

# Montana's Picture Perfect State Parks

Over the past three years, *Montana Outdoors* has profiled some of the state's most historic, scenic, and fun state parks, including Makoshika, Giant Springs, Chief Plenty Coups, and Bannack. We'll continue to tell how other parks came to be and what to see and do there. But in this issue, we thought we'd let some spectacular images do the talking.

*Right:* The clear waters of Belt Creek flow north through a spectacular limestone canyon at Sluice Boxes State Park.

JOHN LAMBING

*Below:* At Missouri Headwaters State Park, visitors share a view seen 200 years earlier by Captain Meriwether Lewis.

LIZ LEWIS



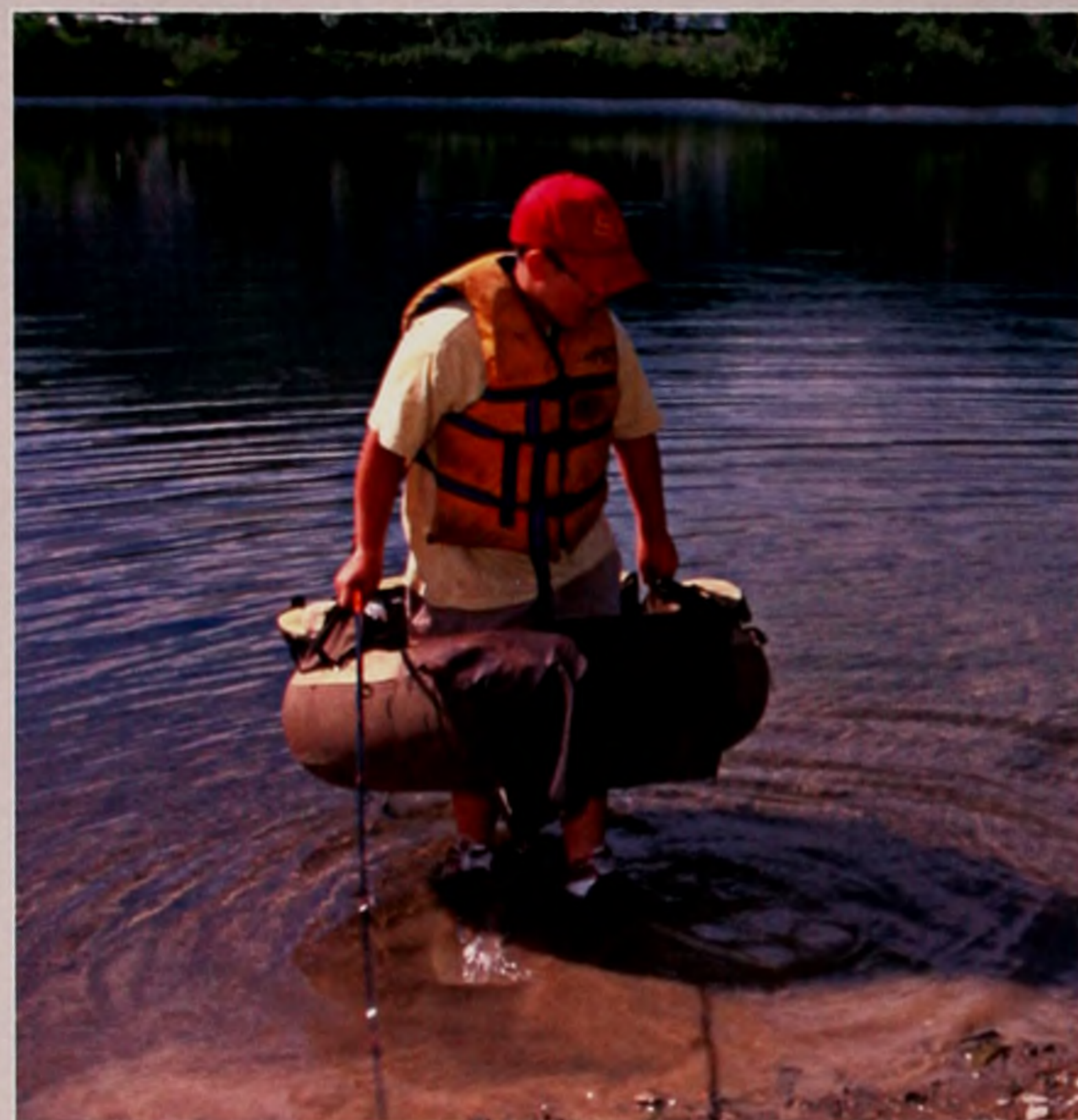








*Above:* Warblers, woodpeckers, and other birds abound at the Wayfarers unit of Flathead Lake State Park.  
CRAIG & LIZ LARCOM



*Top:* A trout angler emerges from fishing at Spring Meadow Lake State Park.  
CRAIG & LIZ LARCOM



*Above:* Touring Whitefish Lake State Park by kayak.  
CRAIG & LIZ LARCOM

*Below:* A visitor walks to the old log cabin at tiny Parker Homestead State Park.  
JEFF ERICKSON







*Above:* Late afternoon light warms historic buildings at Bannack State Park, the site of Montana's first territorial capital.

JEFF HENRY



*Left:* Stately Fraternity Hall at the Elkhorn State Park ghost town shows the pride early settlers took in their public buildings.

