

Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan

FINAL



Developed by the
Ulm Pishkun Advisory Committee and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
December 2005



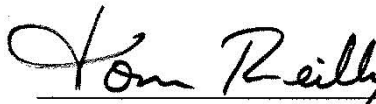
***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

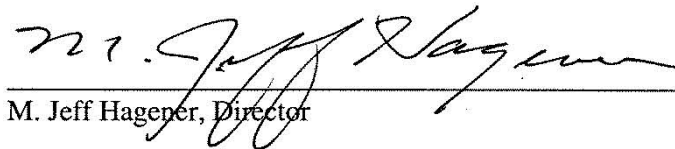
Adopted by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks as signified below.


Mike Aderhold, Region 4 Supervisor

12/12/05
Date

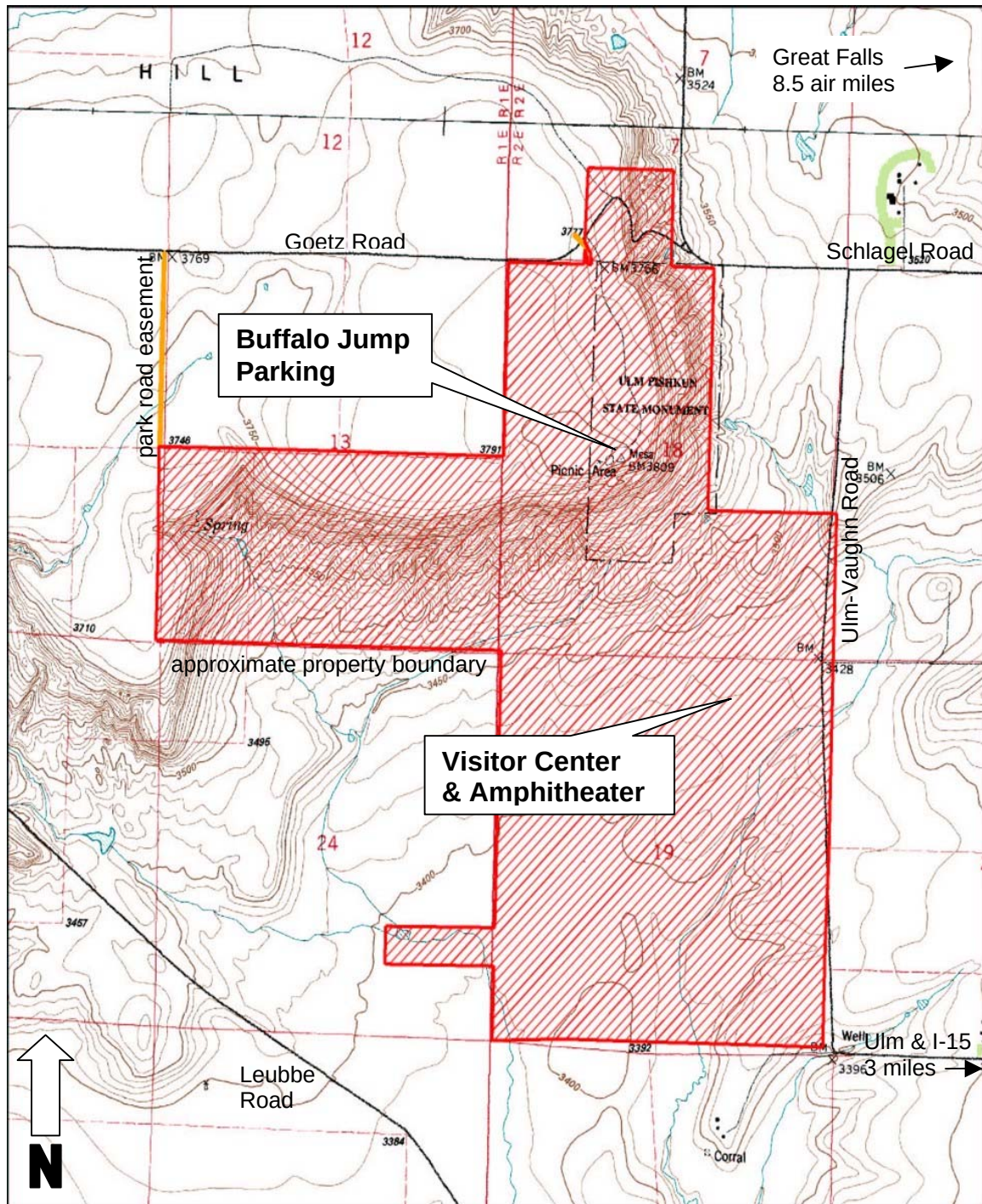

Doug Monger, Administrator, Parks Division

12/30/05
Date


M. Jeff Hagener, Director

2/1/06
Date

MAP OF ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ulm Pishkun State Park, located southwest of Great Falls near Ulm, Montana, was added to the Montana State Park system in 1972. The site figures prominently in the histories of several Native American tribes and is possibly one of the longest buffalo jumps in North America. Ulm Pishkun is an important cultural and educational site, offering visitors opportunities to learn about buffalo and the cultures that depended on them. The visitor center, which opened in 1999, offers information on buffalo cultures and on the archeological history of the site.

