

Minnesota Natural Resources

Department: Environmental
Assessment Files Regarding State
Parks

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June 2 1987 TO Frank Knoke 296-48 9 1 RECEIVED DARKS & RE Irom: Joe Hiller RE Sibley SP; CSAH 48 Realignment 120261811 NPS has approved your proposed realignment. a copy of their response is attached. Please retain this for your records and I'll heep a copy in the 6 (9) file too. Note the three reasons NPS used in 1. Earmarked CSAH funds 2. Park Plan (revised) 3. Confined use granting approval: We should consider these factors when we resubmit the Trontenar St groposal to them.



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MIDWEST REGION 1709 JACKSON STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571



MAY 2 9 1987

27-00956 (MWR-RG)

Ms. Karen Loechler
Assistant Commissioner for
Planning and Special Programs
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 51
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146

Dear Ms. Loechler:

This is in reply to your letter of May 5 conveying certain information which we requested on the proposed realignment of a portion of County State Aid Highway 48 (CSAH 48) within Sibley State Park. Approximately one-half mile of road would be relocated farther northeast of Lake Andrew, west of the picnic grounds. The present right-of-way would be conveyed to the State. We note that CSAH 48 in the State park was developed with State funds earmarked for internal park road use, that the relocation of CSAH 48 is in accordance with the recently revised "Management Plan for Sibley State Park," and that use of that portion of CSAH 48 is generally confined to persons recreating in Sibley State Park. Consequently, Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, as amended, does not apply to the above road relocation. The work may proceed.

Sincerely,

Martin A. Sterkel

Acting Chief, Recreation Grants Division

6/1/87 Copy to Joe Hiller

BOX 39, 500 LAFAYETTE ROAD • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA • 55146

DNR INFORMATION (612) 296-6157

To Whom It May Concern:

The 1979 <u>Sibley State Park Management Plan</u> is revised in regard to the future of County State Aid Highway 48 through the park as documented in the attached addendum.

Sincerely

Acting Director

Division of Parks and Recreation

#### ADDENDUM TO THE 1979 SIBLEY STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The situation at Sibley State Park has changed significantly since the existing management plan was completed in 1979. The result of the changes is a change in attitude of the Division of Parks and Recreation towards keeping County State Aid Highway 48 (CSAH) open through Sibley State Park. Pages 81-85, of the management plan, outlines the division's assessment in 1979. Since the plan was completed, the following changes have occurred:

- -- An increased number of park visitors now enter the park from the west on CSAH 48. Keeping CSAH 48 open from the west will continue to allow this service for park visitors.
- -- Commercial business that provide services for park visitors are expanding in the community of Como Beach which is on the west end of Lake Andrew. Retaining CSAH 48 as a through road is necessary to allow park visitors easy access to these services.
- A new public access has been developed on the south west of Lake Andrew outside of Sibley State Park. This has significantly reduced the park sticker enforcement problems at the state park boat launch.
- -- An alignment has been identified which will have very limited environmental impact and will open up more of the Lake Andrew shoreline for public recreational use.
- -- The shoreline of Lake Andrew, once CSAH 48 is moved inland, will be an excellent area for improving the existing boat launch and expanding other day use facilities, including picnicking, sunning, hiking and bicycling.
- -- CSAH 48 through the park is used by a mixture of motor vehicles, hikers and bicyclists. The present surface is to narrow to adequately handle this mixture of users. The proposed wider surface and longer sight distances will provide a safer travel route for all users.

-- The disintegrating road surface provides an uncomfortable distracting and expensive to maintain park entrance. Re-development of the subgrade and resurfacing will provide a much more enjoyable park entrance for park visitors, allowing them to enjoy the park scenery.

Therefore, the Division of Parks and Recreation recommends that CSAH 48 be retained through Sibley State Park, and that the alignment west of the picnic grounds be moved away from Lake Andrew. Keeping CSAH 48 open through Sibley State Park will continue to require some additional enforcement costs. However, the enforcement cost is less then was anticipated in 1979, and the park visitor benefits will be higher then was anticipated.

