

**Montana Department  
of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



**RECEIVED**

JUL 3 1991

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref:JC1.92  
July 2, 1991

Ms. Deborah Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Environmental Quality Council  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Region One of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has completed an environmental assessment on the proposal to permit the Great Bear Adventure Park near Coram, Montana. Enclosed is a copy of that EA, with copies of comments received between June 10 and June 28 and a narrative of speakers and comment at the June 12 public meeting.

Respectfully,

*H. James Cross*

H. James Cross  
Wildlife Manager

HJC/gw

Enc.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620  
(406) 444-2449

RECEIVED  
JUL 3 1991  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Division/Bureau Wildlife/Enforcement

Project or Application Great Bear Adventure Park

**Description of Project** Russell and Peggy Kilpatrick, Box 212, Kila, Montana, 59920, have made application for a Roadside Zoo and Menagerie Permit to operate a drive-through bear park near Coram, Montana. The Kilpatricks have fenced an 8-acre parcel of land in Tract 2 of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, T31N R19W, MPM, (See Exhibit 1), and will place three to six black bears in the fenced area initially. These bears will be available for viewing on a fee basis by the public in a vehicle drive-through natural-appearing setting.

The park contains a coniferous vegetation community dominated by lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta) and enclosed by a single perimeter fence consisting of a 6-foot high steel page-wire mesh below three strands of barbed wire, to make an 8-foot high perimeter fence. The perimeter fence also contains electrified wired near the bottom on both the inside and outside, (See Exhibit 3). The bears will utilize natural foods found in the coniferous vegetation community, supplemented by selected prepared foods, grains and minerals.

**Description of Benefits and Purposes of Proposed Action:** The drive-through park is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to view bears in a natural setting. This natural-appearing setting could allow people to learn about bear behavior, feeding habits, resting patterns and social interactions. The location is near Glacier National Park and optimizes opportunities to attract travelers and tourists during the late spring/summer/early fall seasons.

**Affected Agencies:** The nature of the proposal will be of concern to several agencies or entities from the federal level to the local level. These concerns range from regulatory to environmental to social. A listing of agencies and entities have jurisdictional or environmental review responsibility in the proposed action includes, but may not be limited to:

- U.S. Forest Service, Flathead National Forest
- U.S. Park Service, Glacier National Park
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
- State of Montana, Department of Highways
- State of Montana, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Flathead County Regional Development Office
- Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Falls
- State of Montana, Environmental Quality Council, Helena

### **Evaluation of Impacts on the Physical Environment:**

Location: The site of the park is within habitat classified as Management Situation 1 for grizzly bear recovery and management. These areas are important to the survival of grizzly bear in a natural, free-ranging condition. The probability is great that major activities and programs may have direct and/or indirect relationships to the conservation and recovery of grizzly bear. The 8-acre parcel currently fenced, and plans to fence an additional 14 acres, is not a major activity but will remove that land base from seasonal use potential by grizzly bear. Activities like the Great Bear Adventure Park do contribute to the cumulative affects of other minor activities and can become a long-term impact to the recovery of a segment of the grizzly bear population.

The site of the park is not in compliance with a Master Plan developed by the Flathead County Regional Development Office for planning and development of rural areas of the county, but the site has not been zoned in accordance with the Master Plan. The park is near other commercial development along U.S. Highway 2 and near the town of Coram, Montana, both of which contribute toward a cluster-development concept that tends to minimize a concern for impacts to a reported grizzly bear travelway between Glacier National Park and the Great Bear Wilderness.

The site of the park is within habitats currently available to a broad variety of terrestrial wildlife uses. The fenced park will be dedicated to a single species use. Black bear that have been introduced into the fenced park will become an attractant to individual wild bears, both black and grizzly, that use the park area on a seasonal basis. Wild bears have an acute sense of smell and find much of their food by smelling. Bears have the capability of smelling carcasses from several miles away. Male bears find many of their mates by smelling and following scent trails.

Size: The park contains about 8 acres, of which a portion is used as a permanent road bed. Six black bear are to be placed in the fenced park and are to utilize the natural foods found on the site. The park may be expanded to 22 acres in the future. Based upon published literature for black bear home range size in habitats similar to the park, 8 acres will be inadequate to satisfy the seasonal needs of an average female black bear. The addition of five other bears to the confined park will result in modifications to the habitat that will no longer represent a natural-appearing setting. Supplemental feeding of the confined bears will become the primary source of food.

### **Evaluation of Impacts on the Human Population:**

Location: The site is accessed from U.S. Highway 2 about 1½ miles north of Coram, Montana. Based upon projected use levels, traffic volumes and safety conditions will be within designed standards utilized by the Montana Department of Highways for this portion of Highway 2.

Educational Opportunity: Public comment on the educational value of the park was divided but several people suggested that a facility like the Great Bear Adventure Park could be a valuable educational opportunity for the public. The park concept is consistent with emerging interests in watchable wildlife programs and opportunities. Local travel promotion groups indicate that there are needs for developments like the park that have potential to extend the recreational opportunities and season in this valley.

There are concerns that the Great Bear Adventure Park may convey the wrong perception of black bears in this natural-appearing setting and that segments of the public may develop erroneous expectations of bear-human interactions during encounters in truly natural settings. The size of the park, proposed stocking density and availability of natural foods does indicate that supplemental feeding will probably become the primary food source for the bears and that may be an incorrect perception to portray of bears in a natural setting. The appearance of the vegetation within the fenced park will be modified by the concentrated bear use and could mislead the public about bear use of natural environments.

Bears within the park will become more tolerant of people and may display learned behavior responses to people that are not compatible with people and bears in natural environments. The Great Bear Adventure Park will establish operational procedures that prohibit feeding of bears by visitors. There is a concern that people touring the park will feed the semi-wild bears and that human behavior may be transferred to feeding of wild bears in nearby Glacier National Park. Glacier National Park, and other national parks supporting wild bear populations, have established and actively enforce by policy, brochures, and signs a program discouraging feeding of wild animals by visiting tourists and motorists. Feeding of wild animals in Glacier National Park is a continuing concern in the Park's management program.

Perimeter Fencing: The perimeter fencing design employed by the Great Bear Adventure Park is in variance with currently used standards for animal containment under the Roadside Menagerie and Zoo or Game Farm regulations of Montana. The escapement of captive animals as well as the restraint of entry by wild animals is a concern in the fencing design at the park. The issues relative to this concern involve the integrity of gene pools in wild populations and safety of the public around the electric fence.

Bears brought into the Great Bear Adventure Park are not native to this area and could possess genetic characteristics that would not be desirable in wild bear populations if the captive bears were to escape. Conversely, if wild bears were to gain entry into the park in search of a mate during the breeding season, exchange of genetic characteristics into the wild could also occur. The occurrence of captive bears in the park may be an attractant to wild bears and their presence in the surrounding area could be viewed as a safety concern by segments of the public.

The perimeter fence is marked with warning signs at irregular intervals. Great Bear Adventure Park visitors will be restricted to their vehicles while touring the park and should not come in contact with the electric fence and receive a shock from the fence. The electric fence is pulse-charged by a relatively high voltage with a low amperage and should not be life threatening to people coming in contact with the fence although the experience will be quite unforgettable.

The concern for design of the perimeter fence in relation to escapement or restraint of bears and to public safety was reviewed by a grizzly bear specialist with the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks who has considerable experience in the use of electric fences to restrain bears from livestock and beehive food sources. The specialist's report is attached as Exhibit 6 and provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the perimeter fence.

#### **Description and Analysis of Reasonable Alternatives:**

1. Great Bear Adventure Park could utilize proven fencing techniques or modify the existing fence to lessen concerns for escapement of confined bears or for restraint of wild bears trying to enter the park.
2. Great Bear Adventure Park could use fewer bears or enlarge the park to improve the public perception of bears and their use of natural-appearing settings.

#### **Mitigation, Stipulations and Other Controls:**

1. Black bear only.
2. All bears sterilized.
3. All bears tattooed.
4. Food storage - in odor-proof containers as per U.S.D.A., A.P.H.I.S. rules.
5. Veterinary care program - need to be more specific in vaccinations that will be administered.
6. No road-killed ungulates in feeding program.
7. All provisions of roadside zoo and menagerie regulations apply except caging requirements (12.6.1302).
8. Fencing requirements:
  - backup fence energizer, 12-volt system, deep cycle battery.
  - warning signs adequate to protect public if electrical fence system approached from outside of park.
9. Fencing recommendations:
  - enhance existing fence as per recommendations, or
  - develop outside perimeter fence and use trained dogs to minimize or prevent bear escapement or entry and human entry or injury.
10. Permit review - annually with revocation rights.
11. Escaped bears - owner liable for damage and/or expenses incurred in capturing escaped bears.

**Other Agencies or Groups Contacted or Contributing Information:**

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
2. U.S. Park Service, Glacier National Park
3. State of Montana, Department of Highways
4. Flathead County, Regional Development Office
5. Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Falls
6. Jim Schrouder, Pers. Comm., S.D. Game, Fish and Parks
7. Don Gatlin, Pers. Comm., Washington Department of Wildlife
8. Robert Wilhems, Pers. Comm., U.S.D.A. APHIS Oregon
9. Bob Turner, Pers. Comm., California Fish and Game

**Literature Support:**

Chapman, J.A. and Feldhammer, G.A., Editors, 1982 "Wild Mammals of North America" John Hopkins University Press, pp 504-556

Herrero, Stephen 1985 "Bear Attacks, Their Cause and Avoidance" Winchester Press, 287 pp

Jonkel, C.J. and Cowan, I.Mc 1971 "The Black Bear in the Spruce - Fir Forest" Wildlife Monograph #27

**Preparation of Environmental Assessment:**

James Cross, Regional Wildlife Program Manager, MDFWP  
Ed Kelly, Regional Warden Captain, MDFWP

**Exhibits:**

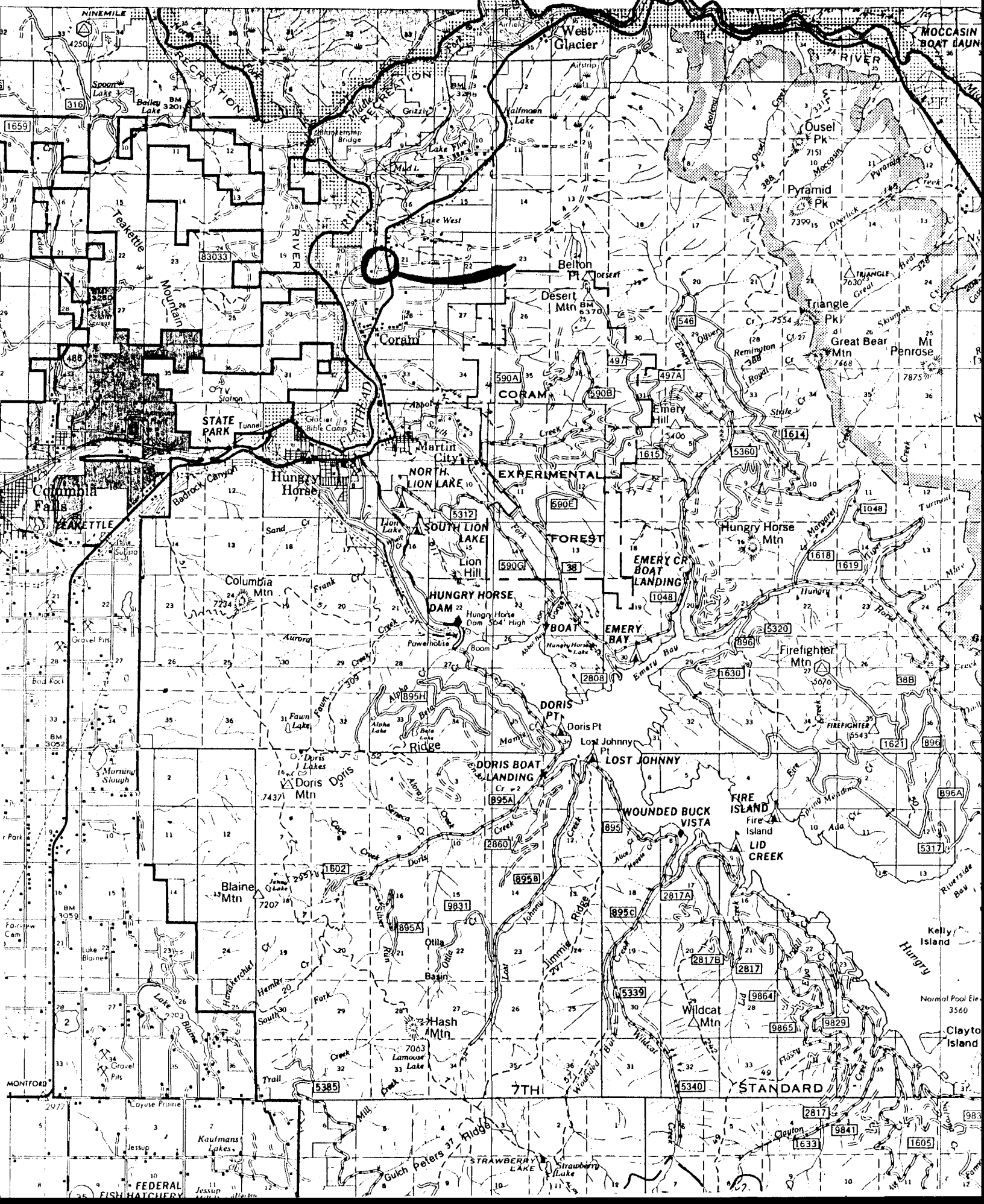
1. Vicinity Map, Great Bear Adventure Park
2. Map of Great Bear Adventure Park
3. Map of perimeter fence
4. Copy of MHD Permit
5. Summary of Public Comment
6. Electric Fence Evaluation - Madel
7. Environmental Checklist