Aside from a 1997 environmental assessment for the visitor center, the park operated without a management plan. The 2005 Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan offers a comprehensive vision and action plan for the next 10 years. This plan describes issues and provides actions for addressing them. These actions will be implemented during the life of this plan, but are subject to funding and personnel availability. An implementation timeline is included in the end of this document.

In 2003, a citizen-based advisory group was formed to analyze issues and develop management recommendations for the park. This work included public participation through a 2003 summer visitor survey at the park, a quarterly update newsletter sent to stakeholders, monthly advisory group sessions from September 2003 to May 2004, and an open house to review the draft plan in April 2004. The management plan will be reviewed in 2010 to gauge implementation progress and make necessary revisions and revised in 2015.

Plan Summary

The advisory committee formulated the following issues and management objectives. Recommended actions to achieve the objectives are located in the text of this plan along with a schedule for completing each action and further discussions of the issues.

1. Park Promotion and Visitation

Ulm Pishkun State Park does not presently have a reputation regionally, or beyond, as a major destination. Ulm Pishkun State Park visitation is low in relation to the park vision, its proximity to Great Falls and Interstate 15, which is a major tourism corridor with an average of 4,800 vehicles passing Ulm daily. Public awareness and the target audience need to expand. We do not want to compromise park resources, however, or the visitor's experience. Many actions that the advisory committee considered would be components of a broader marketing plan specific to the park.

Management Objectives:

- Market the park.
- Provide attractions for local residents.
- Increase awareness of the park by promoting through current partnerships and cultivating new partnerships.

- Develop park amenities to encourage longer visits at the park.
- Increase the number of well-promoted special events and better promote existing events.

2. Financial and Human Resources

With added visitation, additional personnel and financial resources will be needed to ensure high quality visitor experiences and adequately manage the park. The gift store, visitor center, and special events can help increase revenues through related interpretive and food merchandise.

Management Objectives:

- Provide alternatives to staff service for visitors.
- Expand the volunteer program.
- Increase visitor services and park facility management through additional staff resources.
- Increase revenue generation opportunities.

3. Natural Resource Management

Natural resources in the park must be actively managed to ensure protection. Natural resource management decisions impact not only park resources, but also park visitors and neighbors.

Management Objectives:

- Set development parameters within the park to protect open space and the view shed.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to establish acceptable use guidelines on adjacent state lands.
- Work to protect the view shed from subdivisions and other development incompatible with the park experience and desired setting.
- Control noxious weeds and cultivate native plants to maintain the desired landscape.
- Manage and interpret a small, seasonal herd of buffalo on park property.
- Develop a natural resource management plan.
- Actively manage a prairie dog population.

4. Cultural Resource Management

Ulm Pishkun State Park is rich in cultural history. There were a number of studies conducted by professional and amateur archeologists between 1950 and 1995 (see Appendix D). These studies looked at surface and sub-surface anomalies to help understand past use of the site. Work by Fisher and Roll led to some compelling evidence about the seasonal use of the jump, human occupation at the site and use period. Additional work is needed to understand the jump from an archeological perspective.

Except for a few exhibit items, artifacts from the site are not stored on site. Ulm Pishkun does not have curatorial facilities necessary to properly store a collection, nor does the state desire to construct such a facility at this time. There is a need, however, to better understand the location and volume of material that was collected and what resources remain in the park

Currently, little oral history on the Pishkun has been collected. This history source would also increase understanding of the site.

A cultural resource management plan should be developed for Ulm Pishkun. The plan would detail how future excavations at the site would be approved and how tribal interests would help in decision making processes.

Management Objectives:

- Inventory known cultural resources at the park.
- Balance education about cultural resources with their preservation.
- Increase knowledge of the park's cultural resources to increase park staff and visitor understanding.

5. Recreation Management

The park mission emphasizes the need for a place at which Native Americans can share their cultures and for all people to learn about the importance of buffalo. Groups need a place to congregate, and to celebrate and honor ancestors. Additional activities will help draw repeat visitors and lengthen their visit. The types of recreational opportunities provided, however, must be consistent with the park goals and missions, such as: interpretive messages, resource management goals, and historic view sheds.

