

Minnesota Natural Resources

Department: Environmental
Assessment Files Regarding State
Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

LAC QUI PARLE RECREATION AREA

- DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION
 - A. <u>Purpose of the Action</u> Lac Qui Parle Recreation Area was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1959.

The development of lands within the Recreation Area's statutory boundary, by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Recreation, will provide additional outdoor recreational opportunities for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of the State of Minnesota.

The State of Minnesota - Department of Natural Resources proposes that the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as administrator of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), participate in this action.

B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Lac Qui Parle Recreation

Area is geographically located in Lac Qui Parle County approximately

ten miles northwest of Montevideo, Minnesota. The Twin Cities

are situated about 130 miles to the east.

The present authorized land area for the recreation area is.
695 acres. As of March 31, 1972 the total land area acquired was
650 acres. This area was acquired under the SERA Program in the
late 1930's and developed as part of the Lac Qui Parle dam and
reservoir project under WPA.

It is proposed that a well and pump be installed in the picnic area with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The current estiamted cost of this development is \$8,000.00.

- C. <u>Timing of the Project</u> State funds are available for completion of the project. Private contractors will be able to submit bids on this project starting on May 24, 1977. It is expected that the development will be completed within one construction season.
- D. <u>Future Development</u> A comprehensive management planning process is now being done on state parks and recreation areas.
 Although Lac Qui Parle State Recreation Area is not included in the first batch of state parks and recreation areas chosen for comprehensive management plan development, it is scheduled for management plan development in the future. This process will assess the area's potential to service the recreation user's needs. After August 1, 1977, development will not proceed unless a management plan has been completed.

Development during this biennuim will be implemented and coordinated with the planning staff preparing the long range management plans. Future development will follow the recommendations and alternatives studied in the management plan process for the entire recreation area.

E. Recreation Needs to be Served by the Proposal - Lac Qui Parle

State Recreation Area is located within Economic Development

Region 6W, a five county area in eastern Minnesota. This park

provides recreational facilities for picnicking, swimming, trails,

interpretation, fishing, and campgrounds for overnite campers.

The recreation area's attendance record shows steady growth.

In 1968, the total visitors were 13,896.

In 1970, a total of 30,592 visitors came to Lac Qui Parle
State Recreation Area and in 1971, 35,179 people visited the area.
Because of the increasing attendance in the recreation area,
completion of this project is necessary to meet demands.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Topography - The Lac Qui Parle area in which the recreation area is now located has been long and rich in documented history dating back to 1835. The land prior to the establishment of the recreation area was primarily used for agricultural and pasture purposes. Across the Minnesota river to the Lac Qui Parle river the lands were low lying woodlands for the most part, except for those segments of flood plain that had been cleared and cultivated near the east side of the Lac Qui Parle River; the west side of the Lac Qui Parle River was also wooded, but due to its use for more intensive pasturing it had open meadows here and there.

At the time the recreation area was first established there was no dam; the southeast lake outlet was located about 1,000 feet northwesterly of the present dam; the Lac Qui Parle river meandered for a mile beyond where it presently enters the Lac Qui Parle reservoir to the point where it actually entered the lake.

The present park land ownership west of the Minnesota River and adjacent to Lac Qui Parle, which now constitutes Lac Qui Parle State Recreation Area, was purchased in connection with the development of the Lac Qui Parle reservoir; the reservoir was designed primarily as a water conservation program during the

major drought period of the 1930's. The reservoir offers an excellent potential for recreational development. The main characteristic of the recreation area is heavily wooded hardwood timber which forms a corridor along each river.

In the fall of every year massive concentrations of waterfowl use the reservoir on their migration south and this area is also one of the few locations in the State where golden eagles can be observed with any regularity.

The park is subject to Minnesota's continental climate. The state experiences frequent outbreaks of continental polar air throughout the year, with occassional arctic outbreaks during the cold season. Occassional periods of prolonged heat occur during summer, particularly in the southern portion when warm air pushes northward from the Gulf of Mexico and the southwestern United States. This seasonal variation is almost ideal for a year round variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

B. <u>Historical and Archaeological Resources</u> - Lac Qui Parle (Translation:

"Lake that Speaks") was the site of Indian encampments for centuries.

This was due to the river junction location and the line of springs.

