



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:ARS018-04
November 30, 2004

TO: Governor's Office, Attn: Todd O'Hair, PO Box 200801, Helena, 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601; Kalispell: Jon Dahlberg*
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Director's Office: Reg Peterson; Parks: Walt Timmerman, Allan Kuser;
Design & Construction: Paul Valle; Legal Unit: Brandi Fisher
*SHPO, PO Box 201202, Helena, 59620-1202
Tom McDonald, Div Admin, CSKT Natural Resources, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855
*Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800 (e-mailed)
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
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715
Rep. John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-93187
Sen. Mike Taylor, Box 152, Proctor, 59929-0152
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Avenue E, Polson, 59860
Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901
Polson City Library, 2 First Avenue E, Polson, 59860

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region One, has written a draft environmental assessment (EA) for Lake Mary Ronan State Park for the purpose of extending the power and water lines at the park.

The draft will be out for public review until December 30, 2004. Please direct your questions or comments to Regional Parks Manager Marty Watkins, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail mawatkins@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Alan Wood
Acting Regional Supervisor

/ni
Enclosure

Lake Mary Ronan Power and Waterline Extension Draft Environmental Assessment

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action:

The proposed action is to extend the power and water lines at Lake Mary Ronan State Park. The purpose is to provide three additional risers to provide water for public use and to provide low intensity lighting at the vault toilets to enable campers to see/use them after dark. The secondary purpose is to provide water access at the vault toilets so water can be put in the vaults to reduce vault odor.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 23-1-101

3. Name of Project: Lake Mary Ronan Power and Waterline Extension

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

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Winter, 2004

Estimated Completion Date: Spring, 2005

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 75%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range, and township):

Lake Mary Ronan State Park, Lake County, T25N, R22W

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

	Acre		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	_____
residential	_____		
industrial	_____	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland ..	_____
(b) Open	10	dry cropland	_____
	_____	forestry	_____
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas ...	_____	rangeland	_____
		other	_____

8. Map/Site Plan: Attach an original 8½" 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.

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

Lake Mary Ronan State Park is located on Lake Mary Ronan, providing public access to one of the most popular fishing lakes in the region. Visitation in 2003 was 15,521. Three private resorts exist on this lake, and total fishing pressure in 2003 was 18,674 fishing days, down from 29,061 in 1995. Current facilities consist of 27 campsites, two host pads, three vault toilets, and one water riser to service the 27 campsites.

Two of the vault toilets are of the “Sweet Smelling Vault” design and are constructed out of concrete with skylights to allow lighting into the structures. One vault is of an older design with a wooden structure and fiberglass vault. The wooden toilet is scheduled for replacement in the next year. None of the toilets have power near the structures to provide interior lighting to enable them to be easily used at night or to provide low-level exterior lighting under the eaves so campers can find the toilets after dark. One of the design features of these toilets is the need to ensure that there is enough water in the vault to cover the solids, thus providing a seal to prevent odor. Because of evaporation and the unavailability of water to refill the vaults, odor has become a significant problem.

The purpose of this project is threefold:

1. Provide three additional water risers in the park that will make water more convenient for campers and will provide a mechanism for staff to add water to the vault toilets to reduce odor.
2. Provide low-level lighting inside and under the eaves of the three vault toilets so they can be located after dark, and provide sufficient interior lighting for their use at night. Interior lighting will be on a timer and motion sensor, so lighting will only occur after dark and when someone is using the toilet.
3. Install a 20’ light pole to provide lighting near the boat ramp for the parking and ramp area. This lighting will improve security and safety in the parking lot, and provide lighting for people loading or unloading their boats before sunrise or after sunset.

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

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#
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(b) Funding:

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Agency Name Funding Amount

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name Type of Responsibility

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

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the proposed action, including secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical and human environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
>a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Y	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 (list)						

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

1b. During trenching to install underground water and power lines, soil disturbance will occur. The disturbed areas will be raked and reseeded with native grass mixes to prevent erosion and inhibit the spread of noxious weeds.

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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 13c.)			X		Y	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
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. During trenching operations some dust will be emitted into the air. This will quickly settle. In addition, since this project is anticipated for fall/winter/spring construction, soil moisture will inhibit dust formation. After the project the ground will be seeded with native mixes to encourage regeneration and inhibit future dust from bare ground.

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

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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				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
◆◆1. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
◆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.)		X				
n. Other:						

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

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

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4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		Y	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		Y	4b
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		Y	4e
◆◆f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:						

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

4a, b: Ground disturbance of areas trenched for underground utilities will occur. These areas will be raked and seeded with native grass mixes. For a short time this will alter the current brush/rose/snowberry mix, but those species will slowly recolonize the disturbed areas.

4e: The areas will continue to be managed under the Region One Noxious Weed Management Program. In addition, after disturbance the areas disturbed will be monitored for noxious weeds, and any weeds found will be sprayed or pulled.