Management Objectives:

- Develop multi-purpose group use facilities at the park consistent with the park setting.
- Manage the park for day use, but encourage camping in the local area. Provide primitive camping opportunities in the park during special events on a limited basis and when impacts are limited.
- Manage trail use and expand trail opportunities in the park.
- Minimize resource and social impacts.
- Allow limited hunting and trapping in the park.

6. Interpretation and Education

An Ulm Pishkun State Park Interpretive Plan will be developed based on interpretive guidance in this management plan. The park was envisioned, in part, as an educational facility; therefore, education and interpretation will be a focus for the park. Native American-related programming will be included.

Management Objectives:

- Consider and compliment the missions and eras covered by other area attractions.
- Consider changes to the park name to make it more relevant to the site.
- If live buffalo are incorporated into the park, change the interpretive message to include them.
- Identify target audiences and design programming specifically for that group.
- Enhance the exhibits through physical changes and through programming.
- Use an on-site archeological investigation to increase attention on the site's resources and history.
- Enhance adult educational opportunities and programming.

7. Facilities and Services

As park visitation increases, parking will be inadequate. Additional personnel will be needed to maintain visitor services. Increased facilities and maintenance will require added storage and office space. Such growth, however, can also impact the visitor's experience. We must minimize the effects of increased group use and new development, such as a group use area and trails. Infrastructure and facility maintenance need to address visitor and staff safety, and help prevent vandalism.

Management Objectives:

- Increase maintenance services in the park.
- Provide adequate parking for large vehicles and large groups.
- Develop safety and emergency operations procedures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Montana State Parks would like to thank the Ulm Pishkun State Park Advisory Committee for their contributions of both time and energy throughout the park planning process. Without the committee member's dedication to the process, as well as their expertise and vision, the plan would not have been possible.

Ulm Pishkun Advisory Committee Members:

Mary Anne Cosgrove – Skyline High School

Gayle Fisher – Russell Country

Jack Fisher – Montana State University, Archeologist

Brad Hamlett – All Nations Pishkun Association

Ed Hastings – Park neighbor

Lyle Heavyrunner – Blackfeet Tribe

Chuck Niswanger – Quigley's Quickstop

Cindy Kittredge – High Plains Heritage Center

Faith Robertson – Ulm Pishkun State Park Lead Park Ranger

Fay Schaller – Montana Native Plants Society

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INTRODUCTION

Ulm Pishkun State Park is located approximately 14 miles southwest of Great Falls between the Sun and Missouri River Valleys. The park can be reached by driving three and a half miles west from the Interstate 15 Ulm Exit. The name of the park comes from the Blackfeet Indian word Pis'kun, or "deep kettle of blood", and from the nearby town of Ulm, named after 1865 homesteader William Ulm.

In February 2003, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) began the process of developing a comprehensive management plan for the park. FWP collaborated with a citizen-based advisory committee, guided by input from the general public, to identify park issues and trends and formulate management goals, objectives, policies and actions. The results of this effort are incorporated into this management plan in a format intended to guide projects and activities in Ulm Pishkun State Park for the next ten years. This plan describes a vision and work plan, which conserves the park's natural resources, provides recreational opportunities for park users, and develops educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors.

When implementing the plan, FWP will comply with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and assess impacts to the human and physical environment. The MEPA process provides additional public input opportunities on specific projects after costs and positive and negative impacts have been assessed. Plan actions are scheduled to be implemented during the life of this plan, but may be subject to further research, impacts assessment, costs, available funding, personnel availability, and public comment, any of which may deem a project unfeasible in the end. In short, adoption of the plan by FWP does not guarantee that the plan's proposals will be implemented.

ABOUT THE PARK

The buffalo jump at Ulm Pishkun State Park was designated a State Historical Monument in 1972. At that time, the land encompassed only 160 acres at the top of the jump. This land was originally acquired by the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC, then Dept. of State Lands (DSL)), and managed by FWP. For many years, the only amenities at the historic monument were picnic shelters and some interpretive signs below the cliffs. During this time the site was attended to by service organizations in Great Falls, primarily the High Noon Optimists Club and the Cascade County Historical Society. These organizations provided on-site clean up as well as fundraising activities, such as the popular “Evening A-top the Pishkun.”