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DEPARTMENT Natural Resources-Willmar

# Office Memorandum

TO

: Frank Knoke

DATE: 5-12-80

FROM

: Jeff Miller

SUBJECT: Deer Management Plan - Sibley State Park

Fixed-wing counts	111
+35%	150
Deer/ac. Corn	10 Ideally
Basic Acreage	15.0
+50%	22.5
+25%	28
Area Serviced	28 mi. <sup>2</sup>
Hunter Days of Recreation	187 1979 Harvest and Permit Information From Kill Block 92
Acres Planted to Date	10

Office Memorandum

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
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# RECEIVED

MAY 1 4 1980

Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Parks & Recreation

SiBLY PARK LINE UPA 69KU 11/15/79 Rf W along 7# 11 6F Conflict? how does USA assist in replacement lande. 12 poler per mile to be placed under ground. for miligation 100. \$ 4,000 Must be land. you send check to acqueition account. Memo to file Bel J. DAVE LACE



#### SIBLEY STATE PARK

Addendum to Environmental Assessment submitted with LW27-00719

I. <u>Description of the Proposed Action</u> - Sibley State Park was created by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1919.

Establishment of the park incorporated areas of the Mononagalia Game Preserve which was established in 1917.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources intends to provide additional recreational opportunities at Sibley State Park through the acquisition and development of private lands within the park's authorized boundaries.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as the Federal administering agency of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, proposes to participate with the State of Minnesota in a two-stage development project within the statutory boundaries of Sibley State Park for outdoor recreation purposes.

The first stage will include the remodeling of the group camp sanitation building to make it accessible to the handicapped. In addition, trails will be upgraded to an all-season trail so that it can be used for cross-country skiing and hiking.

The second stage of this proposal will consist of campground development to include sanitation building, well and sewer; construction of an interpretive/trail center including parking facilities; sewage disposal system; and vegetation management.

The anticipated time frame for completion of all items in this proposal is two construction seasons. The estimated total cost of this project is \$424,175.00.

Sibley State Park is located in central Minnesota (Kandiyohi County), approximately 14 miles north of the city of Willmar.

Further information is available in the environmental assessment submitted along with LAWCON project LW27-00719.

- II. <u>Description of the Environment</u> The description of the environment in Sibley State Park is as described in the environment assessment submitted along with LAWCON project LW27-00719.
- III. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action The major impacts upon the environment will accrue from the proposed new development included in stage two of the proposals. The proposed new facilities to be built will have site specific impacts on fauna and flora resources and will also raise noise levels. Most of the disruption will occur during the actual construction phase and once the facilities are in place replanting and reseeding will be done to replace some of the fauna resources originally disturbed. The vegetation will be changed in the areas of development to those species tolerant to man's activity. After construction is completed, noise levels will be lower, however, with the increased capacity of the recreational resources the noise levels will most probably not be at the pre-construction level.

Those items contained in stage one will have minimal impact on the environment because the existing facilities are already in place.

Additional information on impacts is highlighted in the environmental assessment sent in with project LW27-00719.

IV. Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposed Action - Development will be carried out in such a manner as to assure that the integrity of the natural resources will be maintained and protected to the fullest possible extent. New development sites will be seeded to provide erosion control and soil limitations will be taken into account in the site location and design.

The work on the new facilities will be done during periods of low park use thus reducing the number of users effected.

- V. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided Should The

  Proposal Be Implemented Adverse environmental effects will

  consist of the disruption of flora and fauna resources; increased

  park use levels will bring about increased noise levels, lit
  tering and trespassing. Even with all necessary percautions

  taken, disruption of the physical environment is unavoidable as

  recreational development and use occur.
- VI. Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment

  and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity 
  Short term uses of the environment in relationship to main
  tenance and enhancement of long-term productivity are considered

not in terms of years but rather in terms of what must be sacrificed to gain certain benefits or trade-offs.

