

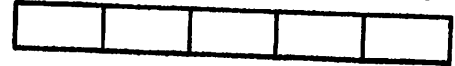
Chris Taggart

From: Wolok, Mimi <Mimi.Wolok@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Chris Taggart
Cc: Flynn, Loren; Myla Yahraus
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ft. Owen proposed expansion
Attachments: ltr.county commrs 8.20.pdf

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2020

Ravalli County Commissioners



Dear Ms. Taggart,
Attached please find a letter to Commissioners Chilcott, Hoffman and Burrows regarding the potential purchase of a parking area adjacent to Ft. Owen State Park. Please pass this letter along to the Commissioners. We would be happy to answer any questions you or the Commissioners may have.

Thank you kindly,

Mimi Wolok
Land Conservation Specialist

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59601-0701
(406) 444-4029
Mimi.Wolok@mt.gov

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VIA EMAIL
11 August 2020

Commissioners Chilcott, Hoffman and Burrows
Ravalli County Commission
ctaggart@rc.mt.gov

Dear Commissioners:

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks wishes to notify you of our proposed land purchase in Ravalli County. The purpose of the land purchase is to expand Ft. Owen State Park by 0.9 acre to create a dedicated public parking area adjacent to the State Park. FWP is also discharging the northernmost 256 feet (0.241 acre) of the roadway easement so the public will park in the new parking area instead of driving close to the adjacent landowner's homesite and farming operation. The State Park is located one mile northwest of Stevensville.

The project is the subject of an environmental assessment, released to the public on August 7, 2020. The Department published a public notice at that time. The full environmental assessment can be accessed at:

http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/acquisitionsTradesAndLeases/pn_0251.html

Pursuant to House Bill 674, enacted by the 2009 Montana Legislature, the Department is providing the following information:

- **Property Description:** The property to be acquired is located immediately to the south of Ft. Owen State Park and consists of cropland. The property to be discharged is located immediately to the east of the State Park and consists of roadbed and grass. A location map, site map and legal descriptions contained in a survey are attached.
- **Property Use:** The property will be used as a public parking area for Ft. Owen State Park.
- **Property Taxes:** Because the new addition will be an adjusted boundary from the larger farm owned by the current landowner, the annual property taxes are unknown at this time. Pursuant to Section 87-1-603, MCA, the Department will pay to Ravalli County a sum equal to the amount of taxes that would be payable on the county assessment if the property were in private ownership, unless it is exempt under 87-1-603, MCA. The new property has no building improvements on it.
- **Site Management and Costs:** The Department will manage the larger Ft. Owen State Park for public recreational use and will conduct enforcement, maintenance and oversight activities appropriate to the degree of public use. FWP will manage weeds in accordance with its county weed management plan for this site and in accordance with other state

parks in the vicinity. The estimated annual cost to the Department of site management, including operations, maintenance and staff costs, is \$ 500.00.

- **Potential Future Development:** Potential development of this site would likely include fencing, rerouting of the landowner's irrigation ditch, paving and signage. Any proposed development would be subject to a new environmental assessment and public comment, after a cultural resources investigation and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Offices is completed.

The Montana Parks & Recreation Board will be making its decision on the proposed land acquisition and discharge at its next scheduled meeting on September 17, 2020, in Helena. The agenda for that meeting should be available online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/insideFwp/commission/meetings/> in early September.

Please call Loren Flynn in the FWP Missoula office, at (406) 542-5500 if you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspects of the proposed acquisition.

