Clark's Lookout State Park without compromising the historic integrity of the site.**

### **DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alternatives considered included:

1. No protection or modifications.
2. Moderate level of protection.
3. High level of protection (steel or wood railing on the top of the rock, fence barricade between the railroad tracks and irrigation ditch).

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** Discussion about this issue centered on the potential risks to visitors, liability issues, and mitigation measures. The public overwhelmingly wanted to see minimum development at this site. To maintain the historic integrity of the site, a balance between no protection and construction of invasive barriers must be found. The team chose the moderate level of protection/modification. This level provided an acceptable level of safety for park users, but also minimized the impact on the historic integrity of the site.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 4a-1: Leave the top of the Lookout uninhibited by barriers and fencing. Provide safety warnings through interpretation in a brochure.
- 4a-2: Clean up dry materials and mow grass to reduce the fire danger. Provide a firebreak around the park if conditions warrant.
- 4a-3: Provide an alternative, emergency route through the park for first response agencies in the event a train blocks the Lovers Leap Road.
- 4a-4: Upgrade the fence separating the railroad tracks from the park and maintain the fence.
- 4a-5: Petition the State Highway Department to conduct a traffic study on Hwy 91 N. with the intent of reducing the speed limit past the park.
- 4a-6: Install highway entrance turn-off lanes on both sides of the highway to prevent an accident, should a train be blocking the entrance into the park.
- 4a-7: Use a combination of shrub planting and fencing to reduce the hazards of the irrigation ditch for visitors.

## **Goal #4b. Design and manage Clark's Lookout to reduce the potential for vandalism at the site.**

### **DISCUSSION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public and the planning team agreed that the issue of vandalism needed to be addressed.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The only alternative to doing nothing was to recommend actions to reduce the potential for vandalism.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 4b-1: Establish and enforce park hours that eliminate use after sundown.
- 4b-2: Build and install a locking gate at the entrance to provide a physical barrier to access when the park is closed.
- 4b-3: Promote a neighborhood watch program in which citizens in the surrounding area join together to keep an eye out for trespassers and illegal activities in the park. Post signs announcing the neighborhood watch program.
- 4b-4: Consider the pros and cons of motion detecting security lighting at the site, and if conditions warrant, install the lighting.
- 4b-5: Provide information, education and publicity about proper behavior in State Parks and vandalism prevention.
- 4b-6: Remove the climbing bolts at Clark's Lookout.
- 4b-7: Investigate installing a security light at the entrance gate if necessary.
- 4b-8: Investigate installing a security fence on the south side of the park if necessary.
- 4b-9: Investigate moving the mailboxes off of park property.
- 4b-10: Develop an alternative strategy if access from the south part of the park results in increases in vandalism (signs, fences, ordinances).

# IV. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## A. OVERVIEW

The Bannack/Clark's Lookout State Park Manager will take the primary responsibility for monitoring and updating the plan. The plan will be reviewed annually by a Planning Review Team that would include the Park Manager, Regional FWP staff, citizen members of the 2000 planning team, and other individuals as determined by the Park Manager. If citizen members of the 2000 Planning Team are unavailable, the Park Manager will designate other citizens interested in Clark's Lookout to participate. The Planning Review Team will review the budget, timeline and projected outcomes in the Management Plan.

The implementation plan targets dates for specific project or action completion. These dates will be refined in the annual budgeting and scheduling review process. Actual costs will also be determined in the annual budgeting cycle. Note that Staff or Labor under the Needed Resources category below indicates that labor time will be needed to complete the work. Level of staffing (including potential contracting or volunteer assistance) will be determined as part of annual work programming.

## B. INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

### 1. ACCESS, ACQUISITION & SITE DEVELOPMENT

**Goal 1a:** To provide a safe area to enter and park at Clark's Lookout to facilitate the use of the park by the public in a variety of vehicles including large buses and motor homes and to provide emergency access through the park.

Implementing Action	By When	Measurable Outcome	Needed Resources
1a-1: Get approval from the railroad for crossing	2003	Crossing approved	Staff
1a-2: Secure easement for road	2003	Easement secured	Staff
1a-3: Work with DOT on speed limit/turning lane	2003	Decision made	Staff
1a-4: Work with Beaverhead Co.	Ongoing	Cooperation/MOU	Staff
1a-5: Formalize county easement	2003	Formalized easement	Staff
1a-6: Secure funding	Ongoing	Financial resources obtained	Staff
1a-7: Complete EA	2003	EA Completed	Staff or contract
1a-8: Formalize easements: Entrance Road - Beaverhead County Railroad Crossing - Railroad	2003	Written documentation	Staff

**Goal 1b:** To provide basic amenities to accommodate public use and protect the natural resources of Clark’s Lookout while still maintaining the simple, rustic atmosphere.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
1b-1: Secure funding	2004	Money available	Staff
1b-2: Complete EA	2003	Final decision	Staff/ Contract
1b-3: Implement plan	2004	Development complete	Contract
1b-4: Budget \$20,000 for paving	2003	Road Paved	Contract/Work with county

**Goal 1c:** To preserve the viewshed from the Lookout through land easements and/or acquisitions.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
1c-1: Prioritize easements/acquisitions	2003/ ongoing	Initial list completed	Staff/ Planning team
1c-2: Pursue funding for easements & acquisitions	2003/ongoing	Priority properties with easements or acquisition	Staff/Land section FWP

## **2. INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION**

Goal 2a: Develop a quality interpretive site that will increase the community’s support and establish a sense of pride for the site, which in turn may reduce vandalism.