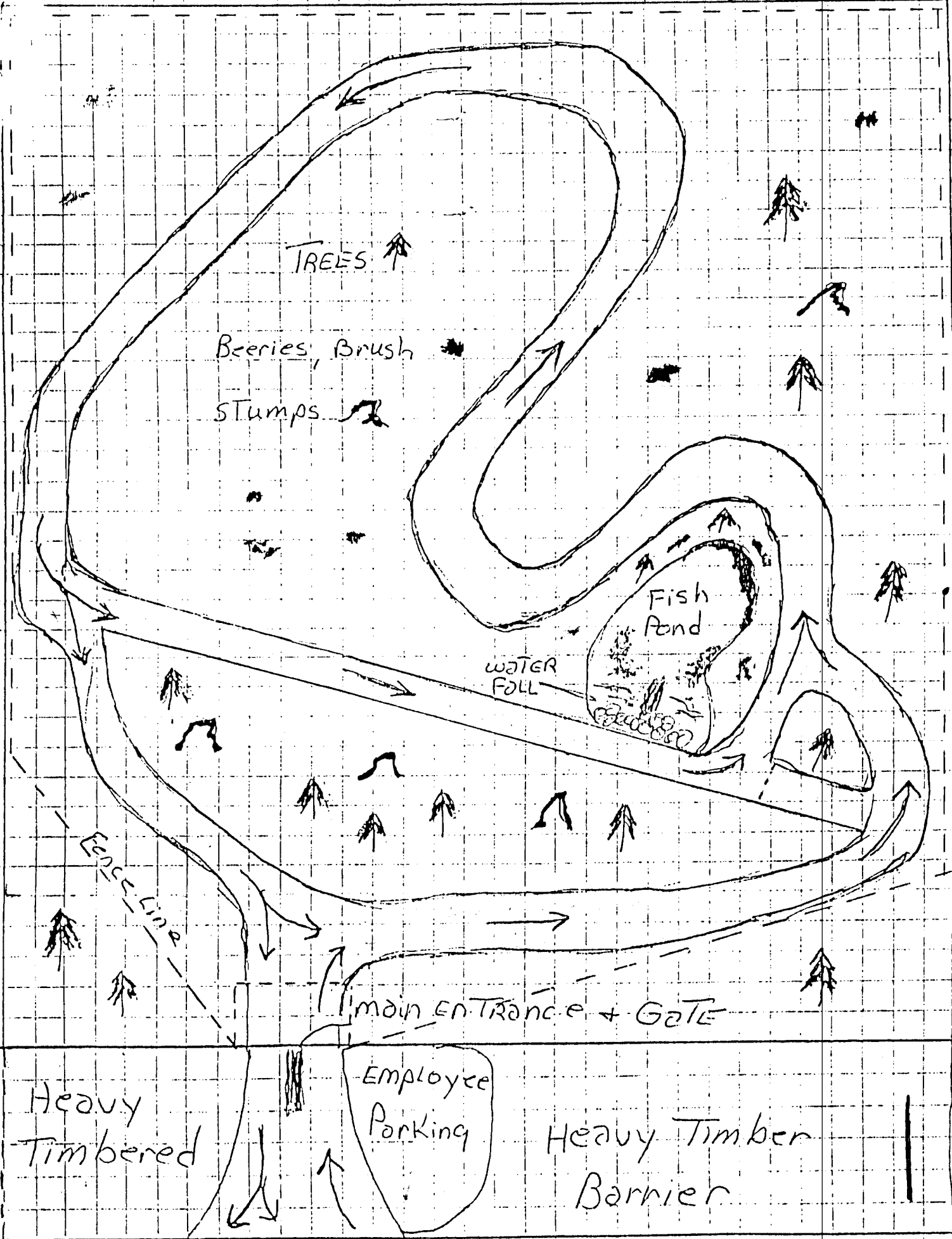
# EXHIBIT I

R. 20 W.

R. 19 W.

R. 18 W.





TREES

Berries, Brush

Stumps

Fish Pond

Water Fall

Edge Line

Main Entrance + Gate

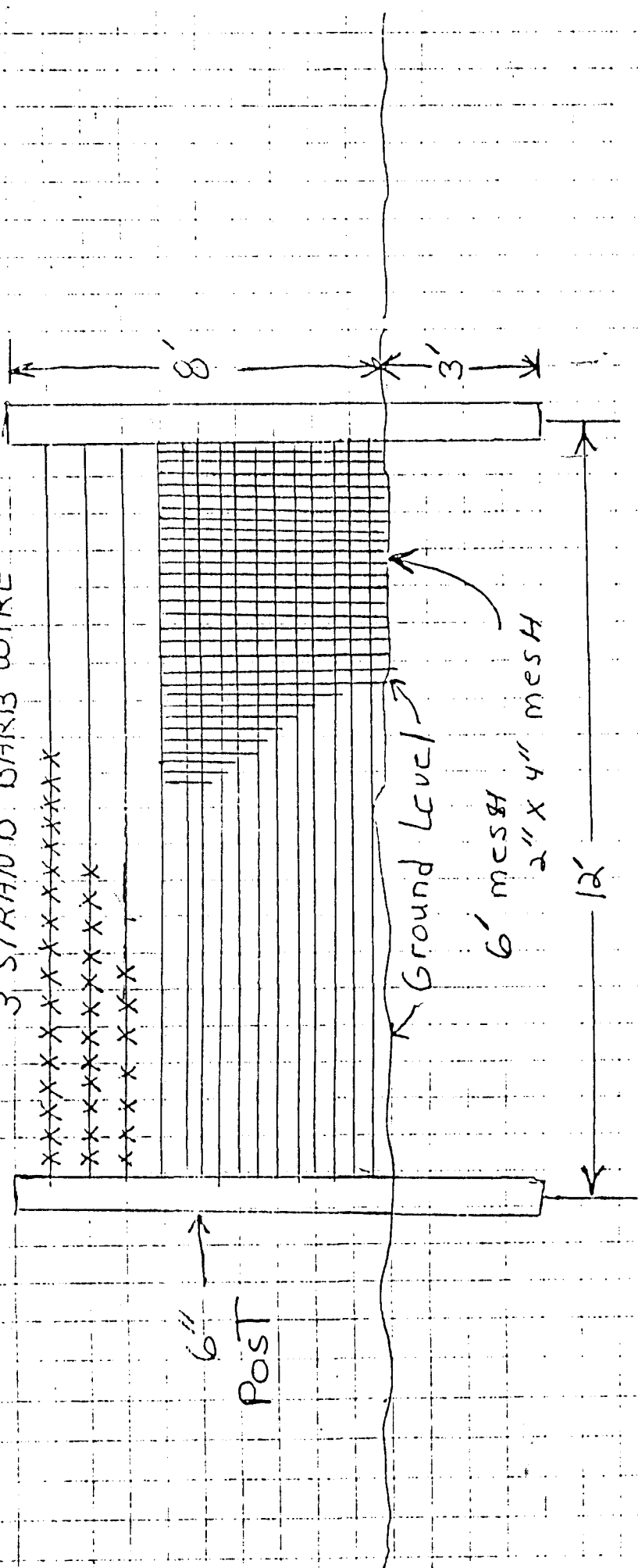
Employee Parking

Heavy Timbered

Heavy Timber Barrier



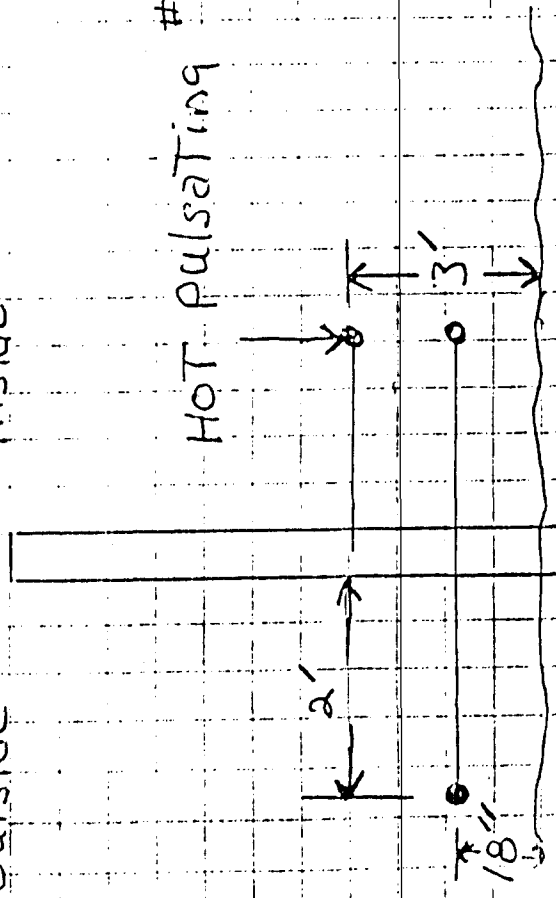
3 STRAND BARB WIRE



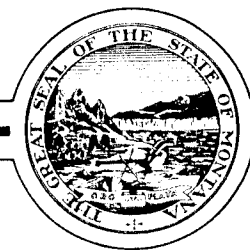
outside

inside

HOT Pulsating #12 WIRE



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

## STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 400  
Kalispell, Montana 59903-0400  
(406) 755-5717

June 25, 1991

Mr. Jim Cross  
State of Montana  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
490 North Meridian  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Subject: Great Bear Adventure  
Access - US 2

Dear Mr. Cross:

Enclosed is the requested copy of the approach permit for the Great Bear Adventure. If we can be of any further help, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen L. Herzog".

Stephen L. Herzog, P.E., Chief,  
Field Maintenance Bureau - Kalispell

SLH:ckg

cc: Area File

STATE OF MONTANA - DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620  
DRIVEWAY APPROACH APPLICATION AND PERMIT

— To be filled in by Department of Highways Personnel —

F.A. ROUTE NO. F-1 US 2 APPROACH STATION(s) 382-45

DISTRICT Missoula NO. 1202 MILEPOST 147.3

COUNTY Flathead PROJECT RTF 1-2(10)142

DRAINAGE AS DETERMINED BY DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS:

Type FA Size \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Approach Recommended by District Traffic Engineer or Traffic Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approach Application Approved by District Engineer [Signature] Date 5-23-91

Mailing Address  
Box 212  
Kila 59920

APPLICANT (Property Owner) <sup>XXXX</sup> Lessee

Name: Peggy Kilpatrick (Great Bear Adventure) Phone: 854-9303

Address: 10555 Highway 2 East, Coram, MT 59913

herein termed the applicant, requests permission to construct approach(es) described and shown on attached plot plan or plan and profile and hereby made a part of this application.

Please indicate if permits or approaches are required from units of government other than the Department of Highways. Write the number of permits required in the box:

Federal Government     State     County     City     N/A

Private: X Public: \_\_\_\_\_

Use of Property or Facility: Drive-through Bear Park  
(Residence, Trailer Court, Gas Station, Field Access, Type of Business, etc.)

LOCATION:  
City or Town: One mile east of Coram, MT  
(if rural - direction & approx. distance from nearest city or town)

Street Name, if any: US 2

ROADWAY OR HIGHWAY:

Sight Distance: Left 1000 ft. Right 1000 ft.

Surfacing: PMS Width: 44 ft.

APPROACH:

Estimated number of trips per day: 200

Width: 24 ft. Flare: 25 ft. Side of Roadway: North  
(N,E,S,W)

DRAINAGE: See above as determined by Department of Highways.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING USE OF THIS FORM

Applicant will complete and deliver this form in duplicate to the District Engineer serving the area in which the Approach Permit is requested.