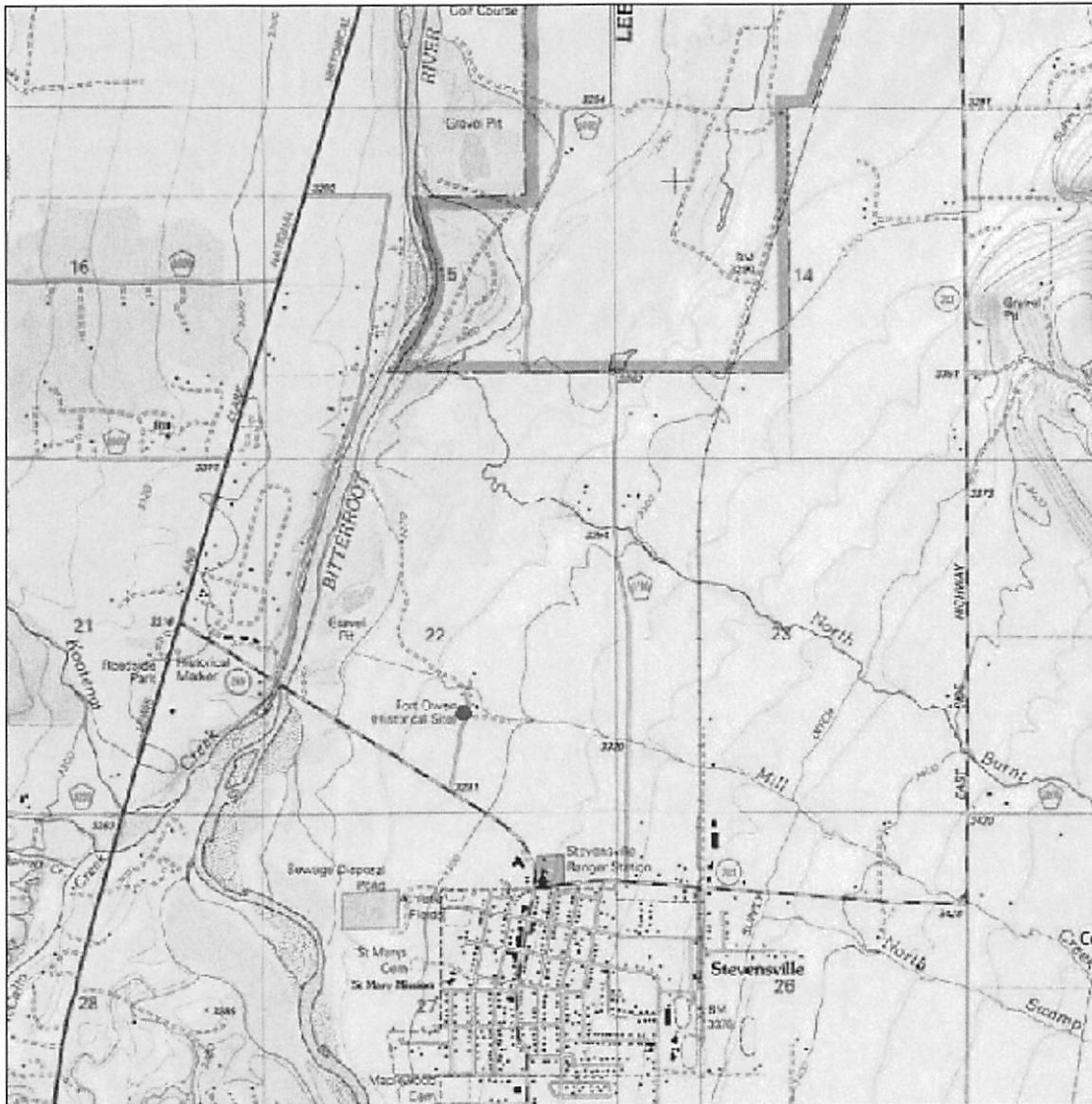
Thank you kindly,



Mimi Wolok
Land Conservation Specialist
Lands Unit

PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-4029

cc: Myla Yahraus, FWP Region 2



Location (red dot) of Fort Owen State Park, northwest of Stevensville in Ravalli County.



Approximate boundaries of the proposed addition (Tract B, red line) to existing Fort Owen State Park (Tract A) and the portion of access easement to be discharged (Tract C, blue line).