Along with other funding sources, the funds raised by these service groups helped provide money to finance archeological research in the early 1990’s (see Appendix D). This research uncovered substantial evidence of jump use, including buffalo bones, arrowheads, and carcass cleaning tools, dating as far back as 300 AD, though most pieces were dated to approximately 900 AD. Evidence shows that use of the jump continued through approximately 1500 AD. In some places, buffalo bone deposits were measured to 13 feet deep. Information from these archeological investigations was presented to the Montana State Legislature in efforts to establish a permanent facility and educational programs at the site. Additional potential archeological excavations could continue if funding sources are obtained.

Initial plans called for construction of the proposed visitor center on the top of the jump. This was considered by some tribes to be unacceptable due to the revered nature of the jump. At that time FWP was approached by a private landowner who was interested in the project. He sold some of his land below the jump to FWP, and the visitor center was erected in that area. Some land that was not essential for the protection of the jump was included in this transaction. This land was subsequently involved in a land trade with DNRC in 2001, which ultimately connected the parkland at the bottom of the jump with the land at the top of the jump for the first time and acquired much of the length of the cliff.

Ground breaking for the visitor center occurred in 1998, with the visitor center doors opening to the public Memorial Day, 1999. A former winter wheat field between the top of the jump and the visitor center was re-seeded to native grass in October of 2001, part of the only 1% of native grassland remaining in the United States. Two miles of trails have been constructed between the visitor center and the top of the jump, offering additional interpretive opportunities and an ability for the visitor to experience a native grassland prairie ecosystem, the cliffs of the buffalo jump, stunning vistas, and wildlife that still frequent the area.

Geography and Natural Resources

Ulm Pishkun State Park is primarily a cultural park, but also includes significant natural features. The site covers 1,423.86 acres covered in native short grass prairie habitat and abandoned croplands, with an additional 1.984 acres in road easements. The park is bordered by private property and DNRC leased lands. Lands southwest and north of the park are currently leased by All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) members.

Short grass prairies support a great variety of vegetation including blue grama, needle and thread, prickly pear cactus and bluebunch wheatgrass. Wildlife species include, but are not limited to: pronghorn antelope, mule deer, black-tailed prairie dogs, coyotes, rabbits, hawks, eagles, sharp-tailed grouse, larks, pheasants, curlews, burrowing owls, mice, and a variety of snakes.

Cultural Resources

The cliffs at Ulm Pishkun figure prominently in oral histories of several Native American tribes, including the Pend O'reille, Shoshone, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Cree, Gros Ventre, Salish, and perhaps others. It is located in the Missouri River corridor, which has been a focal point of human travel and activity for prehistoric cultures in Montana. The Ulm Pishkun site is rich in artifacts, including arrowheads, potsherds, scrapers, and cutting tools. The hilltop above the cliffs reveals 260 stone cairns, possibly remains of drivelines that Native Americans used to guide buffalo to the cliff edge. Twenty-two tipi rings indicate camps existed on top of the cliffs when drivelines were not in use. Archeological investigations reveal that ancient peoples also might have camped on the bench adjacent to

the cliff base. Today, the site welcomes Native American use for worship and celebration and for reconnection with ancestors.

More recent history at the site includes homesteading, and operation of a stone quarry between 1889 and 1905. Stones from the quarry were used to construct many buildings in Helena and Great Falls. Bone mining occurred in the 1930s and 1940s at the site, utilizing the buffalo bone meal for cattle-feed supplement and fertilizer. Amateur archeological activities began in the 1950s and 1960s, prompting early efforts to establish the area as a state park.

Facilities and Infrastructure

The park has two entrances, one accessing the visitor center at the bottom of the jump, and one at the top of the jump. A two-mile interpretive trail loops from the visitor center to the bottom of the jump and back and includes several benches for resting, a marked tipi ring, and interpretive signage about the plains ecosystem, prehistoric jump activities, archeology, and area history. Visitors can hike trail link to the top of the jump or drive to the top to walk a short, paved interpretive trail and overlook scenic vistas of the grasslands and Square Butte.

The visitor center contains an interpretive hall, which tells the story of the buffalo and Native cultures who depended on it, an archeology display room, which doubles as a classroom and meeting room, restrooms, a gift shop, and park offices and storage. A picnic area, located outside of the visitor center, provides tables for visitors to enjoy a break. Open fields near the visitor center serve as venues for special events such as atlatl (spear-thrower) competitions, traditional games, school group activities, and cultural fairs.

According to a 2003 summer visitor survey, visitors most frequently participate in walks through the interpretive hall, enjoy the views, read interpretive signing, walk the interpretive trail at the top of the jump, and visit the archeology display room at the visitor center.