The springs provided excellent drinking water and attracted fish

in the winter. Physical remains indicate the sites are ancient.

Some of the artifacts found on the mission site are pre-Dakota.

There are a number of mounds in the Lac Qui Parle area but cultivation has nearly destroyed most of them.

Fur traders had posts at Lac Qui Parle beginning about 1800 and continuing through the middle of the century. Traders from Lac Qui Parle gathered furs in a wide area from Lake Traverse to

eastern South Dakota and areas near the lowa border. The most noteworthy of the traders was Joseph Renville. In about 1825 he built a stockade around his dwelling house, which had been erected earlier. He was once the only power to be reckoned with between Fort Snelling and the Canadian border. Safe conduct from Joseph Renville was a guarantee to the many explorers and travelers that visited his fort. He became famous for his hospitality. On his own accord he brough in the first missionaries and aided them with supplies, translations, and other benefits.

From its founding in 1835 to its destruction by fire in 1854, the Lac Qui Parle Mission was the most active of a group of protestant missions to the Dakota Indians. The Lac Qui Parle Mission is credited with the following accomplishments.

- It formed the first church organized amoung the Dakota Indians and the second organized in the state.
- 2. It had the first church bell in the State.
- 3. It had the first corn mill in the State.
- 4. It produced the first cloth woven in the State.
- 5. It had the first school in the Minnesota Valley.

All of the historic and archaeological areas within Lac Qui Parle

State Recreation Area lie to the east and south of the project

site. It is believed that this project will have no effect on these
historic areas.

C. <u>Transportation and Utilities</u> - Lac Qui Parle State Recreation Area is easily accessible via county state aid highway 33 which parrallels the area's boundary. The village of Lac Qui Parle is situated two miles to the west on county state aid highway 48.

D. <u>Socio-Economic Factors</u> - The Minnesota State Planning Agency

(SPA) population projections for Lac Qui Parle county and for

Economic Deveopment Region 6W show the following decreases by

region and by county.

	Dealer 6W		
	Lac Qui County	Region 6W	
1975	11,200	61,400	
1980	10,800	60,300	
1985	10,700	60,400	
1990	10,500	59,900	
1995	10,300	58,700	
2000	9,900	56,700	

Based on 1970 population data, the SPA estimates an employed labor force of 3,841 persons within Lac Qui Parle county. Major field of employment for this labor force were; transport equipment operatives (33.6%), Laborers (30.1%), service workers (12.3%) professional/technical (9.5%), other professional workers (9.6%). Average family income also based on 1970 SPA population data was \$7,372.00. This compared to a statewide average family income of \$11,097.00.

- E. Land Use The predominant land use in Lac Qui Parle county is agricultural. Madison is the principal urban center of the area.
- F. Existing Recreational Facilities Lac Qui Parle State Recreation

 Area provides facilities to visitors for camping, swimming, boating,
 picnicking and related facilities.

111. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Impact on the physical and biological environment - Some disruption of flora and fauna resources may occur in the immediate development site. However, due to the highly localized nature of the

development project, no significant impacts upon flora and fauna resources will occur.

- B. Impact on the Historical and Archaeological Resources Although
 there are historical and archaeological sites within the recreation
 area, no effect is anticipated on these sites if the project is
 implemented.
- C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities Neither the major roadways to the area or the secondary roads providing access to the recreation area will be impacted by the proposal.
- D. Impact on Socio-Economic Factors Since all of the land on or near the project site has already been acquired, no loss from the local tax revenue, or from agricultural production will occur.

 Beneficial impacts on the economy will be realized. This will result from the contractors needed to build the development.
- E. <u>Impact on Land Use</u> Since the development site is in an area being used for recreational purposes, the project proposal is compatible with present usage.
- IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION
 - A. After the completion of the proposed development, reseeding and landscaping will be employed in the immediate area to replace disrupted flora resources.
- V. ANY ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED.
 - A. The proposed development will unavoidably affect a minimal amount of flora and fauna resources. However, this will be confined to the highly localized area of the development itself.

- RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND VI. THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY.
 - Short-term uses of the environment as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity are not considered in terms of years. Trade offs are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

GAINS

LOSSES

- Installation of a well and pump in the picnic area.
 - 1. Minimal disruption of a highly localized area of flora and fauna.
- economy from necessary employment.
- 2. Improvement in the local 2. Expenditure of approximately \$8,000.00 of public funds.
- 3. Public ownership of facilities to enhance recreational areas for the benefits of the public.
- VII. ANY IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVEABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED.
 - Implementation of the proposal will result in a more permanent conversion from present recreational land use to a facility used to enhance surrounding recreational lands. The manpower, materials, and funds necessary to implement the proposed action will also be irretrievably committed.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Major alternatives, considered for the action are: (A) no action (B) project of a larger scope. (A) no action - A no action development course would result in the flora and fauna resources remaining undisturbed in the local project area.

However, the facility proposed for development would remain in its present state. The present state does not adequately meet present demands.

(B) Project of a Larger Scope - The development of a higher capacity well or more than one well is not needed at this time.

ADMIN 1000 (Rev. 1/78) SF-00006-01

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Frank.

DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES - Parks & Rec. Office Memorandum

TO

: Roger Holmes, Chief

Section of Wildlife

DATE: July 13, 1979

FROM

Wayland K. Porter, Park Systems Supervisor PHONE: 6-0744

Goose Blinds in Lac qui Parle State Park SUBJECT:

The suggested proposal to build seven state-managed goose blinds in Lac qui parle State Park appears satisfactory.

Please ask your field staff to coordinate the installations with Regional Park Supervisor, Charles Mitchell, and Park Manager, Garry Barvels.

WKP:mmb

Don D. Davison, Director

C.R. Burrows, Chief, Section of Fisheries Maynard Nelson, Regional Administrator Charles Mitchell, Regional Park Supervisor Hiram Southwick, Regional Wildlife Manager

Garry Barvels, Park Manager Arlin Anderson, Wildlife Area Manager

Tom Isley, Assistant Chief, Wildlife

ADMIN 1000 (Rev. 1/78)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

то

Wayland Porter

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Wildlife

DATE: 7-9-79

FROM

Roger Holmes P. Holmes

PHONE: 3344

SUBJECT:

Goose Blinds in the Lac qui Parle State Park

Attached is a map showing the proposed location of seven state-managed blinds within the Lac qui Parle State Park. These blinds would be numbered 38 through 44 and would be administered as part of the controlled goose hunt at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area.

This proposal would move the blinds away from the roadside right-of-way and minimize hunter/landowner conflicts.

The controlled goose hunt involves over 100 blinds on the boundary of the refuge and on certain parcels of the WMA.

The seven blinds proposed for the Park will be spaced about 250 yards apart and will be located between the old Park road and the right-of-way of County Road 33.

Lac qui Parle WMA personnel will build and maintain the blinds and administer the hunt.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience as to the acceptability of this proposal. Changes must be made in the Commissioner's Order which authorizes hunts on special areas.

RMH:tei

cc: C. R. Burrows
Maynard Nelson
Hiram Southwick
Arlin Anderson
Tom Isley

DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES - Parks & Rec. Office Memorandum

TO

: Roger Holmes, Chief

Section of Wildlife

DATE: April 27, 1979

: Wayland K. Porter, Parks System Supervisor PHONE: 6-0744 FROM

SUBJECT: Goose Blinds in Lac qui Parle State Park

We have no objection to the idea of moving the goose blinds into the park along County State Aid Highway 33. It is our understanding that this action may help the Department's relations with the county and local landowners.

Before any blinds are placed in the park, we would like to review a specific proposal. We need to know how many blinds, where, and who will build and maintain them.

WKP:mmr

Milt Krona, Recreation Systems Coordinator

Don D. Davison, Director

Maynard Nelson, Regional Administrator Charles Mitchell, Regional Park Supervisor Frank Knoke, Environmental Review Specialist

February 12, 1979

Wayland Porter Park Systems Supervisor

Charles Mitchell
Region IV Parks Supervisor

Lac qui Parle - Goose Blinds

I just want you to know that I concur with Frank Knoke's memo of Jan. 5 (received here Feb. 12!). The department has a serious public relations problem in this area with hunters trespassing on adjacent private land and with the whole question of public vs. private blinds. We can help at least a little by allowing goose blinds on park land.

The land in question is in the "no trespass" portion of the refuge so the public is not able to utilize the picnic area during hunting season and has never been able to. Therefore, we're not depriving park users of anything they have had in the past.