The District Engineer, in conjunction with the District Traffic Engineer, is delegated authority to approve curb cuts, public and private approaches serving businesses, residences and agricultural uses in rural or urban areas without further consultation if the traffic conditions are not congested. In congested areas, usually urban situations, the District Engineer and District Traffic Engineer can request the Manager, Traffic Unit in Helena for additional technical assistance. If this is necessary, the approach should be scaled onto existing plan and profile sheets showing the highway right-of-way and sent to Helena.

- APPROACH PERMIT -

Subject to the following terms and conditions, the permit applied for upon the reverse side hereof, is hereby granted:

1. TERM. This permit shall be in full force and effect from the date hereof until revoked as herein provided.
2. RENTAL. Rental shall be none.
3. REVOCATION. This permit may be revoked by State upon giving thirty (30) days notice to Permittee by ordinary mail, directed to the address shown in the application hereto attached, but the State reserves the right to revoke this permit without giving said notice in the event Permittee breaks any of the conditions or terms set forth herein.
4. COMMENCEMENT OF WORK. No work shall be commenced until Permittee notifies the District Engineer, shown in application, when he proposes to commence work.
5. CHANGES IN HIGHWAY. If the State changes the highway, or there are other changes to adjoining streets, alleys, etc. which necessitate alterations in structures or installations installed under this permit, Permittee shall make the necessary alterations at Permittee's sole expense or in accordance with a separate agreement.
6. STATE SAVED HARMLESS FROM CLAIMS. In accepting this permit the Permittee, its/his successors or assigns, agree to protect the State and save it harmless from all claims, actions or damage of every kind and description which may accrue to, or be suffered by, any person or persons, corporations or property by reason of the performance of any such work, character of materials used, or manner of installations, maintenance and operation, or by the improper occupancy of said highway right of way, and in case any suit or action is brought against the State and arising out of, or by reason of, any of the above causes, the Permittee, its/his successors or assigns, will upon notice to it/him of the commencement of such action, defend the same at its/his sole cost and expense and satisfy any judgment which may be rendered against the State in any such suit or action.
7. PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC. Insofar as the interests of the State and the travelling public are concerned, all work performed under this permit shall be done under the supervision of the District Engineer of the Department of Highways and his authorized representatives, and he/they shall indicate barriers to be erected, the lighting thereof at night, placing of flagmen and watchmen, manner in which traffic is to be handled, and shall specify to Permittee how road surface is to be replaced if it is disturbed during operations, but said supervision shall in no way operate to relieve or discharge Permittee from any of the obligations assumed by acceptance of this permit, and especially those set forth under Section 6 thereof.
8. HIGHWAY DRAINAGE. If the work done under this permit interferes in any way with the drainage of the State Highway effected, Permittee shall, at its/his own expense, make such provisions as the State may direct to take care of said drainage.
9. RUBBISH AND DEBRIS. Upon completion of work contemplated under this permit, all rubbish and debris shall be immediately removed and the roadway and the roadside left in a neat and presentable condition satisfactory to the State.
10. WORK TO BE SUPERVISED BY STATE. All work contemplated under this permit shall be done under the supervision of and to the satisfaction of the authorized representative of the State, and the State hereby reserves the right to order the change of location or removal of any structure or installation authorized by this permit at any time, said changes or removal to be made at the sole expense of the permittee.
11. STATE'S RIGHT NOT TO BE INTERFERED WITH. All such changes, reconstructing or relocation shall be done by Permittee, in such a manner as will cause the least interference with any of the State's work, and the State shall in no wise be liable for any damage to the Permittee by reason of any such work by the State, its agents, contractors or representatives, or by the exercise of any rights by the State upon the highways by the installations or structures placed under this permit.
12. REMOVAL OF INSTALLATIONS OR STRUCTURES. Unless waived by the State, upon termination of this permit, the Permittee shall remove the installations or structures contemplated by this permit and restore the premises to the condition existing at the time of entering upon the same under this permit, reasonable and ordinary wear and tear and damage by the elements, or by circumstances over which the Permittee has no control, excepted.
13. MAINTENANCE AT EXPENSE OF PERMITTEE. Permittee shall maintain, at its/his sole expense the installations and structures for which this permit is granted, in a condition satisfactory to the State.
14. STATE NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGE TO INSTALLATIONS. In accepting this permit the Permittee agrees that any damage or injury done to said installations or structures by a contractor working for the State, or by any State employee engaged in construction, alteration, repair, maintenance or improvement of the State Highway, shall be at the sole expense of the Permittee.
15. STATE TO BE REIMBURSED FOR REPAIRING ROADWAY. Upon being billed therefor Permittee agrees to promptly reimburse State for any expense incurred in repairing surface of roadway due to settlement at installation, or for any other damage to roadway as a result of the work performed under this permit.
16. OTHER CONDITIONS AND/OR REMARKS.
  - a. All approach side slopes will be constructed on not less than 6 to 1 slope, unless otherwise approved.
  - b. No private signs or devices etc. will be constructed or installed within the Highway Right of Way limits.
  - c. This permit is valid only if approach construction is completed within 6 months from date of issue.
  - d. In the event enough traffic is generated to produce 25 left turns in one hour, a left turn bay will be required. All associated costs for left turn bays, including design and construction will be at the expense of the permittee.
  - e. The permittee has requested to remove some trees to improve visibility. The permittee may only remove trees specifically marked by HDOH personnel for removal.

NOTE: The applicant is to notify LeRoy Lucke at the Columbia Falls maintenance site when the approach is complete so he can make the inspection.

Dated at Kalispell, Montana, this 23rd day of May 19 91.

The undersigned, the "Permittee" mentioned in the foregoing instrument, hereby accepts this permit, together with all of the terms and conditions set forth therein.

Reggy B. Kelpatrick

Permittee

-One copy of permit to District Engineer for file  
-One copy of permit to Applicant

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
By Alphonse J. Keyes  
District Engineer

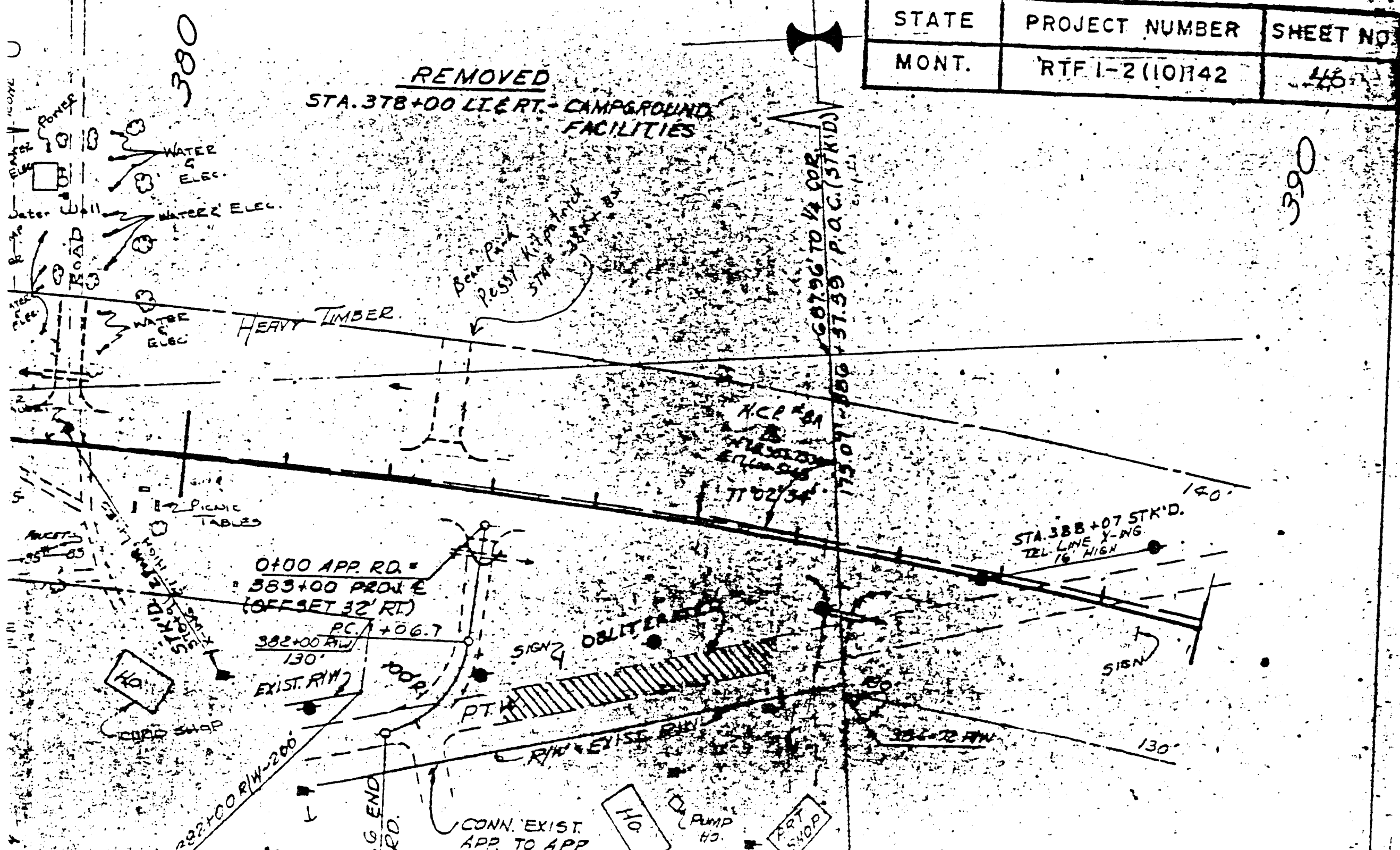
Completed approach inspected by:

Date

Title

STATE	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET NO.
MONT.	RTF 1-2 (10)42	48

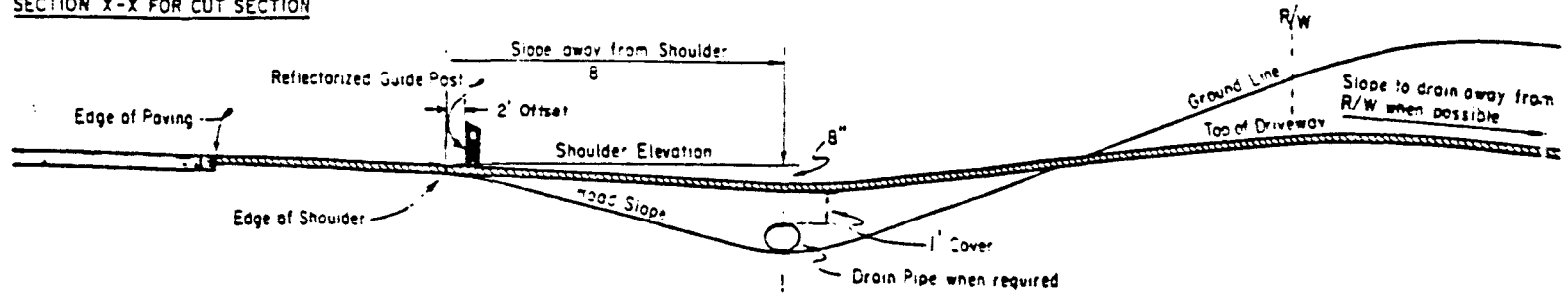
**REMOVED**  
 STA. 378+00 LIERT. - CAMPGROUND FACILITIES