#### GAINS

#### LOSSES .

- Construction of public recreation facilities for the use and enjoyment of visitors.
- 1. Expenditure of approximately \$424,175.00 of public funds.
- 2. Increased visitor usage and capacities to meet present and future demands.
- Some adverse environment impacts will occur.
- VII. <u>Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources</u> The manpower, fuel, materials, and funds involved in the planning, engineering, and development of the proposed project will be irretrievably committed.
- VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action The major alternatives to the proposed action are: 1) no action 2) project with a larger scope. A) No action alternative is not realistic because the facilities, especially the sewage system, are all operating at or near capacity. The demands for recreational facilities require expansion. A project with a larger scope than that proposed is not required at this time.

# ADDENDAM Sibley State Park Environmental Assessment LW - 27 - 0714

I. It is proposed to begin a two stage development program this biennium in Sibley State Park. The first stage will consist of rehabilitation of existing facilities. The second will consist of new construction and vegetative management as called for in the park management plan.

The rehabilitation will consist of remodeling the group camp sanitation building making it accessable to the handicapped. This will require a new floor and pluming fixtures.

Rehabilitation of part of the trail system will also be done. This consists of modifying the existing hiking trail so it can also be used for cross country skiing.

The present estimated cost of these proposals is 15.400.

The development program is within the scope of the park management plan being submitted. It will consist of 1) a pioneer group camp with 2 pit toilets, 2) campground development consisting 60-70 sites, a modern sanitation building and roads, 3) Interpretive/trail center and a parking lot, 4) Sewage disposal system and 5.) vegetative management.

The present estimated cost of this project is \$397,775.

The rehabilitation program will began this fall.

The new development and vegetative management will began after the park management plans are finalized and submitted.

III. The group camp sanitation building will be closed to the public during the remodeling.

The trail modifications will have site specific impacts. These include elimination of vegetation and displacement of some small animals. There will also be a chance for errosion.

The new facilities to be built will have site specific impacts on fana, flora, and noise levels. The animals using these sites will be forced to relocate to other areas of the park. The vegetation will be changed in the areas of development to those species tolerant to mans activity. Noise levels of these areas will be raised during construction.

The vegetative management will have both positive and negative impacts on the park's fauna and flora. Those plants and animals not associated with the plant community being managed for will be displaced or eliminated. Those plants and animals associated with the plant community being managed for will benefit by the improvement of their habitats.

IV. The work on the group camp sanitation building will be done after the camp is closed for the season so no users will be effected.

The work on the new facilities will be done during periods of low park use thus reducing the number of users effected. The noise levels of equipment will be in compliance with the levels set by the State Pollution Control Agency. Appropriate erosion control methods will be used to prevent erosion at all sites.

The new camp ground will replace some of the sites in the existing camp ground.

The vegetative management will perpetuate the selected plant community for use and enjoyment by future generations.

The trail work will be done during periods of low park use so few users will be effected.

V. Some plants will be eliminated by the construction of facilities. Some animals will be forced to relocate by the construction.

VIII. The alternative to remodeling the group camp sanitation building is no action. This is not a viable alternative since the departments policy is to make as many buildings as possible accessable to the handicapped.

The alternative to the new facilities is no action. This alternative was rejected because the area can support more recreation and the damand is evident.

The alternative to vegetative management is no action. This alternative will not perpetuate the natural plant communities since man's activities have altered some natural processes thus changing the climax communities for this area.

ADMIN 1000 (Rev. 1/78)

STATE OF MINNESOTA

### DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Parks & Rec.

## Office Memorandum

TO

Frank Knoke

Environmental Specialist

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

	Fixe	ed-wing +35%		acre fo	or corn c acreag +50%	+25% ge	Area	servi Hunt	ced, mi <sup>2</sup> er days of recreation ACRES PLANTER
Shetek -	247	i 333	i 13.4	24.8	i 37.2	46.5	150	1056	4/3
Sibley	104	140	12.7	11.0	16.5	20.6	28	287	least agreement
Flandrau	134	181	14.9	12.1	18.2	22.7	994		22
Upper Sioux Agency	200	270	11.9	22.7	34.0	42.5	<b>7</b> 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	<b>7</b> 5	468	16

need maps proted