Goal 2b: As both a good neighbor and a host, the interpretation at the site should make visitors feel welcomed. It should help them understand where they are in relation to the facilities, features and sites boundaries. It should let them know where they are allowed to walk.

Goal 2c: The site should be recognized as part of the larger community. Information about the site and the local area should be readily available regardless of staff presence.

Goal 2d: The site should be clean and well kept. Visitors should feel a sense of responsibility to assist in keeping the site clean.

Goal 2e: The site should be safe for visitors to enjoy. The interpretive elements should be designed in such a way as to help reduce risk to the visitor.

Goal 2f: Discourage damage to the site resources and prohibit climbing.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When?</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
2-1: Work to develop site information	2003	Brochures/signs	Staff/funding
2-2: Install signs	2004	Signs in place	Labor
2-3: Develop entrance sign	2003	Design completed	Staff or contract
2-4: Develop site orientation	2003	Directional signs in place	Staff/Funds
2-5: Complete & implement interpretation plan.	2004	Plan complete	Staff or contract out
2-6: Develop school curriculum	2005	Curriculum Complete	Staff or contract out
2-7: Remove climbing bolts	2002	No bolts in place	Labor
2-8: Prohibit climbing	2002	Policy in place/ facility signed and information publicized	Staff
2-9: Work to connect to recreational trails	2004	Cooperation with other agencies	Staff/Funds
2-10: Include limited seating & basic amenities in park design	2002	Incorporate in design and development	Staff/Funds

### **3. OPERATIONS, STAFFING AND FUNDING**

Goal 3a: Provide resources (budget and staff) to construct facilities and maintain and operate the site into the future.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
3a-1: Request operations funding/grants for operations & maintenance	2002	Funding secure for 2002	Staff/Funds
3a-2: Prepare environmental assessment	2003	Decision notice	Staff or contract out
3a-3: Obtain operations budget/personnel authority	2004	Funds acquired	Staff/Support/ Funds
3a-4: Provide training for caretaker	2004	Training completed	Staff
3a-5: Implement park maintenance	2002/ ongoing	Park meets standards	Labor
3a-6: Work with WMC on intern/work study	2003	Internship secured for 2004	Staff
3a-7: Research grants	2002/ ongoing	Funding provided	Staff

Goal 3b: Manage and operate Clark's Lookout State Park in an efficient manner while assuring public safety and a high level of maintenance and cleanliness.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
3b-1: Determine operating & maintenance regime	2002	Develop schedules/operations manual	Staff
3b-2: Establish seasons, days & operations hours	2002	Initial seasons/hours established	Staff
3b-3: Determine staff schedules	2003	Initial schedules	Staff
3b-4: Prepare checklist of caretaker responsibilities	2002	List developed	Staff
3b-5: Establish site security/law enforcement	2003	Routine patrols/neighborhood watch	Staff/Volunteers/County
3b-6: Develop caretaker training	2002	Training developed	Staff
3b-7: Establish group registration process & protocol	2003	Procedures in place	Staff
3b-8: Develop & maintain neighbor relations	Ongoing	Good working relationship	Staff
3b-9: Develop & maintain ditch company relations	Ongoing	Good working relationship	Staff
3b-10: Develop and maintain Railroad relations	Ongoing	Good working relationship	Staff
3b-11: Control noxious weeds with County	Ongoing	Noxious weeds controlled	Staff/Volunteers/County

## **4. SAFETY, VANDALISM & LIABILITY**

Goal 4a: Reduce the dangers and hazards to park visitors at Clark's Lookout State Park without compromising the historic integrity of the site.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
4a-1: Leave top of rock uninhibited. Provide safety warnings in brochures	2003	No barriers/ Brochure completed	Staff/ Materials/ Funds
4a-2: Clean up dry materials & mow grass	2002	Fire hazard reduced	Staff/Labor
4a-3: Provide accessible, emergency escape route for first response vehicles	2004	South emergency access in place	Staff/Labor/ County
4a-4: Upgrade railroad fence	2003	New fence	Labor/ Funds
4a-5: Conduct traffic study on HWY 91 & reduce speed	2003	Study complete	Montana Hwy Dept.
4a-6: Install turn lanes on Hwy 91	2004	Agreement w/ MT Hwy Dept.	Funds
4a-7: Limit access to irrigation ditch	2003	Access limited	Staff/ Materials

Goal 4b: Design and manage Clark's Lookout to reduce the potential for vandalism at the site.

<b>Implementing Action</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Needed Resources</b>
4b-1: Establish park hours	2003	Sign/ Brochures	Staff/Funds/ Materials
4b-2: Locking entrance gate	2004	Gate in place	Labor/ Materials/Funds
4b-3: Neighborhood watch program	2003	Coordinate program	Staff/ Cooperation
4b-4: Investigate security lighting	As needed	Establish cost/ Necessity	Staff
4b-5: Provide information	On-going	News releases/ radio coverage	Staff/
4b-6: Remove climbing bolts	2002	Bolts gone	Labor
4b-7: Investigate security light at entrance	As needed	Establish cost/ necessity	Staff
4b-8: Investigate security fence	As needed	Establish cost/ necessity	Staff
4b-9: Investigate moving mailboxes	2002	Mailboxes moved to private property	Staff
4b-10: Alternative strategy	As needed	Decreased vandalism	Staff