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

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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				
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.)		X				
♦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.)		X				
j. Other:						

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

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

B. 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		N	6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X		N	6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

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

6a and b: During trenching, noise levels will increase due to use of machinery. This will be temporary. In addition, since the work will be done in the off-season and will not be occurring in close proximity to neighbors, the opportunity for nuisance noise will be reduced.

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. Conflict 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):

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

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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):

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):

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

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

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

10d. When this project is completed, more electricity will be used. The increase will be insignificant, but efforts will be made to keep the vault toilet lights at low levels and use energy-efficient lighting near the boat ramp/parking area.

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

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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			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:						

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

11c: Recreational experience will be enhanced if the odor in the vault toilets can be reduced and visitors can locate and use the vault toilets after dark. Lighting at the boat ramp/parking area will enhance safety by enabling people to see their vehicles and be able to load their boats after dark. In addition, the lighting will serve as a beacon to people on the lake to enable them to locate the boat ramp more easily while coming off the water.

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 12a.)		X				
e. Other:						

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

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

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. 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. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
♦♦g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

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

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

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

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

Alternative 1: Run water from well pit to riser near vault toilet in parking area. Run water from water riser located near campsite 25 along the roadway system to new risers located near the vault toilets near campsites 21 and 5. Run power from the well pit to the vault toilet near the parking areas, and from the well pit to a 20' light pole near the boat ramp. Run power from the well pit to the vault toilets near campsites 21 and 5. This alternative would avoid having to cut any pavement in the park, which would increase the cost of the project and impacting the pavement. The length of the trenching is approximately the same as that in Alternative 2. This alternative would require more disturbance of areas currently undisturbed by development.

Alternative 2: Run water from well pit to riser near vault toilet in parking area. Run water from water riser located near campsite 25 along the roadway system to new risers located near the vault toilets near campsites 21 and 5. Run power from the well pit to the vault toilet near the parking areas and from the well pit to a 20' light pole near the boat ramp. Run power from the host pad, cutting the pavement across the main entrance road, and then following the entrance road, crossing at approximately campsite 10, then following the road system to the vault toilet near campsite 5, and going down the center of the camp loop to the vault toilet near campsite 21. This alternative would have less impact on undisturbed areas, but would require cutting through pavement, and increase the cost of the project.

Alternative 3: No-action alternative: Do not complete the project. While this alternative would have less immediate impact on the park, it would not provide the customer amenities needed to provide for customer enjoyment and safety.

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

1b. During trenching to install underground water and power lines, soil disturbance will occur. The disturbed areas will be raked and reseeded with native grass mixes to prevent erosion and inhibit the spread of noxious weeds.

2a. During trenching operations some dust will be emitted into the air. This will quickly settle. In addition, since this project is anticipated for fall/winter/spring construction, soil moisture will inhibit dust formation. After the project the ground will be seeded with native mixes to encourage regeneration and inhibit future dust from bare ground.

4a, b: Ground disturbance of areas trenched for underground utilities will occur. These areas will be raked and seeded with native grass mixes. For a short time this will alter the current brush/rose/snowberry mix, but those species will slowly recolonize the disturbed areas.

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4e: The areas will continue to be managed under the Region One Noxious Weed Management Program. In addition, after disturbance the areas disturbed will be monitored for noxious weeds, and any weeds found will be sprayed or pulled.

6a and b: During trenching, noise levels will increase due to use of machinery. This will be temporary. In addition, since the work will be done in the off-season and will not be occurring in close proximity to neighbors, the opportunity for nuisance noise will be reduced.

10d. When this project is completed, more electricity will be used. The increase will be insignificant, but efforts will be made to keep the vault toilet lights at low levels and use energy-efficient lighting near the boat ramp/parking area.

11c: Recreational experience will be enhanced if the odor in the vault toilets can be reduced and visitors can locate and use the vault toilets after dark. Lighting at the boat ramp/parking area will enhance safety by enabling people to see their vehicles and be able to load their boats after dark. In addition, the lighting will serve as a beacon to people on the lake to enable them to locate the boat ramp more easily while coming off the water.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

This is a relatively simple project to enhance visitor satisfaction by providing low-level lighting in the vault toilets, provide safety lighting near the boat ramp and parking area, and provide three additional water risers to provide water to the public and for administrative functions. The intent of this project is not to provide hookups or impact the rustic nature of this state park.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

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

Due to the scope and limited impact of this project, an EA is the proper level of assessment. An EIS is not required. All impacts can be mitigated, or are temporary or insignificant.

- 2. 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:**

This project will be advertised in the Polson and Kalispell newspapers and posted on the FWP web site. Notification about the project will be sent to parties expected to be interested in the project. There will be a thirty-day comment period, and if there is sufficient interest, a public meeting will be held.

- 3. Duration of comment period, if any:** Thirty days, from November 30 through December 30, 2004.

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

Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4573
mawatkins@state.mt.us

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