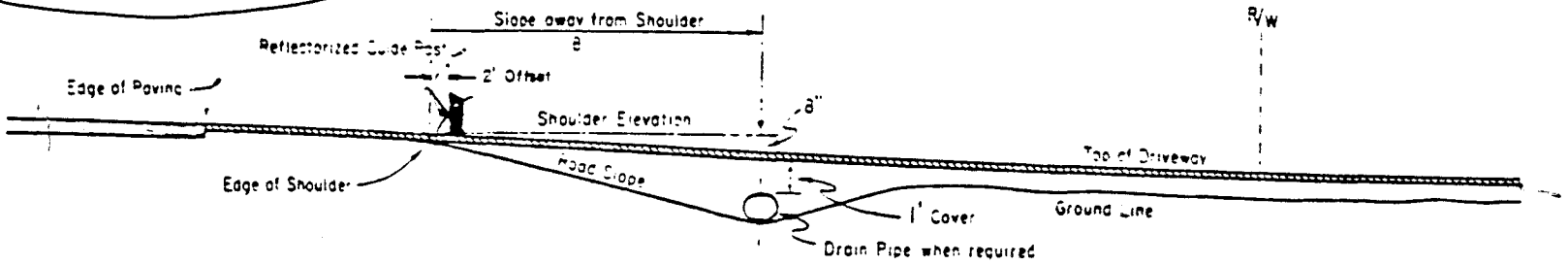
380

390

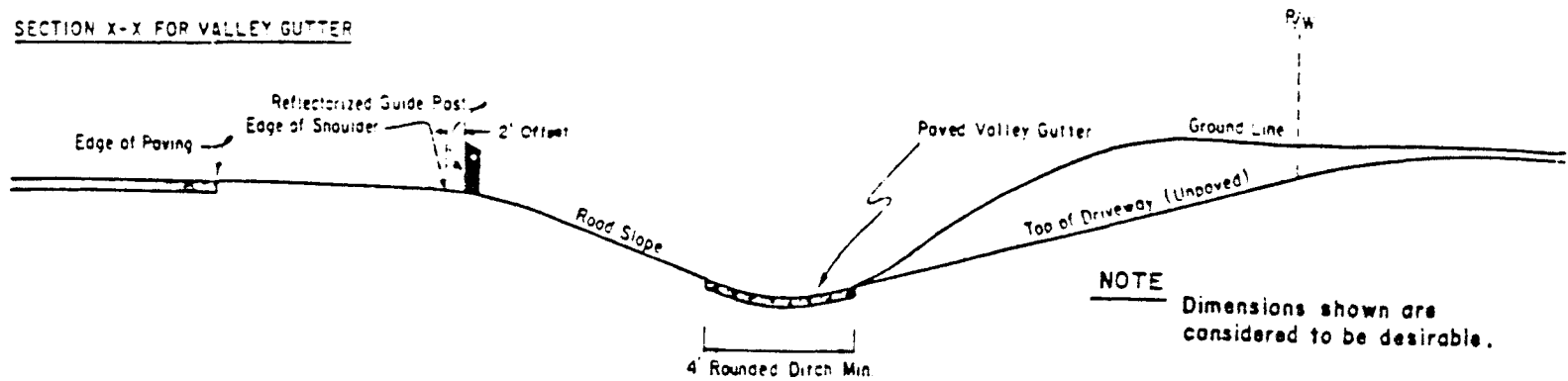
SECTION X-X FOR CUT SECTION



SECTION X-X FOR FILL SECTION



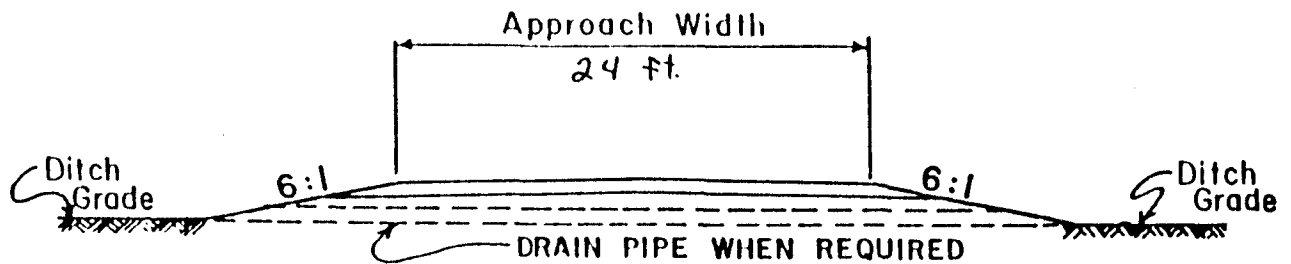
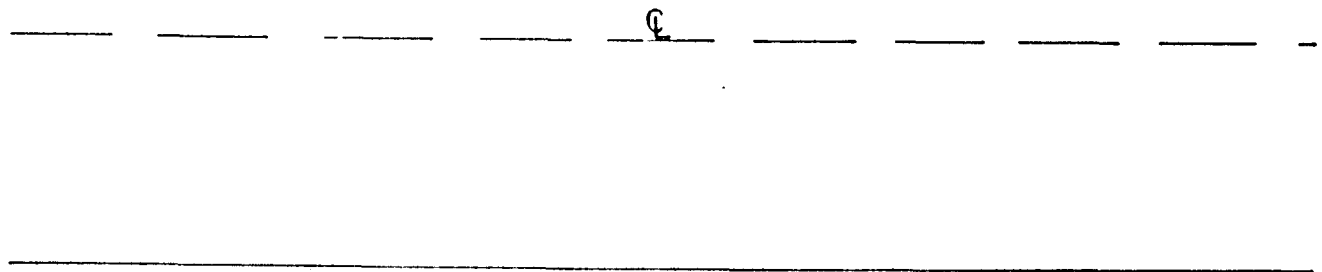
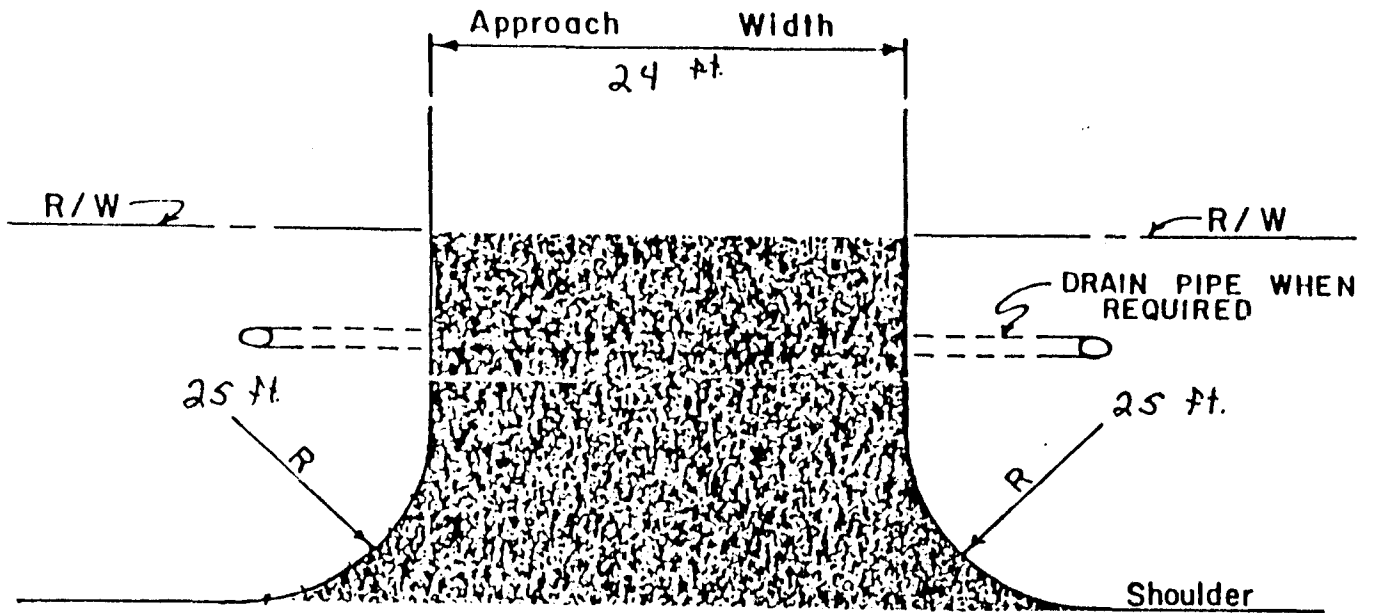
SECTION X-X FOR VALLEY GUTTER



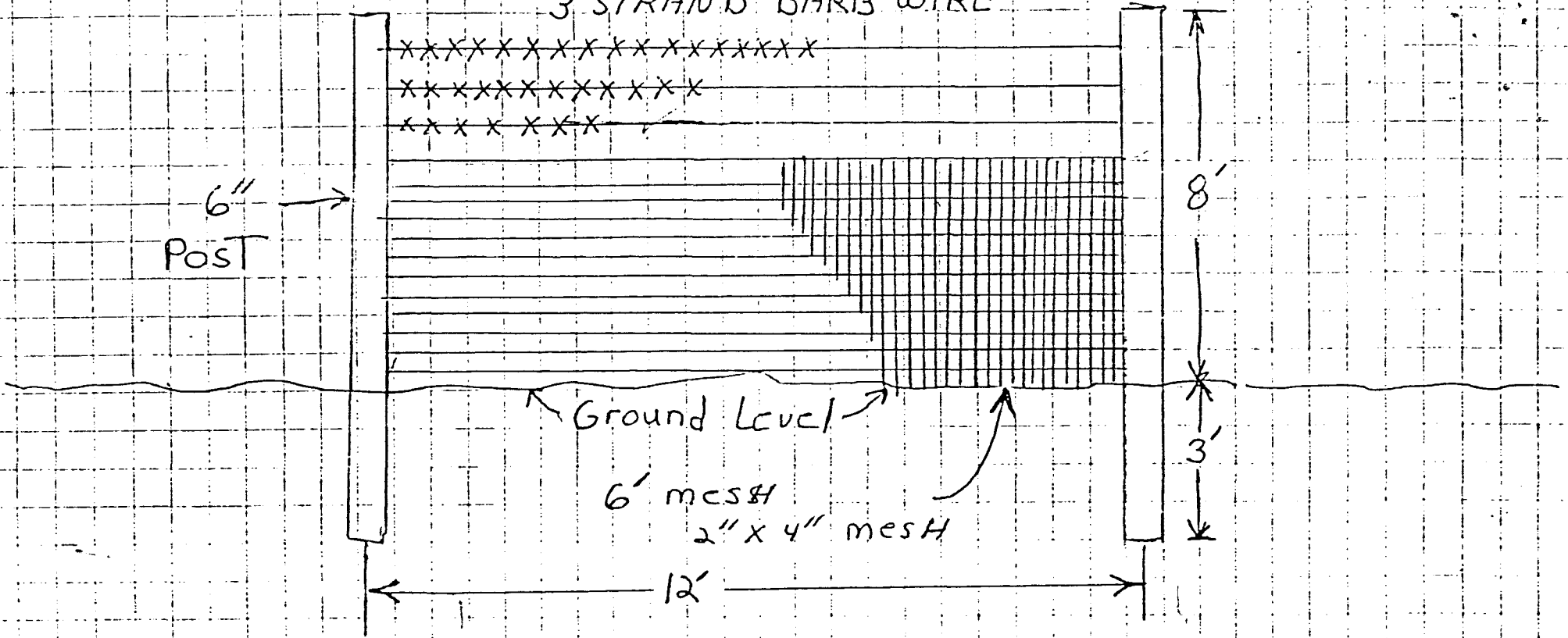
**NOTE**  
Dimensions shown are considered to be desirable.

TYPICAL SECTIONS

# TYPICAL APPROACH SECTION AT RIGHT OF WAY LINE



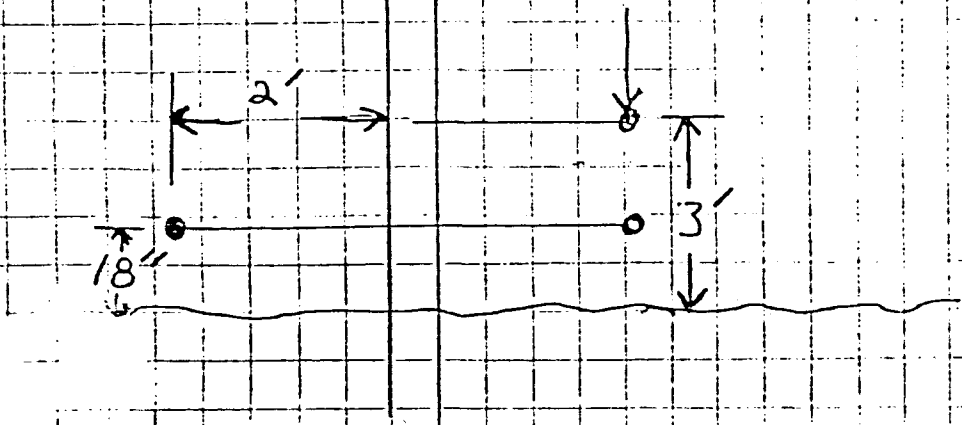
3 STRAND BARB WIRE



outside

inside

HOT pulsating #12 WIRE





then connected to the earth system, assuring a true electrical charge be delivered to an animal when attempting to climb through the wires, even when dry soil conditions persist.

3. The top 3 barbed wire lines extending 24" off the 6 foot page wire mesh have no deterrent value once a bear climbs the fence. The top and third lines should either be replaced with high tensile electric wires on insulators, or these same two barbed wires should be placed on insulators and electrified. This would then complete the positive/negative circuit and act as a final conditioning effect if a bear makes it around the lower electric lines, either inside or out, which will eventually happen.