Operations

Ulm Pishkun is a day use park, open year-round to visitors at the top of the jump from sun-up to sundown. At the visitor center, summer hours run from Memorial Day to September 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the rest of the year the visitor center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

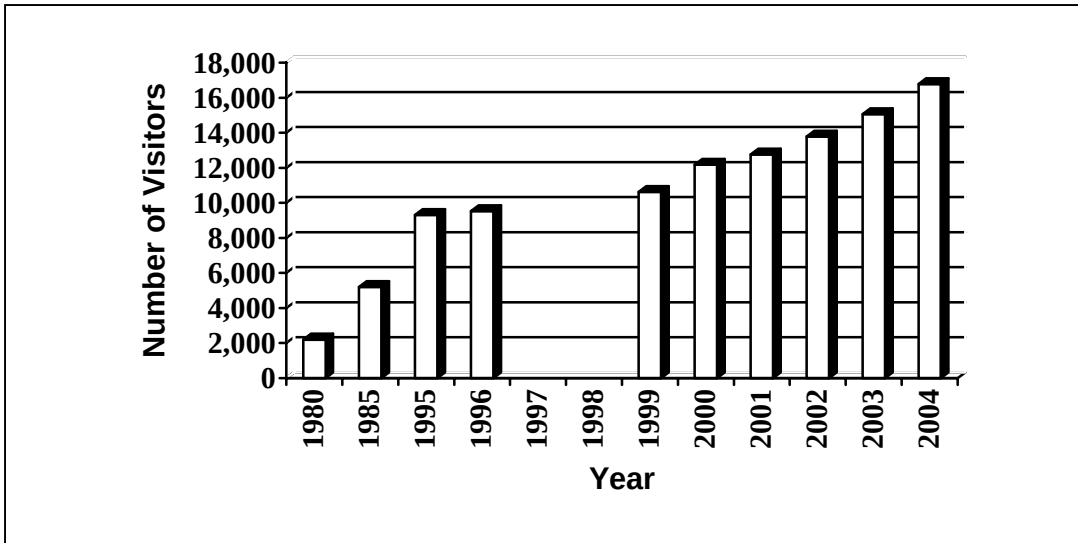
Staffing and Organization

In total, Montana State Parks manages 50 state parks and approximately 320 fishing access sites statewide. The parks system is divided into seven regions; Ulm Pishkun is located in Region Four, which covers the north central portion of the state. One full-time Park Manager, a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Lead Park Ranger, a part-time, year-round Maintenance Worker, and two seasonal Park Rangers currently staff the park. A not-for-profit group, the All Nations Pishkun Association, was organized to create awareness and appreciation of the culture & peoples who used this sacred area by supporting and sponsoring educational, cultural and social activities.

Visitation

Ulm Pishkun visitation has increased annually since the park's inception into the Montana State Parks System. In 2004, the park received 16,782 visits, the largest visitation in the park's history. This number is significantly less than the annual average of 40,000 visitors projected for the park during visitor center planning and construction. With the change in residential fee structures as of January 1, 2004, visitation trends are projected to increase to reflect more resident visitation.

Table 1. Ulm Pishkun State Park Visitation 1980-2004



Note: Visitation data is not available for 1997 and 1998 due to construction.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan offers a comprehensive vision and action plan for the park for the next ten years. Progress will be monitored no less often than five years, and in accordance with FWP policy, the plan revised in no more than ten years. The first management plan for the park, this plan offers guidance for park managers to engage area residents and visitors, and help the park realize it's potential as an educational, recreational, and cultural destination.

This Ulm Pishkun Management Plan was developed with the following goals and guidelines:

1. Develop a vision for the park.
2. Ensure stakeholders have ownership in the planning process and in the final plan and that their interests are addressed.
3. Develop a plan with specific attention to the founding concepts of the park
 - Education element: outdoor classroom.
 - Native American element: a unique cultural site, building cultural bridges.
 - Commercial element: tourism, opportunities for regional tourism.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Ulm Pishkun Management Plan began in February 2003 with meetings to define the purpose and process for the plan, conduct stakeholder analyses, and develop a public participation plan. Beginning in May 2003, the park conducted a summer visitor survey at the park. The survey provided information to help direct and inform the planning process, including visitor demographics, activities, and opinions on park management and services. A volunteer, citizen-based committee, was formed to assist in an advisory capacity in the drafting of this plan. The committee represented a diversity of park users and interests during monthly meetings from September of 2003 through May of 2004. The committee contributed their expertise, considering funding, staffing, resource needs, and community desires, to identify issues pertaining to the park and develop management recommendations for park management.