I'm assuming that Wildlife personnel will construct and remove the blinds and that hunting will be restricted to only that portion of the park in Sec. 15 and the section to the north which parallel C.S.A.H. 33. This will require an order from the Commissioner to implement.

CM:dc

cc: Frank Knoke V Milt Krona Garry Barvels



FFB 1 3 1979

Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Parks & Recreation

CENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



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Cities are situated about 130 miles to the east.

The present authorized land area for the recreation area is
695 acres. As of March 31, 1972 the total land area acquired was
650 acres. This area was acquired under the SERA Program in the
late 1930's and developed as part of the Lac Qui Parle dam and
reservoir project under WPA.

It is proposed to remodel the campground sanitation building and to rehabilitate the boat landing in the boat launching area with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The current estimated cost of this rehabilitation is \$13,000.00.

- C. <u>Timing of the Project</u> State funds are available for completion of the project. It is expected that the rehabilitation will be completed within one construction season.
- D. Future Development A comprehensive management planning process is now being done on state parks and recreation areas.

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major drought period of the 1930's. The reservoir offers an excellent potential for recreational development. The main characteristic of the recreation area is heavily wooded hardwood timber which forms a corridor along each river.

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"Lake that Speaks") was the site of Indian encampments for centuries.

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- 2. It had the first church bell in the State.
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All of the historic and archaeological areas within Lac Oui Parle
State Recreation Area lie to the east and south of the project
site. It is believed that this project will have no effect on these
historic areas.

C. Transportation and Utilities - Lac Qui Parle State Recreation Area is easily accessible via county state aid highway 33 which parrallels the area's boundary. The village of Lac Qui Parle is situated two miles to the west on county state aid highway 48.

D. <u>Socio-Economic Factors</u> - The Minnesota State Planning Agency (SPA) population projections for Lac Qui Parle county and for Economic Deveopment Region 6W show the following decreases by region and by county.

1		Population Projections Lac Qui County	Region 6W		
1975		11,200	61,400		
1980	9	10,800	60,300		
1985		10,700	60,400		
1990		10,500	59,900		
1995		10,300	58,700		
2000		9,900	56,700		

Based on 1970 population data, the SPA estimates an employed labor force of 3,841 persons within Lac Qui Parle county. Major field of employment for this labor force were; transport equipment operatives (33.6%), Laborers (30.1%), service workers (12.3%) professional/technical (9.5%), other professional workers (9.6%). Average family income also based on 1970 SPA population data was \$7,372.00. This compared to a statewide average family income of \$11,097.00.

- E. <u>Land Use</u> The predominant land use in Lac Qui Parle county is agricultural. Madison is the principal urban center of the area.
- F. Existing Recreational Facilities Lac Qui Parle State Recreation

 Area provides facilities to visitors for camping, swimming, boating,
 picnicking and related facilities.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

A. Impact on the physical and biological environment - Some disruption of flora and fauna resources may occur in the immediate rehabilitation site. However, due to the highly localized nature of the

rehabilition project, no significant impacts upon flora and fauna resources will occur.

- B. Impact on the Historical and Archaeological Resources Although
 there are historical and archaeological sites within the recreation area, no effect is anticipated on these sites if the project
 is implemented.
- C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities Neither the major roadways to the area or the secondary roads providing access to the recreation area will be impacted by the proposal.
- D. Impact on Socio-Economic Factors Since all of the land on or near the project site has already been acquired, no loss from the local tax revenue, or from agricultural production will occur.

 Beneficial impacts on the economy will be realized.
- E. <u>Impact on Land Use</u> Since the rehabilitation site is in an area being used for recreational purposes, the project proposal is compatible with present usage.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION

- A. After the completion of the proposed rehabilitation, reseeding and landscaping will be employed in the immediate area to replace disrupted flora resources.
- V. ANY ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED.
 - A. The proposed rehabilitation will unavoidably affect a minimal amount of flora and fauna resources. However, this will be confined to the highly localized area of the rehabilitation itself.

- VI. RELATIONSHIP BE SEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF N'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY.
 - A. Short-term uses of the environment as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity are not considered in terms of years. Trade offs are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

GAINS

- Remodel sanitation building and rehabilitate boat landing.
- Improvement in the local2. economy from necessary employment.
- Public ownership of facilities to enhance recreational areas for the benefits of the public.