4. Noticeable gaps between the bottom of the page wire mesh and ground level should be staked with rebar and wired.

5. In several locations along fence perimeter, trees of sufficient diameter for climbing are within a "bears reach" of the fence. Any trees with overhanging or touching limbs should be removed.

6. Electric wire lines should be kept as tight as possible with in-line tighteners. It has been shown that tight wires are more effective because bears must force their way by them, allowing wires to penetrate dense fur layers and contact the skin.

7. The probability that resident wild black and grizzly bear are attracted to the park facility will likely increase with time as bear odors and certain unavoidable food smells become concentrated within the enclosure. A single outside electric line may be inadequate in deterring bears from digging under the page wire fence. A simple outside secondary perimeter fence containing at least two guard dogs (in a runway between the two fences; a 4-strand electric fence on the outside) would be an effective noise and encounter deterrent for approaching native bears, as well as park animals on the interior.

8. The operating fence energizer was tested at an average electrical pulse output of 6400 volts on 110a hookup. This should be effective in controlling bears. In the event of power failure or other unplanned problems, a 12 volt fence energizer should be available with a switch-over mechanism so as to maintain continuous power to fence system.

Note: Other bear park related factors discussed during the investigation that are not associated with the perimeter control fence will be identified in the Environmental Assessment process and discussed in public forum.

cc: J. Cross G. Taylor  
E. Kelly M. Aderhold  
K. Cool

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT  
FOR  
PROPOSED GREAT BEAR ADVENTURE PARK**

June 28, 1991

Russell and Peggy Kilpatrick have made application for a Roadside Menagerie and Zoo Permit to operate a drive-through bear park in Tract 2 of the NW1/4 SW1/4, Section 21, T31N R19W, MPM.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 490 North Meridian Road announced and hosted a public meeting on June 12, 1991, at 7:00 p.m., at their regional headquarters to present the proposal, discuss review procedures by the Department, discuss issues and concerns developed by the Department and receive comments from the public.

Thirty-one individuals attended the public meeting. Many of these people provided one or more comments on the proposal during the meeting. Others requested clarification or a response to particular aspects of the proposal.

Nine comments were favorable to the proposal, citing possible educational values to the public if the park was operated properly. Two Comments were opposed to the proposal for reasons related to 1) public perception of wild bears based on park experience, 2) feeding of wild bears by park visitors, 3) attraction of wild bears to the park location, 4) escape of park bears from the fenced location, and 5) fenced area of park too small to support number of bears to be contained.

Other commentators requested information relevant to issues and concerns, but did not voice support or opposition to the proposal. Requests for information involved issues and concerns related to food and nutritional care, scents and attractants of captive bears, winter denning park bears, public safety aspects of high voltage fence around park, maintenance program for interior park road system, public visitors receiving experience appropriate to entry fee, response of adjacent landowners to park proposal and site selection for the proposed park.

Thirty-two comments were received either by mail, phone or submission at the public meeting on June 12, 1991. Nine persons attending the meeting expressed support or opposition to the proposed drive-through bear park with seven in support and two opposed. Twenty-two other comments have been received either at the June 12 meeting or in the extended public comment period that voiced concerns about the park proposal. These comments are in addition to those verbally presented at the meeting. Three individuals supported the park proposal, nineteen opposed the proposal and one requested information and clarification to concerns but did not offer support or opposition.

The support is based upon fulfilling an educational need relative to bear behavior and bear use of habitat. There also is a recognition that a facility like the bear park could contribute to local economy.

Summary of Public Comment  
Proposed Great Bear Adventure Park  
June 28, 1991  
Page Two

Opposition to the proposed park includes five general concerns--the small size of the park, wrong perception by the public of wild bears based on the drive-through bear park experience, confined bears being an attractant to native black and grizzly bears which may lead to further public concerns about human safety and human-bear interactions in the general area of the park, safety for children and people who may approach the bear park from the outside and come into contact with the high-voltage electric fence, and unplanned commercial development along the Highway 2 corridor leading to Glacier National Park. One person, in addition to providing comment on the park, requested a 30-day statewide public comment period.

In summary, verbal, written and telephone comment was received on the proposal for a drive-through bear park near Coram. Of those persons expressing either support for or opposition to the proposal, 10 were in support and 21 were in opposition.

## MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE &amp; PARKS

Office Memorandum

Date: June 14, 1991

To: Daniel Vincent

From: Michael Madel

Subject: Electric fence system evaluation for the proposed  
Great Bear Adventure Park, Coram, MT.

An assessment team consisting of Jim Cross, Ed Kelly, and myself toured the Great Bear Adventure Park (GBAP) facility on 6/12/91. The primary objective was to evaluate the potential effectiveness of a recently constructed combination woven/electric perimeter fence for containing domesticated black bears as well as deterring access into the compound by wild resident bear. This evaluation was directly related to potential impacts on human safety in and around park grounds.

Upon investigation of the facility, the perimeter fence (see attachment) was assessed as being inadequate as an effective barrier to hold domestic bears within park grounds and in keeping wild black or grizzly bears out. This evaluation is based on six years of testing and using electric fence systems as a method of bear deterrent in the R4 Rocky Mountain Front area. It may not necessarily depict a situation of containment of tame bear which is likely more severe considering that 6 to 8 bears will continue to test any weak links in the fence system 24 hours a day.

Summarized below are technical concerns regarding current fence system construction. Ideas were discussed and corrections were made by owner R. Kilpatrick during our visit 6/12 including installation of a separate grounding for the lightening diverter, connection of the entire page wire mesh to negative ground of energizer, and electrifying gate panels.

1. The lower inside electric wire and the only outside wire are positioned to high off the ground level (average 18 to 24 inches). A cub/yearling bear could move under this wire and climb over fence. Considering the irregular terrain this wire should range 6 to 12" off the ground.

2. The distance between the electric wires both inside and outside the page wire barrier is to great (ave. 27 inches). If a bear slips past the electric lines there is no deterrent to keep it from climbing over the fence. All electric positive lines should be extended 8 to 12" from the page wire which is

P 280 193 785

**RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL**

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED

NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

(See Reverse)

U.S.G.P.O. 1989-234-555

PS Form 3800, June 1985

Sent to <b>MR. RUSSELL KILPATRICK</b>	
Street and No. <b>BOX 212</b>	
P.O., State and ZIP Code <b>KILA, MT 59920</b>	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered	
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
TOTAL Postage and Fees	\$ <b>4.79</b>
Postmark or Date	

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats		X				
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality		X				
5. Aesthetics			X			
6. Air quality			X			
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources					X	
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			
9. Historical and archaeological sites					X	
10. Will resident bear get into this enclosure.					X	
11. Disruption of resident bear populations.			X			

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores			X			
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity			X			
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health					X	
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities			X			
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services		X				
11. Industrial & commercial activity			X			
12. Demands for energy			X			
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals					X	
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			

## Sign-in

Name	Address	Want Summary of Public Comment Yes or No
Gary Gregory	Glacier Natl. Park <sup>West Glacier</sup> MT 59736	Yes
Greg Brennan	724 3rd Ave W.	NO
Mik Conner	132 1st Ave S. Kal	yes
Gary Trachman	660 Gopher Lane <sup>MARKON</sup> MT 59925	yes
Joe Salomath	P.O. Box 231 <sup>MARKON</sup> Maudlin City MT 59906	yes
Steve Wheeler	435 Ferndale Dr. Bigfork 59911	yes
Alberta Lister	315 Parliament, Kal, 59901	yes
Dan Manning	P.O. Box 202 <sup>MARKON</sup> Souders, 59902	yes
God Nelson	161 Shady Lane Rd Kal. 59901	yes
Anne Juppitt	East Shore Bigfork	yes
Roy Schenck	East Shore Bigfork	yes
Gene Decker	Box 1672 Kal	yes
Nancy Holt	Box 53 Kal	yes
Gil Zupplehman	Kal 22-3rd Ave E	yes
David Orenters	185 Bayou Rd., Kal 59901	yes
Jane Ward's	719 Shadow Lane	yes
Jerry Flanders	PO 71 Kal 59920	yes
William H. Dwyer	724 first ave west	yes
BILL MORGAN	DAILY INTERLAKE	yes
Bruce Allison	442 4th Ave E Kal	yes
AL CHUCK	P.O. Box 1010 Condon, MT.	yes
Larry Henderson	736 Greenridge Dr Kal MT	yes

22

27 total public

Dan  
Ed  
Mike  
Alex  
Jim

# LOCAL/STATE A4

## Bear park favored — except by Glacier

By BILL MORGAN  
The Daily Inter Lake

Glacier National Park officials submitted a list of concerns about the proposed drive-through black bear park near West Glacier, but the response was mostly favorable from the 27 people attending Wednesday's public hearing.

The eight-acre park, "Great Bear Adventure," is proposed by Russell and Peggy Kilpatrick and would be about five miles west of West Glacier on U.S. 2.

Visitors would pay \$5 per vehicle to drive through the wooded compound on gravel roads, past a trout pond and man-made waterfall, and view six to eight black bears roaming the park.

The bears, born and raised in captivity, will come from a private breeder in South Dakota, Kilpatrick said. The park will strive to simulate a natural appearance and environment, with the primary purpose of educating people about

bear behavior and habitat.

Gary Gregory, resource management specialist for Glacier Park, said the drive-through facility would distort people's perceptions of wild bears.

"Most visitors to the bear park will likely also be visitors to Glacier National Park," he said. "Perceptions are apt to be distorted by being exposed to highly habituated and food-conditioned tame bears in an artificial environment."

Gregory said Glacier visitors could get into dangerous situations by approaching wild bears after seeing how tame bears react to humans.

He also voiced concern that, despite the Kilpatricks' efforts and regulations against feeding the bears at the drive-through park, the animals would be fed. The people would then transfer that behavior to Glacier and try to feed bears there, he said.

The drive-through park would attract

wild bears to the area and pose a problem of possible escape by the bears in the compound, Gregory said.

Kilpatrick responded by saying Glacier Park "is one of the biggest contributors in the state to people being injured by bears" and his facility would help educate people that bears are free-roaming and should not be approached.

It was also noted that visitors must keep doors locked and car windows up. The compound will be patrolled to ensure there are no attempts to feed the animals, Peggy Kilpatrick said.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is the permitting agency for the park. Agency officials prepared an environmental analysis of the project and noted a list of stipulations that are likely to be required if the park is approved.

Stipulations include keeping only neutered black bears in the compound,

making some improvements to electrical wires and a retaining fence around the compound, stringent food storage requirements and undergoing an annual permit review.

Most in attendance expressed favorable views of the drive-through park, noting it would have educational value for schoolchildren and a positive impact on tourism.

Dan Vincent, regional director for the department, said the comments made during the meeting and the environmental assessment will be used to make a final decision on the park. He said the agency had received several letters and phone calls as well. Two phone calls and one of the letters were in opposition to the park.

Vincent said a decision will be made in Helena, probably Friday. "We could either accept it, reject it, or accept it with stipulations," he said.

### West Yellowstone eyes grizzly bear attraction

WEST YELLOWSTONE (AP) — The West Yellowstone town council has prepared a list of conditions to present to developers who want to build a grizzly bear tourist attraction next to Yellowstone National Park.

The council plans to meet with Firehole Land Corp. representatives during a work session tonight.

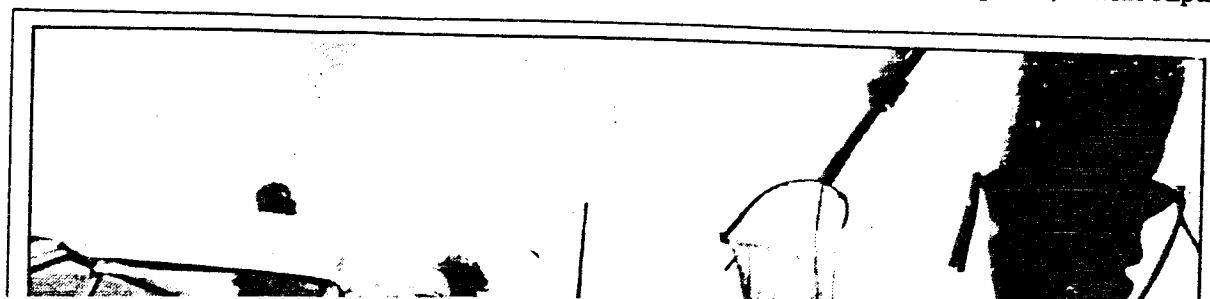
Firehole wants to display captive grizzlies in a so-called Grizzly Discovery Center. A movie theater, shops and other businesses are also planned.

Among the council requests is for the corporation to provide financial assurance that the firm will complete its plans. The developers want to annex the 87-acre property to the town.