Utilizing information from the public process and input from these meetings, the Parks Division developed a draft management plan in June 2004. Due to several staff changes within Region Four and Helena, the draft was reviewed and revised by the Advisory Committee and Parks staff in February 2005. A second draft was available for a month-long public comment period in March 2005, with a final management plan delivered to the Parks Administrator and then the Director of MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks for review and approval in May 2005.

PLANNING TIMELINE

- **February – May, 2003**

Background research, process identification, stakeholder analysis, committee invites.

- **May-September, 2003**

Public scoping is conducted to gather data and identify issues through a visitor survey and local community outreach.

- **September 17, 2003**

Advisory committee members convene for first advisory committee meeting.
Second draft is released for public review.

- **September 2003– June 2004**

Committee meets monthly to evaluate park issues and develops recommendations.

- **February 2005**

First draft of management plan issued for committee review.

- **April 2005**

Second draft of plan is available for public review.

- **December 2005**

Final plan submitted to FWP director for approval.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MISSION

Ulm Pishkun State Park management is guided by a commitment to the many cultures involved with the park, by the park mission, and by the Montana State Parks Program Mission. The Parks Program Mission is defined in the 2020 Vision document, which provides a broad, long-range direction for the Montana State Park System for the first two decades of the twenty-first century. The Ulm Pishkun Management Plan reflects the mission and applicable goals and objectives of the 2020 Vision plan.

Montana State Park Mission Statement

The mission of the Montana State Park system is to preserve, enhance, and interpret a diverse representation of Montana's most outstanding natural, cultural/historic, and recreational resources, for the personal, social, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

Ulm Pishkun State Park Mission Statement

Ulm Pishkun State Park will build bridges between Native American and non-Native people. At the Ulm Pishkun Visitor Center the park will build bridges by encouraging all people to learn about the importance of the buffalo to all cultures, especially Native Plains buffalo cultures. It will provide a place where Native Americans can share their traditions and tell their stories in their own voices. Interpretation will recognize the site's changing uses and its importance to people from many races and tribes for many different reasons.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK VISION

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Management Plan is designed to help the park build and grow toward the following vision over the next 10 years.

Ulm Pishkun State Park Vision

In the next 10 years Ulm Pishkun State Park will develop into a destination for Montana residents and visitors. Exhibits, programming, and facilities will be enhanced, and will include expanded information on the cultural, natural, and archeological resources.

As the view shed surrounding the park is a central component and attraction of the park, preservation of the native open prairie lands and the flora and fauna that constitute the view shed will be a priority for the park.

An educational and interpretive experiential emphasis will continue at the park. This emphasis will continue to expand and engage audiences of all ages and diverse needs. Visitors will benefit from enhanced exhibit areas and programming that will include hands-on, visual experiences and carry-away memories. The educational experience at Ulm Pishkun State Park will be a voyage through the past with opportunities to experience the scientific, natural, and cultural elements of the varied eras in the site's history.

Within the educational and interpretive context, Ulm Pishkun State Park will continue to develop as a center for Native American cultures to tell their stories of the Pishkun and demonstrate life-skills. An increased Native American presence will be encouraged at the site, through volunteering, staffing, programming, and partnerships.

The natural, cultural, and physical resources of the park will be managed to approximate their state at the time the site was used as a buffalo jump. A balance between visitor needs and healthy resources will be emphasized. Efforts to expand information on the site's archeological and cultural resources will continue within the park.

These improvements will lead to an increase in visitation to the site. Park management infrastructure will include the resources necessary to accomplish park goals and support a safe, comfortable, and educational environment for park staff, volunteers, and visitors.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The advisory committee and general public, through a visitor survey (see Appendix) and stakeholder feedback process, identified the following issues as significant to Ulm Pishkun management: Park Promotion and Visitation, Financial and Human Resources, Natural Resource Management, Cultural Resource Management, Recreation Management, Education and Interpretation, and Facilities and Services. For each issue, the advisory committee and FWP developed a set of goals for the next ten years, along with objectives and recommended action items to reach each goal. The committee emphasized the importance of including measurable actions whenever possible so park management can check timelines and measure progress in implementing this plan. All issues are important and interconnected; issues are not listed in order of priority in this document.

ISSUE: PARK PROMOTION AND VISITATION

Issue Statement: Ulm Pishkun State Park does not presently have a reputation regionally, or beyond, as a major destination. Ulm Pishkun State Park visitation is low in relation to the park vision, its proximity to Great Falls and Interstate 15, which is a major tourism corridor with an average of 4,800 vehicles passing Ulm daily. Public awareness and the target audience need to expand. We do not want to compromise park resources, however, or the visitor's experience. Many actions that the advisory committee considered would be components of a broader marketing plan specific to the park.