LOSSES

- Minimal disruption of a highly localized area of flora and fauna.
 - Expenditure of approximately \$13,000.00 of public funds.

- VII. ANY IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVEABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES WHICH
 WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED.
 - A. Implementation of the proposal will result in a more permanent conversion from present recreational land use to a facility used to enhance surrounding recreational lands. The manpower, materials, and funds necessary to implement the proposed action will also be irretrievably committed.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Major alternatives, considered for the action are: (A) no action

(B) project of a larger scope. (A) no action - A no action rehabilitation course would result in the flora and fauna resources remaining undisturbed in the local project area.

However, the facility proposed for rehabilitation would remain in its present state. The present state does not adequately meet demands.

(B) <u>Project of a Larger Scope</u> - The development of larger facilities are not needed at this time.

ADDENDUM

LAC QUI PARLE RECREATION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LW-27-00759

I. It is proposed to rehabilitate the boat landing by replacing the existing ice damaged concrete boat ramp with crushed granite and a steel mat. The clearing of shoreline for a beach area will also be done.

The current estimated cost of this proposal is \$2,000.

III. There will be a temporary disturbance of the lake bottom at the landing site.


There will be a change in vegetation in the beach area from brush to grass.

- IV. There will be increased use of the facility by the public due to its increased capacity and improved condition.
- V. There will be loss of brush cover along the lakeshore.

The disturbance of the lake bed is also unavoidable but of a temporary nature.

VII. The only alternative is no action. This is not a viable alternative since the department's goal is to provide outdoor recreation.

If the landing is not rehabilitated, few people will use the facility and the department's goals will not be met.



ADMIN 1000 (Rev. 1/78)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Bx 39

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Parks & Rec.

Office Memorandum

TO

: Frank Knoke

Environmental Specialist

DATE: 18 May 1979

FROM

: Ed Brekke-Kramer

Resource Coordinator, Reg. IV

PHONE: 354-2196

SUBJECT: Food Plots

I just talked to John Ludwig at Madelia. I'm meeting with him on the 24th to look at his data on herd sizes, consumption r tes, etc.

In the meantime, here is the info that I have on Lac Qui Parle:

Winter herds have been fed with corn food plots and with shelled corn supplements provided by the Wildlife division.

Last winter's population was 198. The minimum low year-long population was 64 from 1967-79. The minimum winter population is probably 150. The manager says that the winter herd services at least 25 sq. mi.

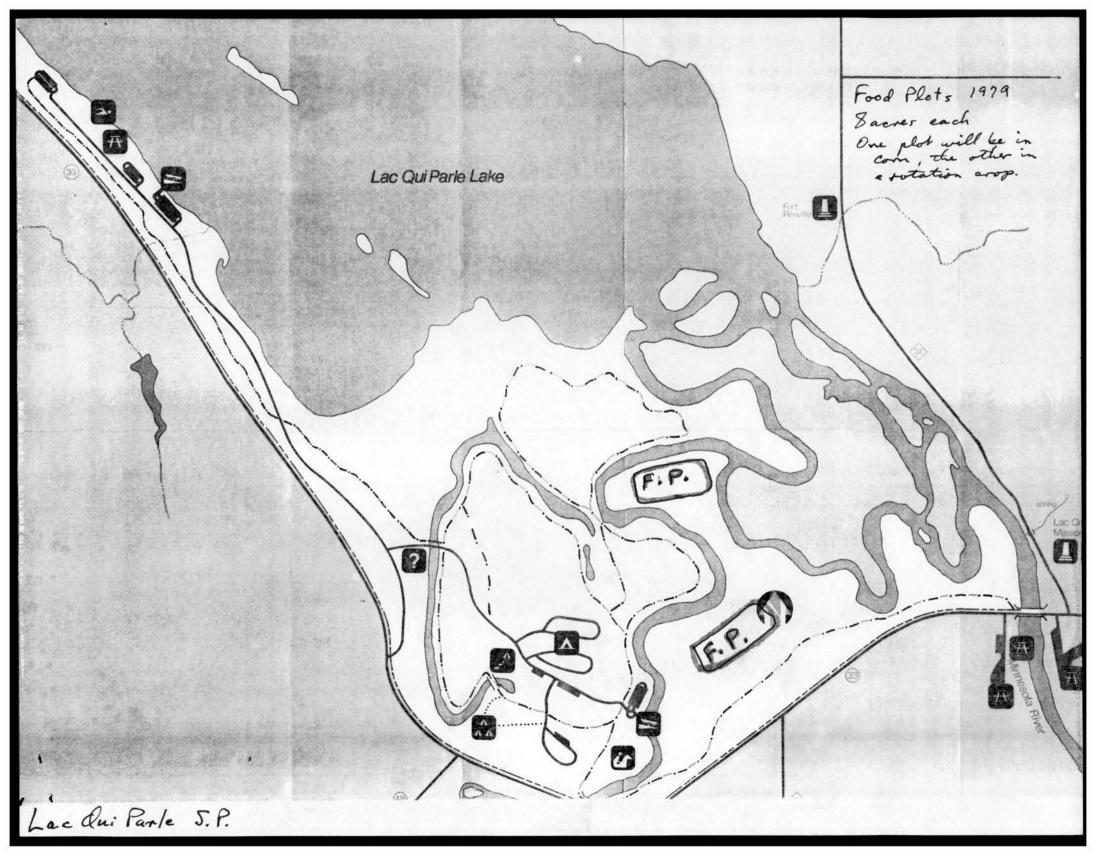
The park now has two 8 acre food plots. If rotated with rye or wheat, as the manager suggests, the winter herd will continue to need supplementation. The plot nearest County 33 could be enlarged from 8 to 22 acres. This would be sufficient for the herd and presumably cost less than hauling in shelled corn all winter.