Yellowstone Park officials have said the center would attract wild grizzlies to the area, potentially increasing dangerous human-bear encounters.

### Truck drivers sue company

Two Kalispell drivers whose complaints of overweight loads resulted in fines for Pack & Company have sued their former employer, saying they were forced to quit.



### Pathologist says beating possible

By The Daily Inter Lake  
A Utah pathologist testified

youth's death.



# MONTANA

# Chances look good for drive-through bear park

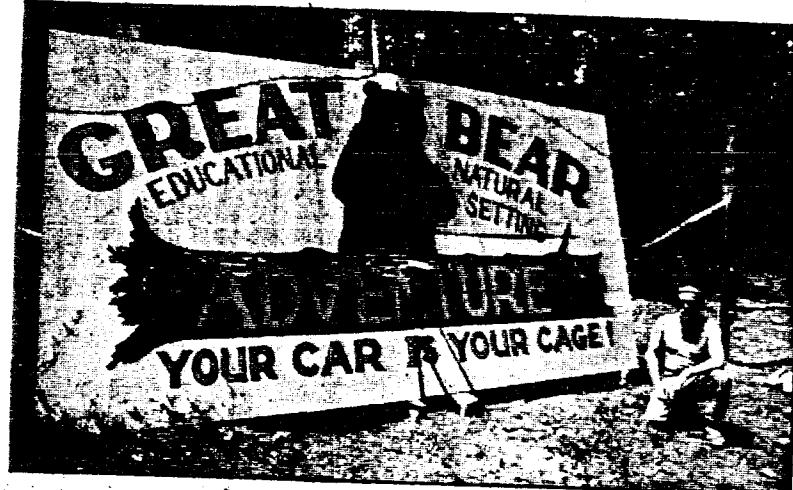
By **DON SCHWENNESEN**  
of the Missoulian

**KALISPELL** — A drive-through bear viewing park near Glacier National Park will get a favorable recommendation with 10 stipulations from the State Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

About 40 people attended a public meeting on the "Great Bear Adventure Park" Wednesday, most of them supporting the idea, though some voiced specific concerns.

Dan Vincent, FWP Kalispell regional supervisor, said he will make final recommendations to Helena by Friday. Fish and Game Commissioner Greg Barcus of Kalispell said the bear park is already on the commission's agenda for a Friday meeting and may get final action then.

The eight-acre park is pro-



**Russ Kilpatrick poses by the sign advertising his proposed "Great Bear-Adventure" drive-through bear park near Coram.**

posed by Russell and Peggy Kilpatrick and would be on U.S. 2, about five miles from West Glacier.

For \$5 per car, or \$1 each for

groups, visitors will drive through the wooded compound on gravel roads, past a trout pond and man-made waterfall, and view six to eight black bears roaming the

park.

The bears will come from a private breeder in South Dakota, Kilpatrick said this week. All are born and raised in captivity, but the park will strive to simulate a natural appearance and environment.

Gary Gregory of Glacier National Park said park officials are concerned that drive-through visitors may get wrong ideas about feeding bears, or bear behavior, and bring those to Glacier. Other concerns are that bears might escape or might attract wild bears to the area.

Ray Schenck, who owns an elk farm near Bigfork, questioned whether eight acres would be enough room for the bruins.

FWP will require that only black bears are kept in the park; that they be neutered and tattooed for identification; that federal animal care and feed storage rules be

obeyed; that veterinary care be provided; that no road-killed animals be fed to the bears; that additional fencing and warning signs be installed on the perimeter; and that the park permit be reviewed annually.

One local teacher, summing up favorable comments, remarked that the park "would have some real positive values" for tourists, children, the handicapped and others who rarely see bears in the wild.

# Government starts two-year grizzly study

By **RON SELDEN**  
for the Missoulian

**PABLO** — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has embarked on a two-year, \$80,000 project to study grizzly bear habitat in three areas of northwest Montana, a federal official said.

According to Chris Servheen, the agency's bear recovery coordinator, the project began earlier this spring when researchers placed eight motion- and heat-sensitive cameras near prime feeding areas on the west slope of the Mission Mountains.

The 35-millimeter cameras,

placed in protective metal boxes and focused on hidden baits, captured up to five different grizzlies on film in recent weeks, Servheen said in a telephone interview from Missoula. He added that none of the animals appeared to be tagged or otherwise marked.

In research Servheen completed in 1980, it was estimated that up to 25 grizzlies populated the Mission Mountains. Now, Servheen estimates, it's possible that as few as 15 grizzlies regularly use the range.

In recent years, biologists have expressed concern that increased human activity on the flanks of

the range is creating gaps in suitable habitat. In turn, researchers worry that bears moving west from the Bob Marshall Wilderness are not using the Missions as much as they once did.

In coming weeks, one full-time researcher will begin mapping key Mission Range habitat on the Flat-head Reservation and in the Seeley-Swan Valley that has been altered by roads, logging, summer homes and other development, Servheen said.

"We're trying to assess those habitat problems that are cutting off the Missions," he said, but he emphasized that the project is not a study of bear populations. In an interview last year, Forest

Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Plum Creek Timber Co.

On Tuesday, though, Servheen said his agency was starting on the project alone because coordinating a broader effort would take too much time. He added, however, that while the other entities won't be providing direct funding, they will share habitat information they've gathered in the past.

"Everyone is working together on this," Servheen said. "But we don't have the funding to do a grizzly population study. With the cameras, we're just looking at the presence or absence of bears." He added that more camera work will likely be conducted in the Mis-

**INVESTIGATE**  
**THE DISNEY CHANNEL'S**  
**FREE SUMMER PREVIEW**  
**JUNE 13-16.**

**HIGHWAYMEN LIVE!**  
SUN. • JUNE 16 • 10 PM (MTN)

**HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS**  
FRI. • JUNE 14 • 10 PM (MTN)

**THE SWORD IN THE STONE**  
SUN. • JUNE 16 • 8 PM (MTN)

Buena Vista Pictures Distribution Inc. Disney

**The Disney Channel**  
CHANNEL 40

Programs subject to change

Great Bear Adventure

Meeting to Receive Public Comment

June 12, 1991  
490 N. Meridan  
Kalispell, Mt

To Whom it may Concern:

I am a teacher in the valley and I am in full support of Great Bear Adventure. I think the concept is a wonderful idea, and is educationally a great idea for students in our area.

From all the information I have read the Kilpatrick's have been very prudent in setting up this park. They have taken in environmental considerations as well as health and safety of both bears and people.

Again I strongly support this park. It will be a good addition to our community!

Thank You. —

James Woods 719 Shadow Lane  
Name Address Kalispell, MT  
59901

# Great Bear Adventure

Meeting to Receive Public Comment

June 12, 1991  
490 N. Meridan  
Kalispell, Mt

I think this is a fine idea with benefits to the valley

- 1) educationally, <sup>2)</sup> economically, and <sup>3)</sup> environmentally.
- 1) Educationaly - as a field trip site for public & home school groups  
handicapped & elderly who will  
likely never see a wild bear in the park.  
- as a source of learning about bears in a safe atmosphere.
- 2) Economically - add to the tourism in the canyon  
- add a successful business to our local economy.
- 3) Environmentally - people will be less likely to approach wild (park)  
bears if they have a chance to see one in the drive thru.

Give them a chance... you (Fishes Game) can always junk the  
permit if it proves to not work.

DAVID VENTER 185 Bayou Rd. Kau.  
Name Address

Great Bear-Adventure

Meeting to Receive Public Comment

June 12, 1991  
490 N. Meridan  
Kalispell, Mt

To whom it may concern!  
I William H Baxter believe  
that The Great Bear-Adventure  
is a very good Idea. Because, first  
The edgecation of the bears may  
help hunters identify Black Bears  
from Grizzly Bears before they pull  
the trigger also with tourism  
becoming the life blood of mountain  
-this should be considered as a very  
valuable Resource Please cooperate  
with The Lilpatrick's yours Truly

William H Baxter  
Name Address

Great Bear Adventure

Meeting to Receive Public Comment

June 12, 1991  
490 N. Meridan  
Kalispell, Mt

- 1- I have great concern for the attraction of other Bears from around the area. I have property nearby and haven't seen a bear in the area since I've been here. I don't want any to start coming around now.
- 2- Where are they going to hibernate, &? in the winter
- 3- I would want the fencing to be adequate as discussed by the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, + Parks. Double fence sounds best.
- 4- Permit review is a must. (Good idea)
- 5- Too many bears for the size of area.
- 6- Are the bears, ~~coming~~ going to have a chance to adjust to the environment before people start coming in.

Jan Galbraith

Name

Address

PO Box 331

Martin City MT 59926

(10685 <sup>old</sup> Hwy. 2 E.  
Coram, MT

6-11-91

Dan Vincent  
Regional Supervisor  
Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks  
490 North Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Mr. Vincent:

Because I am unable to attend the hearing on the proposed "Great Bear Adventure" drive through park, I wish to express my opposition in writing and have it included as part of the public comment.

I also write to urge your department to give more time for public input. I learned of this activity only two days ago in the local newspaper. I recommend a state-wide public comment period before the Department issues a decision on the permit.

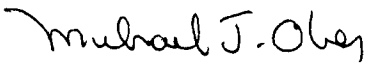
My reasons are personal. If you have ever been to Gatlinburg Tennessee, the gateway community to the Great Smokies National Park, then you have seen the ultimate in rampant commercial plundering. This is NOT the type of development Montana needs adjacent to our ONLY national park. This is not the kind of image that the Department should be allowing.

Therefore, I write to request a formal, statewide public comment process lasting 30 days. During that time, your Department can solicit input from residents throughout Montana and from land managing agencies concerned with the improper exploitation of animals.

Meanwhile, please enter my strong written opposition to the issuance of a permit to operate this unsavory "drive through" menagerie.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

  
Michael J. Ober  
54 Buffalo Hill Drive  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

COMMENTS ON BEAR COASTING

- No 1) SUE RAMSEY Billiegg  
No 2) Mrs. Fitzgerald (KAL)

## Glacier National Park

### Position Statement on Drive-through Bear Park:

The purpose of this Statement is to express our concerns on the planned drive-through bear park's direct and indirect impacts on the naturally functioning ecosystem we are striving to protect. Only by working together can we hope to raise the level of consciousness to the point where development, when it does occur, will be properly sited and soundly designed to minimize damage to Glacier National Park.

We know that development activities on lands surrounding Glacier are going to impact on the quality of the Park, and the visitors' experience in the region, and we would accordingly like to express our concerns with the proposal. Concerns of this proposal which should be carefully considered include:

1 - Perception of wild bears - Most visitors to the bear park will likely also be visitors to Glacier National Park. Perceptions are apt to be distorted by being exposed to highly habituated and food conditioned tame bears in an artificial environment. Visitors may expect wild bears in Glacier National Park to behave as the tame bears they have witnessed in the bear park. Dangerous situations could be expected when visitors approach wilderness bears.

2 - Feeding of wild bears - Despite well-intentioned efforts by the bear park operators, the tame bears will be fed by people touring the bear park and that human behavior will most likely transfer to the feeding of wild bears in Glacier National Park by motorists. The result would be dead bears and a greater probability of injuries to visitors.

3 - Attraction of wild bears to the area - Wild bears will likely be attracted to the site of the bear park during the breeding season and by the food provided to the tame bears. There would be a high probability of human conflict and resultant bear deaths. This situation would be analogous to the bear attractants at the Burlington Northern corn spills, the Essex dumpsters and the West Glacier dump, hence our concern.

4 - Escape of bears from fenced area - Many animal parks have experienced the escape of captive animals. The contamination of native bear genetics is likely from the male bears even if the females are sterile. Glacier National Park policy is to protect the integrity of the genetic pool of all native plants and animals.



PUBLIC COMMENT

TO: Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
490 N. Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, Mt.

Re: Kilpatrick application for a drive-through roadside bear exhibit,  
U.S. Hwy 2 near Coram.

To the Reviewing Authority:

I am a real estate broker/owner of Columbia Falls Realty and played a part in the selection of a site for Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick's proposed enterprise.

I am also the Canyon communities' representative to the Flathead County Planning Board, currently charged by a Commissioners' Directive to find ways of implementing land-use policies to protect the Flathead's highway corridors from unrestrained, unplanned "strip" development.

Each year I am approached by several parties with ideas for new highway-frontage, tourist-oriented enterprises along Highway 2 leading to Glacier Park. Some of them give me cold chills...dirt-bike racetracks, mechanical cowboy-and-indian battle re-enactments, a giant stockade full of rubber tomahawks and Mexican ceramics with robotic wildlife exhibits, etc. Out of concern for the aesthetics of the area, I have actually chased a couple such whimsies out the door. I hope we never tolerate the kinds of commercial blight that have evolved near the entry to some other National Park units.