GOAL: Promote the park as a destination site and increase visitation to levels comparable to other state parks in similar proximity to large populations and with comparable attractions (such as Chief Plenty Coups and Makoshika).

Discussion

While increased visitation is expected, it is critical to ensure that park resources are continually protected. In addition, visitors must continue to have a high quality experience to promote the park and have returning guests.

OBJECTIVE: Market the park.

Recommended Actions

- 1) Develop a marketing plan to strategically increase visitation and attract a wider audience. Consider the following actions and include schools in the plan.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

- 2) Secure an advertising budget to implement the marketing plan and enhance ongoing recommended actions below.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

- 3) Disseminate the current park brochure and other promotional materials to Chambers of Commerce, airports, local businesses, different parks and hotels, schools, and possibly contracted racks.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

- 4) Increase visitation annually through enhanced interpretive programming at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

- 5) Develop the park's reputation through word of mouth.
 - i) Provide FWP-sponsored tours of the park for Chambers of Commerce.
 - ii) Provide information for hotel frontline trainings, new businesses, and other area attractions.
 - iii) Provide staff and volunteer presentations about the park to organizations in the area.

Timeline for completion: Ongoing.

- 6) Add the term “buffalo jump” to the new kiosk literature advertising park events and policies.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

- 7) Develop and distribute an annual poster advertising all park events.

Timeline for Completion: Annually.

- 8) Work with an advisory group to evaluate the park name. Decide whether the Blackfeet word “Pis’kun” should replace “Pishkun” in the name or be removed. Determine if the term “Ulm” should be removed from the name.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

- 9) Enhance Interstate, kiosk signing and messaging to more clearly describe what is found at the park (i.e. buffalo jump, Native American cultural center, etc).

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

- 10) Develop and utilize a press kit to advertise the park, and its events and programs.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

OBJECTIVE: Provide attractions for local residents.

Discussion

According to the 2003 Summer Visitor Survey, respondents who were Montana residents visited the park an average of 1.4 times during the year. The park must attract more returning visitors, such as residents from Great Falls, Ulm, and other surrounding communities. Increasing the variety of recreational and educational opportunities will help provide incentives for local people.

Recommended Actions

1. Schedule and advertise new park events and programming that are of interest to area residents through a variety of media and methods.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

2. Determine policy to recognize and allow Native American use of specific sites to carry out traditional ceremonies, such as sweats or gifting. Policy needs to consider:
 - a. Access,
 - b. Public use,
 - c. Accommodations for and future outcomes of structures placed on property (i.e. sweat lodges).

Timeline for Completion: One year.

3. Enhance some exhibits to provide new incentives to visit the park. Rotate some exhibits seasonally or give additional presentations in the lobby, classroom, or outside the visitor center.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

4. Establish a “Locals Day” at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase awareness of the park by promoting through current partnerships and cultivating new partnerships.

Discussion

The Missouri River Corridor, from Great Falls south through Cascade County and down to Helena, presents a wealth of educational and recreational opportunities for local and non-resident visitors. Many local businesses and organizations, including Ulm Pishkun State Park, work to attract and serve the tourism community in this area. The park should take advantage of partnership opportunities within this tourism community.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with Chambers of Commerce and Russell County to include Ulm Pishkun in packaged-tour deals in the area.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Continue working with the regional museum consortium to collaborate on programs and activities.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

3. Communicate park events and attractions with partners.
 - i. Develop a contact list of park partners.
 - ii. Publish a newsletter twice a year to distribute to the tourism community.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

GOAL: Provide year-round experiences at the park that encourage return visits and word-of-mouth promotion of the park.

OBJECTIVE: Develop park amenities to encourage longer visits at the park.

Discussion

The park is located three miles from any services and even further from most major services, including refreshments. This location makes it hard for visitors to stay for extended periods of time, especially for those visitors who are traveling with children or pets. The park needs to provide the amenities necessary to facilitate longer visits while maintaining the visitor experience and aesthetics of the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Provide refreshment and food services through a special use permit to sell food through booths during special events.
 - a. Park Manager will designate specific areas of the park for vending activities.
 - b. Park shall negotiate a percentage of gross sales or a flat fee for each booth.
 - c. Special Use Permits must include appropriate county health department food purveyor permits.
 - d. Priority will be given to Montana-Made items.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Establish flexible hours for visitor groups that would like to visit the park outside of normal Visitor Center hours. Advertise the availability of Visitor Center visits outside of normal hours.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Identify pet areas for easy recognition; post leash requirements and precautions about rattlesnakes. The site is not necessarily "pet friendly," but the park does designate areas for pets.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately

4. Provide limited, unobtrusive food services at the park seasonally using a mobile and temporary vendor, or pre-packaged items.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase the number of well-promoted special events and better promote existing events.