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MAY 2 1 1979

Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Parks & Recreation



ADMIN 1000 (Rev. 1/78)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

то

: Frank Knoke

Environmental Specialist

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Parks & Rec.

DATE: 31 May 1979

FROM

Ed Brekke-Kramer

Resource Coordinator, Reg. 1V

PHONE: 354-2196

SUBJECT:

Food Plots in Region 1V State Parks

The table below includes information on all parks in need of food plots this year and Sibley, which is still leasing, and Blue Mounds, where a problem may develop in the near future.

Population reports that I had been getting from managers were only actual aerial count figures. I have included a 35% increase to the fixed-wing aerial winter counts, based on the fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and collared counts made at Lac Qui Parle refuge. The Lac Qui Parle data indicates that fixed-wing counts are about 50% less than actual herd numbers. Since the cover at Lac Qui Parle is heavier than at our State Parks, fixed-wing counts for the parks should be closer than 50%.

The number of deer sustained per acre (deer/acre) has been determined for the period 1 Dec. to 31 Mar. I have added a 50% acreage increase for the period 1 Oct. to 1 Dec. I have also added a 25% acreage increase to allow for usage by other animals. These additions should provide food after 1 Feb., when many food plots were clean last year.

The Lac Qui Parle acreage should not be used, or should be used only in small fields of about 8 acreas or less. Large fields invite the goose flocks and nothing will remain for the winter. Both the park manager and the game managers would be happy with two 8 acre plots and supplemental feeding.

'Hunter days of recreation' is based, in part, on data from 1976 which was considered a low hunter pressure year, and is therefore a low estimate.

cc: Charlie Mitchell

	+35%	A-wing counts +35% Deer/acre for corn Basic acreage +50%						Hunter days of recreation		
Shetek -	247	333	13.4	24.8	37.2	46.5	150	1056	4/3	
Sibley	104	140	12.7	11.0	16.5	20.6	28	287	heart again and	
Flandrau	134	181	14.9	12.1	18.2	22.7			22	
Upper Sioux Agency	200	270	11.9	22.7	34.0	42.5	7 5	390	30	
Camden	250	338	13.4	25.2	37.8	47.2	190	1157	30	
Kilen Woods	114	154	13.4	11.5	17.2	21.6	175	581	Le	
Traverse des Sioux	43	58	14.9	3.9	5.8	7.3	80	390	-6	
Blue Mounds	118	159	13.4	11.9	17.8	22.2	75	299	_	
Lac Qui Parle	200	270	11.9	22.7	34.0	42.5	7 5	468	16	

red maps person



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1135 U. S. POST OFFICE & CUSTOM HOUSE
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

NCSED-ER

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the public workshop held on 7 June. The information that you provided has given us a better understanding of the existing conditions in the Lac qui Parle and Marsh Lake area. This information will assist us in developing a Master Plan for Public Use Development and Resource Management for Lac qui Parle Lake which more accurately reflects the public's recreational needs and desires. The information obtained will also help us to revaluate the reservoir operating plan.