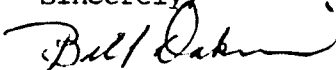
When I discussed with the Kilpatricks their proposed exhibit and determined that here, unusually, was an opportunity to help the Flathead's quest for tourist-oriented economic development, and yet maintain the greenbelt buffer zone between the existing towns and the Park's entrance. Rather than elect a totally pristine setting, they were willing to locate near other developments, which meant long-range, there would not be strip-type expansion if they were successful.

Given that promoting tourism is inevitably going to increase pressure for highway development, I believe this kind of enterprise, one which maintains and utilizes the natural appearance and aesthetics of the land, is appropriate for the Coram/Dew Drop Inn area.

The development pressure for intrusive, unnatural highway strip enterprises is growing, especially in the absence of zoning or other land-use regulation. We should, from a land-use and environmental point of view, look with favor on proposals which present the least possible intrusion into the aesthetics of this transition zone between the developed Flathead Valley and the great natural resources that are its blessing.

I hope you find favorably on this permit application; that we all encourage aesthetically-gentle development where we can, and keep the gift shops and gas stations in the towns where they belong...

Sincerely



William J. Dakin

MESSAGE

Comments

for Ed Kelly on Bear Park  
date 6/12 time 2:30

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. Diane Johnson  
Miss  
Mrs.

phone

Telephoned  Please Call   
Returned call  Will Call Again   
Wants to see you  Urgent

message: Can't attend meeting but wants  
comment > takes  
Against drive-thru park because  
wrong impression on bears  
not cuddly or zoo animals.

Adamently opposed  
Message taken by MW

MESSAGE

for Jim C.  
date 6-27 time 2:10

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. Louise Barker  
Miss  
Mrs.

phone

Telephoned  Please Call   
Returned call  Will Call Again   
Wants to see you  Urgent

message: no objections to  
park - as long as  
bears were taken care  
of and maintained

Message taken by K

MESSAGE

for John F.  
date 6-27 time 1:20

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. Pat McLelland  
Miss  
Mrs.

phone 888-5465

Telephoned  Please Call   
Returned call  Will Call Again   
Wants to see you  Urgent

message: opposes bear park  
confused about  
why the temp.  
permit before final

Message taken by K

Illa Sansoniet  
6/27/91  
re: GBAP

Doesn't like GBAP

Martin City

Safety reasons - small children can't read signs

- unattended kids may wander away from campground  
next door and walk into electric fence

- scent of bears in captivity will attract wild  
bears that may become a concern for safety in area

just doesn't like the park

### MESSAGE

for Ed Kelley  
date 6/12 time \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. SUSIE Rubbert  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

of KALispell

phone \_\_\_\_\_

Telephoned  Please Call

Returned call  Will Call Again

Wants to see you  Urgent

message: \_\_\_\_\_

OPPOSED TO BEAR PARK -  
AREA MUSH TOO SMALL

NOT NATURAL

(PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF INDIVIDUAL)  
NOT REPUTABLE

not for general knowledge  
Message taken by NW  
or USA

### MESSAGE

for Ed Kelley  
date 6/12 time 2:55

#### WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. TIM Rubbert  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

of 2253 SASKQUATCH

phone Whitely Hollow Rd

Telephoned  Please Call

Returned call  Will Call Again

Wants to see you  Urgent

message: \_\_\_\_\_

OPPOSED BEAR PARK -  
RECLZ ATTRACTING NATIVE  
BEARS IN GRIZZLY / BLACK  
HABITAT -

MUST GO THRU EIS

Message taken by \_\_\_\_\_

June 24, 1991  
9:00 a.m.

RE: Drive-through Bear Park

John Bark of east Evergreen (phone #752-1274) called. Wished to comment on the Bear Park. He stated, "As long as we can be sure that the animals are being treated properly and that only bears that have been raised in captivity are used, it should be a good thing. More power to them."

E. F. & C. F. PRACH  
110 GOAT TRAIL  
WHITEFISH, MT. 59937

June 18, 1991

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

490 N. Meridian

Kelso, MT. 59901

Re: Proposed Bear Park

Dear Sirs:

We think the proposed bear park between Coram & N. Glacier is a bad idea whose time has not, and hopefully, will never come. Why should it be so important to have people learn about bears that way? To us it seems to be a thinly disguised commercial venture and another intrusion on the western corridor to Glacier Park. We think it is a misuse of the area's resources and an unnatural means of exposure to wildlife.

We hope the department will agree and deny approval of this venture.

Very truly yours,  
Edwin F. Prach  
Carlmae F. Prach

Al Christofferson

6-27-91

3:50 PM

Comment on Great Bear Adventure Park

- Concern about another roadside development in the canyon area
- Concerned about sanitation
- Concern regarding captive bears as attractant to wild bears
- Concern for attracted wild bears to get into domestic problems
- Concern that attracted wild bears may become highway mortalities
- Concern about location of park in grizzly bear habitat

In general, not supporting proposal for park

Steve Thompson  
216 Hemler Cr. Drive  
Kalispell, MT. 59901

6/19/91

0845

755-6304

Re: Great Bear Adventure Park

Concerns:

- 1) possible biological consequences of escape of captured bears
- 2) cheapening the whole entry to Glacier National Park and peoples perceptions of black bears in the wild

June 24, 1991  
4:10 p.m.

Linda Dekort (755-3704) telephoned regarding the bear park. She is not only worried about the bears health, but also the location of the park.

She feels it would be a great disservice to have the drive through so close to Glacier National Park. How can you not confuse issues of driving through a controlled setting, where bears over time will naturally become acclimated to people and then travel further to Glacier National Park and not feels the same. She feels it might someday cause a tragedy.

She appreciated the courtesy of having her comment be heard.





CEW/Eth in Glacier Natl. Park, Montana  
JUN 26

June 21, 1991

Dear Mr. Kool;

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the granting of the permit for the drive-through "bear park" near Glacier National Park. As a local business-person as well as a Park employee, I find the idea appalling. This sort of tacky, circus-like development will degrade the ambience of this area, and in no way should be allowed so close to a National Park, with wild bears all around.

I urge you to deny this permit.

Elaine Caton  
Box 551  
West Glacier, MT  
59936

Sincerely,  
Elaine D. Caton

June 26, 1990

K. L. Cool  
Director, Montana Department  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 6th Ave. E.  
Helena, MT 59620

RECEIVED  
JUN 27 1991  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Cool:

The purpose of my letter is to express my concerns about the proposed "Great Bear Adventure Park" 5 miles east of Glacier National Park on Highway 2. Despite the owner's best efforts, these bears will be conditioned to human food, highly habituated to the presence of humans, and will be fed by visitors. State and federal agencies have worked hard for many years to educate the public about appropriate behavior in bear country. This is especially important in Glacier National Park where public safety is a special concern. They have been quite successful in communicating the message "a fed bear is a dead bear". The experience visitors will gain at the drive-through bear park will help to undermine these efforts.

Bear sightings by visitors to Glacier National Park are quite common. Seeing wild bears in their natural habitat is one of the things that make a trip to Montana and Glacier National Park so special. I believe that road-side zoos of this type have no place in our state. Contrary to the proposer's claims, no positive educational value will derive from this venture; just commercial exploitation and undesirable misperceptions of one of our most charismatic animals. I urge you to deny a permit for the proposed bear park and set a clear precedent on appropriate use and presentation of our wildlife heritage.

Sincerely,

*Katherine C. Kendall*

Katherine C. Kendall  
271 Rogers Road  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

RECEIVED  
JUN 25 1991  
WILDLIFE OFFICE

June 21, 1991

MR. K. L. Cool  
Director, MT. Dept. Fish, Wildlife, & Parks  
1420 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Cool,

I hope that the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will not issue a permit for the proposed drive-through Bear Park between Coram and West Glacier.

This is a ridiculous idea that is most certainly not conducive to the management and perpetuation of wild bears in and around Glacier National Park. Nearly every day we are losing bear habitat to development within and surrounding Glacier National Park.

If people wish to see bears, they should hike the trails and glass the slopes. These sightings will be memorable and exceptional. It will inspire the viewers to perhaps help save bear habitat by seeing a wild bear on its own turf. A drive-through Park is nothing but a bloody side-show, and will do no good in helping manage or preserve Black or Grizzly Bears. Quite the contrary.

Sincerely,  
Rick Yates  
Box 383  
West Glacier MT 59936

P.O. Box 514  
West Glacier, MT 59936  
JUNE 24-91

RECEIVED  
JUN 26 1991  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

K. L. COOL  
Director, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1420 6th Ave. E.  
Helena, MT 59620

DEAR MR. COOL,

This letter contains my comments about the "Drive-through Bear Park". The BEAR PARK idea will have bad effects on the visitors bound for Glacier Park. Many people who would visit the park will be out-of-state residents and children. They will get a false idea of what wild bears are really like. Lets keep bears wild in Montana. 8 Acres of fenced land is hardly going to support 1 bear much less several. The bears will have to be fed. Free ranging bears may try to get the penned bears food.

Working in GNP for 6 years, I have seen peoples "need" to feed "wild" animals. Those penned bears will be easy to slip

(2)

some morsel of food. It would not surprise me if "bear park visitors" will put jam etc on the bumper of their vehicle for a close encounter.

Are the fences adequate to hold the bears in? We don't want these bears loose. I don't think they would make very good parents for wild raised cubs.

Along Hwy 2 now we have the U-fish trout pond, The Glacier Maze, miniature Golf, The "wildlife museum" which is no sort of museum at all. Are we going to allow one more tourist trap of unplanned development to this strip development?

The "wild bear park" could really top off the list of tacky tourism.

Have you ever been to The Smoky Mountains National Park? There is a park border town called Gatlinburg, Tenn. It is a case of tourism gone nightmare. From West Glacier to Hungry Horse, Hwy 2 is beginning to look a lot like Gatlinburg.

③

Please oppose The "drive-through  
bear park" and deny A permit.

I feel having a zoo style bear park  
would be similar to having bighorn  
sheep on Mt. Sentinel in Missoula. Lets  
keep Montana's animals wild; penned or tamed  
animals are never respected like wild  
ones are.

Thank you for the opportunity to  
comment.

Sincerely,

MAC DONOFRIO

Mac Donofrio

Box 366  
 West Glacier, MT 59936  
 June 21, 1991

RECEIVED  
 JUN 24 1991  
 DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

K. L. Cool  
 Director, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
 1420 6th Ave. E.  
 Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Cool:

We write concerning the proposed "Drive-through Bear Park" six miles from Glacier National Park along Highway 2. We urge the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks not to sanction this ill-conceived scheme. We have lived and worked in the West Glacier area for 25 years and have supported efforts of the state and federal governments to manage for wild bears and to perpetuate suitable bear habitat. Too much habitat has been lost, but the reality and symbolism of "wild" and free-roaming populations have been sustained to a significant degree.

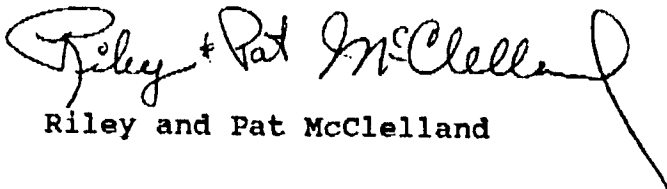
Now comes the "Bear Park" idea, which will confuse and distort the public's (especially childrens' and out-of-state visitors') perceptions of how bears fit into the Montana scene. So near to Glacier National Park, bears in an artificial environment (they obviously have to be fed, being confined by fence to only 8 acres) will greatly detract from the Park's educational efforts emphasizing wild bears in a near-natural milieu. The food also may attract wild bears from outside the fence.

The Bear Park is grossly inappropriate for Montana, particularly in the Flathead Valley, and especially near Glacier National Park. Fenced-in bears may have their place in major urban zoos; they have no place in Montana. Hopefully the MDFWP will not expedite the efforts of those who tackily display wildlife, abusing the resource in the name of private enterprise.

We can think of no redeeming feature of this kind of bear display. In addition to the inappropriateness and negative impact on what may soon become the "Lost Best Place," questions of safety to people and reasonable care of the animals have not been adequately addressed.

We urge you to demonstrate the leadership needed in the MDFWP by speaking out against this exhibition and to reject endorsement of the Bear Park.

Sincerely,

  
 Riley and Pat McClelland

RECEIVED  
JUN 24 1991  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Box 223  
West Glacier, MT 59936  
June 21, 1991

Kay Cool  
Director, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 6th Ave. E.  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Cool:

I urge you to disapprove the permit for the "Bear Park" just outside of Glacier National Park near Coram, MT.

