



MONTANA FWP

Makoshika State Park  
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**Environmental Assessment Decision Notice  
Capital Road Project in Makoshika State Park  
May 17, 2018**

**Description of Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to renovate 2.5 miles of the existing main park road in Makoshika State Park in Glendive, Montana. This 19-year-old road surface has deteriorated and will continue to do so, creating an unsafe and unsatisfactory experience for the over 90,000 visitors to Makoshika State Park. Montana FWP, acting through its Parks Division and at the direction of the Montana State Legislature, would utilize a contractor to create a durable road by demolishing the existing road, full depth recycling(FDR) the resulting material, digging out and replacing problem areas, adding a new cement treated base (CTB), and repaving.

**Public Process and Comments:** A draft Environmental Assessment regarding this proposed action was presented to the public for review via a 20-day comment period that ran from April 2, 2018 through April 23, 2018. The proposal was posted in the Public Notices section of Montana State Parks' public website on April 2, 2018, legal notices were printed in the *Helena Independent Record*, *Billings Gazette* and *Glendive Ranger Review*, and a hard copy of the EA was available in the Makoshika State Park Visitor Center for public review.

Two comments were received via email during the comment period and two were received via U.S. mail. Three of the four were supportive of the project and one suggested a different approach and was opposed to the project as described.

The three positive comments generally related that the proposed improvements will help with better travel in the park and is much needed.

One respondent felt that the budgeted capital money that is earmarked for the road project should be used for other improvements in the park. A detailed cost estimate was attached to the letter showing that a patch job on the road would be just as beneficial for substantially less. They suggested that the entrance road needed an overlay too but did not give an estimated cost for the overlay. The respondent believes the rest of the money could be used towards campground improvements and paving the Paramount Trail that runs perpendicular with the entrance road. The person also noted the extra money saved from just completing a patch job and overlay could be used to complete some gravel surfacing on one of the gravel roads in the park.

Response: The 2017 Montana Legislature directed the Department and allocated funding and authority to complete this important project. The funding cannot be used for any other purpose, even other roads within the park. The Parks Division has retained an engineering firm to oversee the project who, as part of their work, considered other options, including patching and various overlays. They determined that the road has deteriorated significantly and that the proposed method is required at this point or we will be back doing basically the same repairs within 5 years. There is drainage and culvert work also included in the project that tie into the rebuild and make it all, together, a strong road project that will provide a durable road surface that should last 20-25 years.

**Decision:** Based on the engineering determinations, the available funding and legislative and executive direction, it is FWP's decision to select our preferred alternative to renovate the main Makoshika State Park road. We would like to thank those that commented.

This action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing and postmarked within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and how FWP might address the concerns of the appeal.

*Christopher Dantic*

May 17, 2018

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Christopher Dantic, Park Manager

Date