JEFF ERICKSON

*Right:* The well-preserved superintendent's house is all that remains of a mining camp at Granite Ghost Town State Park.

CRAIG & LIZ LARCOM







*Left:* The Apsáalooke leader's proud home at Chief Plenty Coups State Park is testament to the chief's hope that his people would adopt the best of both white and Indian cultures.

JEFF HENRY

*Right:* An all-too-brief rainstorm fills stone depressions atop the buffalo jump at Ulm Pishkun State Park.

JOHN LAMBING

*Below:* Replicas of early camp shelters are part of the cultural exhibits at Ulm Pishkun.

LIZ LEWIS







*Above:* Prehistoric paintings dating back 2,000 years depict hunting scenes at Pictograph Cave State Park.  
PHIL FARNES

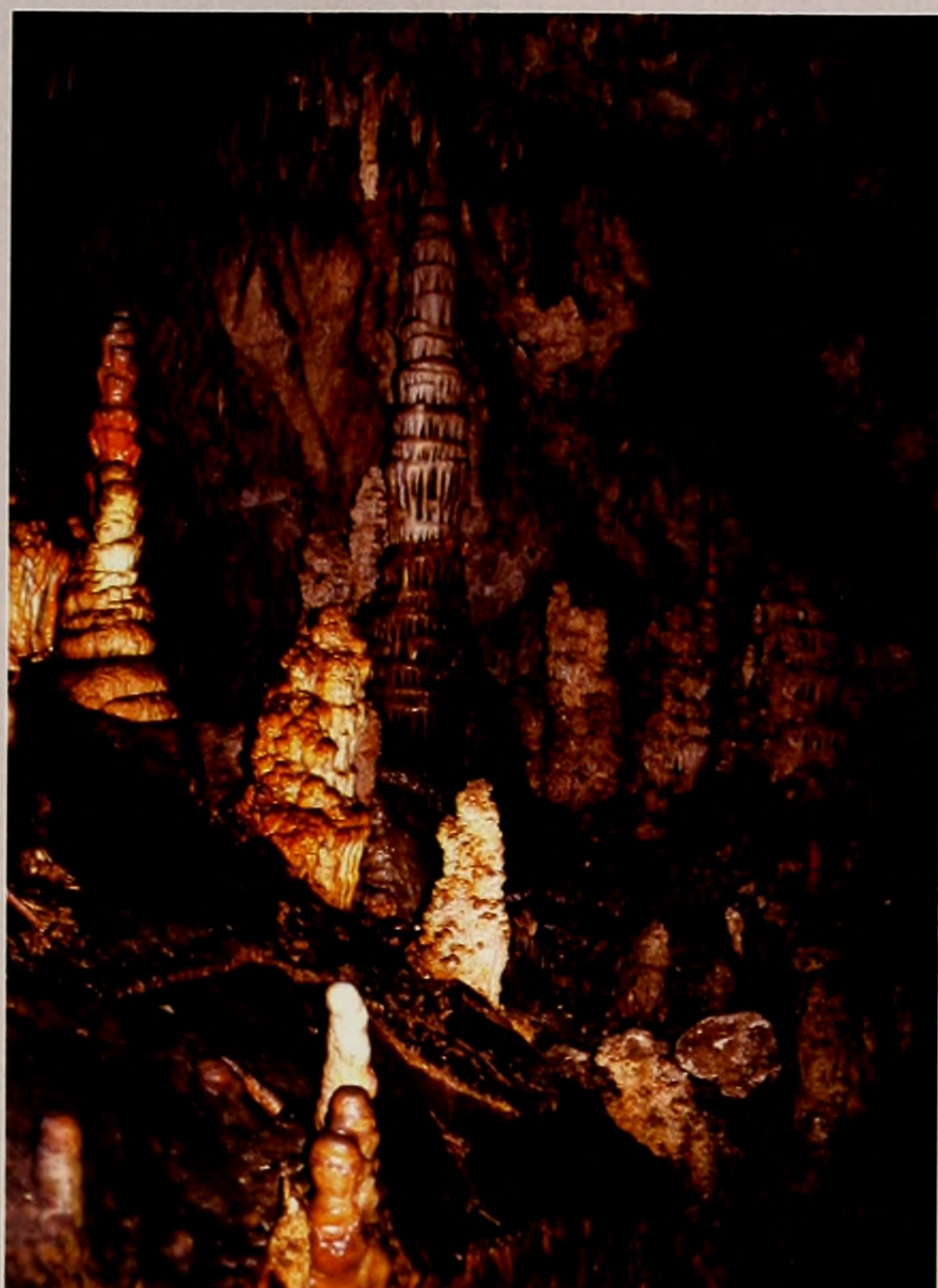


*Left:* Games help students learn the significance of historic routes like the Old North Trail, Road to the Buffalo Trail, and Nez Perce Trail, which pass through the Travelers' Rest State Park area.  
NORMAN JACOBSON









*Facing page:* Like monstrous mushrooms, sandstone formations stand watch over the stark, alien landscape of Makoshika State Park.  
DIANE HARGREAVES

*Left:* Colorful stalagmites rise from the bottom of Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.  
PHIL FARNES

*Below:* As it has for centuries, the austere beauty of Medicine Rocks State Park enralls all who visit this remote eastern Montana site.  
CHUCK AND GALE ROBBINS



*Learn more about Montana's 50 state parks at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov).*