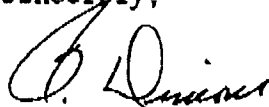
As a child I visited Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota - not exactly a "natural" wonder - and I will never forget the seemingly hundreds of miles of billboards and untold numbers of tacky "schlock" tourist traps which surrounded that memorial. Since then I have noticed many areas of the country with similar problems, from Gettysburg to Key West. Until recently, Glacier had escaped that fate, but developments around the borders of the park have begun to capitalize on the tourists drawn by the park in ways which no longer fit into the wilderness scheme.

While I am all for capitalism and opportunistic attempts to make money, it is my strong opinion that the area around Glacier can either continue with a style and "feel" of wilderness Montana (complete with appropriate shops and services), or we can opt for the Key Largo approach, and go with the northwestern version of plastic flamingo decor. Petting zoos, circus animals, caged wild animals are simply antithetical to the flavor of this area.

I am not a biologist, but I know that this is wild bear country. Caged bears being fed next to known occupied grizzly habitat seems to me to invite trouble. Showing the public "tame" bears in a controlled atmosphere where they are fed and cared for by man sets those visitors up for serious trouble when, five miles down the road, they encounter a wild bear and attempt similar behavior. There are also the obvious questions of disease and genetic pollution if a caged bear escapes into the surrounding wilderness. I can't help but believe that some wild bears, and possibly some innocent humans, are going to die because of this financially-motivated endeavor.

Please consider the permit and all its implications carefully.

Sincerely,



Kathy Dimont



J Cross

105 Middle  
Kalispell, Mt.  
59901

6/28/91

RECEIVED

JUN 28 1991

E W & P. REGION ONE

Ken Vincent  
Montana Fish & Parks  
Kalispell, Mt

Dear Ken

Here are my comments on the proposed  
"Bear Park":

If this Park/Zoo is set up as  
shown on the 6/27 Hungary Horse  
News, it is a force.

Note the two enclosed pictures.

#1 shows a bear close to at what appears  
to be an open car window -- "Spooky".

and contrary to the proposal that cars  
be driven w/ windows up.

#2 Shows a bear within 3-4 feet of  
Krippel with a poorly constructed 3 ft  
high fence between bear and man!

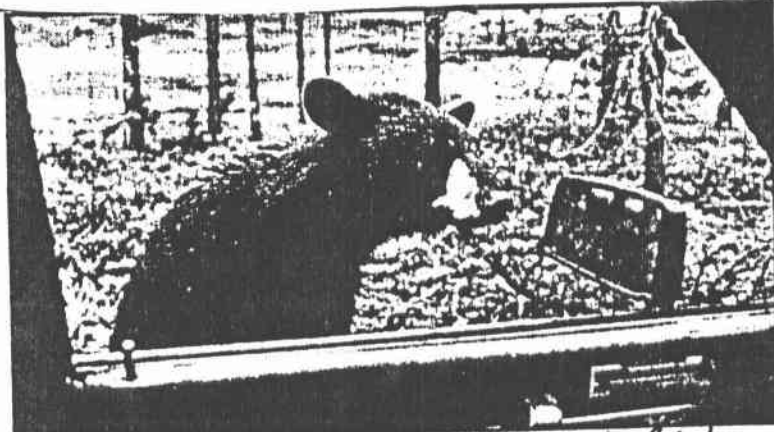
This is bizarre that we allow  
the public to get the image that  
it is okay to be this close to bears.

This is more of a very loose knit  
zoo atmosphere that has no place in  
Montana.

We need to strive to educate people  
to appreciate and respect bears. As  
proposed this do not in my opinion.

I go on record as not supporting this zoo!

Sincerely,  
Tom Kifer



Some bears get pretty close to motorists. (1)



Russell Kilpatrick sees eye to eye with his black bears, if not the state Department of

Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He plans to open his Great Bear Adventure Park Saturday.

(2)

MESSAGE

for John E. (?) Jim C

date 6-24 time 3:05

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Mr. Carlyle  
Miss Cartwright  
Mrs. Mikkelsen

of W. Glacier

phone 387-5735

Telephoned  Please Call

Returned call  Will Call Again

Wants to see you  Urgent

message: re: bear park

① How clear will the park be?

② Land values concerned with what it will do to the area

Message taken by

③ Is he responsible for bear getting loose?

## JIM CROSS - BIOLOGICAL CONCERNS

### IMPACTS -

(NOT OFFICIAL)

1. TRAVELWAY GLACIER & GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS
2. CHANGE IN VEGETATION WITHIN 1ST YEAR
3. FENCING OF BEARS WITHIN & KEEP BEARS OUTSIDE
4. PRESENCE OF ODORS WILDLIFE OUTSIDE ATTRACTED
5. IMPACT OF TRAVELWAY TO BLACK BEARS & GRIZZLIES

### ED KELLY - ENFORCEMENT

#### 1. PERMITS - ZOO MEMBERSHIP PERMIT

1. DENY PERMIT
2. WAIVER RULE
3. CHANGE RULE

~~ATTORNEY~~

INSURE SAFETY

FENCING REQUIREMENTS DEAD END

- RUSS + PEGGY KILPATRICK -  
HANDICAPPED

1. YOUNG, ELDERLY + OBSERVE BEARS IN  
NATURAL HABITAT.
2. FENCE IS NEW IN STATE  
NO REGULATIONS FOR FENCE
3. 4 YEARLINGS WITH 4 CUBS  
PICK OUT BEARS
4. RULES + REGULATIONS OF PARK  
FOLLOWED
5. ALL CAPTIVE BEARS FROM YOUNG
6. 8 ACRES + ADD 12 ACRES
7. TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT BEARS,  
UNDERSTAND HABITS
8. NATURAL POND

- MIKE - GRIZZLY BEAR SPECIALIST

1. FENCE TO CONTAIN BEARS. B. BACKUP PLAN.
2. IMPACT OF EXISTING RESIDENT  
POPULATION + TRYING TO ACCESS  
PARK  
A. WOULD POSSIBLY TRY TO GET  
IN

3. BEARS WILL BE CONDITIONED TO FENCE,

A. 8 WIRES

B. 2 HOT WIRES

C. 1 HOT WIRE -  
FENCE

4. EXISTING BEARS ~~COULD~~ COULD GO  
UNDER WIRE DROP OUTSIDE WIRE  
DOWN

B. HOT WIRE ON TOP

5. OUTSIDE PERIMETER FENCE FOR  
GUARD DOGS. REDUCE LIVESTOCK  
DEPREDAATION. INSIDE ~~BEARS~~ BEARS IN,  
OUTSIDE BEARS OUT.

### STIPULATIONS

1. BACK BEARS ONLY
2. NEUTERED - OMIT ODORS
3. TATOED
4. USDA STORAGE EXTENSIVE CONTROLS
5. VET PROGRAM - SPECIFIC LIST OF VACCINES
6. ROAD KILL - FEEDING
7. ROADSIDE ZOO REG. FOLLOWED BY STATE LAWS
8. FENCING 9. FENCING 10. PERMIT REVIEW

11. ESCAPED BEAR - PERMIT HOLDER IS RESPONSIBLE

Great Bear Adventure  
Public Comment

6/12/91

7:00 P.M.

NAME

POINT

1. ROSS KILPATRICK

MOVE FACILITY TO TOWN  
TO REDUCE ATTRACTION  
OF ~~BEARS~~ OUTSIDE BEARS  
TO FACILITY.

2. GARY GREGORY

IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT  
TO GLACIER PARK

1. PERCEPTION OF WILD  
BEAR PARK  
BEARS. UPASED TO  
GLACIER.

2. FEEDING OF WILD  
TRANSFER OF  
BEARS. FEEDING OF  
PARK BEARS TO  
GLACIER BEARS

3. ATTRACTION OF WILD  
BEARS TO AREA.

4. ESCAPE OF BEARS  
FROM FENCED AREA.

3. MIKE COCHRAN

1. NO FEEDING OF  
BEARS ALLOWED IN  
PARK.



NAME	POINT
4. ROSS KILPATRICK	GLACIER GREATEST CONTRIBUTOR OF HUMAN INJURY
5. GARY TROTTMAN	PEOPLE NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO FEED BEARS.
6. BILL BOHRSKY	BROWN BEAR NOT BEING ALLOWED IN PARK IF STERILE.
7. DAVID BENDERS	STIPULATION OF BROWN BEARS TO PARK BUT THEY ARE NEUTERED VALUE OF VIEWING OF BEARS IN PARK
8. LARRY HENDERSEN	VALUE OF EDUCATION OF BEARS THROUGH THE PARK.
9. AL KLUGH	WHAT EDUCATION INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE

NAME	POINT
10. AL KLUGH	SEE BEARS IN DRIVE THRU RATHER THAN ZOO.
11. RAY SKANK	NOT ENOUGH AREA FOR BEARS TO ROAM
12. PETE BUELLER	WHAT IMPACT <sup>OR STRESS</sup> <del>ON</del> BEARS IN PARK IN LIMITED AREAS
13. PEGGY KILPATRICK	FOOD GIVEN & MONITORED AS NEEDED
14. HARRY HENDERSON	STATISTICS OF ATTRACT- ION OF OUTSIDE BEARS TO PARK.
15. HAMPYON BAXTER	NEUTERED BEAR ATTRACTION
16. ELOISE HILL	ROAD MAINTENANCE (GRAVEL ROAD)

17. BRUCE ELLYSON

BEARS HIBERNATE HOUSED  
ALL YEAR.

"YES" NOTHING BUILT  
YET.

18. BILL ZIMMERMAN

NO PROBLEM WITH  
BEARS COMING AROUND  
NEIGHBOR.

19. PETE BUELLER

NUTRITIONAL CONCERNS  
OF FEEDING BEARS

"BALANCE DIET BY  
VET CARE PLAN"

20. AL KLUGH

SUPPORT WATCHABLE  
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

21. DAN MANNING

EDUCATION OF PUBLIC  
BY PARK  
~~BEARS~~ ABOUT BEARS  
EXCELLENT.

22. ANN DAHL

PREY ON BEARS ENCLOSED  
SHOULD  
PARK. GRIZZLES NOT BE  
HANGING AROUND

23. ROSS KILPATRICK  
PEGGY

BETTER PREY OUTSIDE  
PARK.

FENCE DETERRENT TO  
OUTSIDE BEARS COMING IN.

24. LARRY HENDERSON

RECURRING INVESTIGATION  
OF PARK BY OUTSIDE BEARS.

PROBABLY WILL TAPER OFF.

~~24~~ 25. JERRY FLANDERS

~~24~~ WILD ELK ATTRACTED  
TO GAME FARMS.

26. ANN BUHL

NOT TO DISCOURAGE PARK  
CONCERNS FOR GRIZZLES

27. AL KLUBITZ

CORRIDOR' TRAIL OF THE  
GREAT BEAR' ECO-TOURISM  
TO CREATE WILDLIFE <sup>ENVIRON-</sup> MENTAL  
EDUCATION.

28. PEGGY KILPATRICK

LETTER BY REALTOR

29. MIKE MEDEL

CONCERN OF CHILDREN  
IN AREA ~~FOCUSING~~

TO ACCESS BEARS

THROUGH FENCING

PATROLLED INSIDE & OUTSIDE

30. MIKE MEDEL

ARE ALL CONCERNS MET.  
FENCING ADEQUATE. LIABILITY  
& LITIGATION

31. LARRY HENDERSON

CHILDREN BIT BY DOG  
THROUGH FENCE

32. MIKE MEDEL

~~THE~~ PROCESS IS AT  
THIS POINT. TO FINANIZE  
DECISION OF PARK

33. ROD NELSON

MR. DEIST.  
DEALING WITH STIPULATIONS  
# 7, 8, 9.  
(STATE RULES OPPOSED TO  
FED. RULES & REGS.)

34. MIKE MEDEL

WHEN DECISION OF EAA  
TO BE DONE

35. BRUCE ELLYSOW

PRICE OF ADMISSION FOR  
VIEWING OF ANIMALS + AVAILA-  
BILITY OF VIEWING

36. JERRY FLANDERS OUTCOME AVAILABLE TO  
PUBLIC.

37. HAMPTON BAXTER PROBLEM OF GUARD  
~~DOG~~ DOG TO PUBLIC MAY  
CAUSE INJURY

38. PETE BUELLER TYPE OF DOGS USED  
ACABAUGH  
GREAT PYRENEES.

39. ~~BILL~~ BILL MORGAN BLACK BEAR STIPULATION  
STILL STAND AFTER  
~~NEUTERING~~ NEUTERING CLAUSE MADE  
PUBLIC