Attached is a memo prepared by Franklin Star of this office which outlines the topics discussed at the workshop. Please review it to insure that all the topics discussed at the workshop have been covered. If anything has been inadvertently omitted from this memo, or if you know of other important topics which should be brought to our attention, please call Frank Star at 612-725-5936, or mail your comments to my attention at the above address.

In order to keep the overall planning process on schedule, please provide us your comments by the end of June. Any and all comments you may have will be appreciated. Thank you for your interest and your assistance.

2 Incl

1. Memo for Record

2. Attendence List

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. POST

Chief, Environmental Resources Branch

Engineering Division

Rec'd

JUL 1 1 1979

D.N.R. New Ulm

DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15, the proponent opency is TAGCEN.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

MCSED-ER

Public Workshop, Lac qui Parle Flood Concrol Project

TO

FROM

DATE

CMT I

Memo for Record

Environmental Resources | Branch 12 June 1979 STAR/ck/5936

- L. A public workshop was held 7 June 1979 at the Lac qui Parle maintenance building at Watson, Minnesota. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain the views of the public on the recreational uses of and problems associated with the Lac qui Parle Lake project. Fifteen people participated in this workshop (see inclosed list).
- 2. The following is a summary of the major points discussed at the workshop ("I think I remember what I thought I understood what they were meaning to say"):
 - a. Concerns were expressed about access to the west side of the Marsh Lake dam. Local residents had been driving on the access road along the top of the dam in order to get closer to fishing areas. However, project personnel have been directed to prevent public vehicular use of the road for two reasons. First, the dam was not designed to carry traffic. There has been some deterioration of the road in the past. Second, the current conditions pose a safety hazard for vehicles. The local residents believe the access road is a township road and cannot be closed. They also discount the safety arguments because of the history of public use. They requested that an access be provided. I pointed out that any improvements for access would be for recreational purposes and would require participation of a local cost-sharing sponsor. I also assured them that this issue will be addressed in the master plan.
 - b. The local residents generally agreed that too little was being done to enhance and promote the fishing in the lakes. Local residents recognize the entire project as a significant recreational fishing resource, and yet they believe that wildlife management, in particular goose management, dictates the use of the entire area. They wish to see greater emphasis placed upon fisheries management. Therefore, they requested that the Corps do whatever it can in terms of reservoir operations, access publicity, etc, that might improve fishing.
 - c. A number of points were made during the discussion concerning the operating plan and lake levels. For a number of reasons such as silting and excess upland drainage, some believe that the project no longer functions as intended and that its purpose should be abandoned. The lakes should be kept as full as possible with no flood storage available. Others pointed out that the project

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SUBJECT: Public Workshop, Lac qui Parle Flood Control Project

was built for flood control and that downstream land use reflects this. Lac qui Parle State Park is adversely affected by high water levels during the summer recreation season. The need to re-examine the current operating plan was generally agreed upon. The residents will be contacting the District Office to initiate the process. The conditions this past winter caused significant winterkills of fish within the reservoirs. Many believe that the Corps practice of lowering the reservoirs during the winter was a significant contributing cause. There was considerable discussion of reservoir operations and its effects. Everyone agreed that a meeting between the appropriate Corps, DNR, and local people is badly needed to discuss the current operating plan. In particular, there was interest expressed in keeping the lake levels higher throughout the winter.

- d. A somewhat related point was an expressed desire to deepen the lakes by either a pool raise or dredging. This could improve the resource for fishing.
- e. The residents want better access to the lakes, particularly on the east side of Lac qui Parle. It was pointed out that the DNR owned the land and that they would have to provide access in that area. It was also noted that better signage of the existing public accesses would be beneficial.
- 3. I informed the participants that they would have an opportunity to review the results of the workshop, as well as review and comment on the draft master plan. They will also be notified of all related future public meetings.

1 Incl. As Stated

FRANKLIN E. STAR Outdoor Recreation Planner Public Use Development

CF: Dennis Cin, CO-PO Arlee Keys, Park Manager, Valley City, ND Curt Hanson, Lac qui Parle Project

No

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Public Workshop Participants

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