Discussion

While the park does currently organize, schedule, and advertise events at the park every year, these events are not widely advertised and while some events are well attended, more attendance is desired for other events. In addition, an increase in presenter and advertiser revenue is desired in association with events. In order to generate interest in the park, as well as opportunities for revenue, the park needs to develop and advertise more events to attract visitors.

Recommended Actions

1. Coordinate one or two annual events, including an annual Pow Wow at the park in conjunction with the state annual Pow Wow schedule. These events may be produced in association with All Nations Pishkun Association

Timeline for Completion: Begin planning, first event one year.

2. Re-institute "Evening on the Pishkun," perhaps through ANPA.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years, then annually.

3. Utilize any future archeological research to promote the park on a national scale.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

ISSUE: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Issue Statement: As visitation increases, additional personnel, volunteers, and financial resources may be needed to ensure high quality visitor experiences and to adequately manage the park. The gift store, visitor center, and special events can help increase revenues through related interpretive and food merchandise.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: As the quality and attractiveness of the park are directly linked to the availability and use of park resources, increase personnel in the park to provide a first-rate experience for visitors.

OBJECTIVE: Provide alternatives to staff service for visitors.

Discussion

Trained personnel at the park is too low to complete all desired tasks. Alternative ways to supplement staffing resources should be pursued.

Recommended Actions

1. Provide narration in the exhibit hall through audiotapes and headsets.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

2. Develop a pamphlet describing cultural and natural resources for visitors to reference when visiting the cliff.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

3. Provide video that does not overshadow the rest of the visitor experience. Video would provide an alternate method of learning about the park for populations who have trouble physically experiencing the park. Some ideas for use of video media are:

- A park overview
- Educational, subject-oriented videos that can also be sold.
- A Native American-produced Buffalo Jump re-enactment.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

OBJECTIVE: Expand the volunteer program.

Discussion

Volunteers at Ulm Pishkun provide invaluable staff and program support at the visitor center, special events, and educational programs, and in maintaining the park. The success of the existing volunteer program has highlighted opportunities for expanding the program. Volunteers can help with a greater variety of tasks. The park can also give volunteers diverse opportunities to contribute to and learn from work at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a list of projects available for various volunteer groups. Distribute the list to the groups annually or more often as the need arises.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

2. Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Pursue corporate sponsor budget options for such things as fuel reimbursement to retain volunteers.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Expand the volunteer program to recruit a more diverse age range of volunteers. Current opportunities for expansion include Scouts, Indian clubs, schools, and 4-H clubs.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

5. Partner with schools, clubs, and special interest groups to produce programs, videos, and information on a seasonally.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

6. Strive for sixty volunteers contributing 3,500 hours annually, or double 2004 contributions.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing over ten years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase visitor services and park facility management through additional staff resources.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop visitor use management procedures and protocol for increased number of visitors, outlining strategies for staff to manage high levels of use.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

2. Explore a funding partnership between FWP, tribal colleges, and the seven tribes for a Native American park intern to lead park tours and educational programming.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

3. Upgrade the $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Lead Park Ranger to a full-time, year-round position whose primary emphasis is to engage in park tours and educational programming.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

GOAL: Expand park earning potential and return on park division investment.
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OBJECTIVE: Increase revenue generation opportunities.

Recommended Actions

1. Collaborate with Division to increase park revenues.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Publicize the availability of conference room/classroom for events and conferences. Utilize the park special group use permit policy requiring a reservation/use fee.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Improve FWP management of the gift store including:
 - a. upgrade inventory management,
 - b. upgrade cash register system,
 - c. maintain membership in Museum Gift Store Association, and
 - d. prepare annual sales activity report.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

4. Partner with All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) to raise funds through special events.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

5. Enhance gift shop inventory. Continue partnering with appropriate vendors to consign gift shop inventory following the statewide enterprise fund policies.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

ISSUE: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: Natural resources in the park must be actively managed to ensure protection. Natural resource management decisions impact not only park resources, but also park visitors and neighbors.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: Protect open space in the park and in the view shed.

OBJECTIVE: Set development parameters within the park to protect open space and the view shed.

Discussion

Open space within the park boundaries is an integral component of the Ulm Pishkun experience and must be protected. At the same time, park management will need to provide additional infrastructure to accommodate projected increases in visitation. A balance must be found to also offer varied experiences and expanded services that encourage visitors to stay longer. Thus, innovative methods for protecting open space in some areas and allowing high use with potential development in other areas, such as necessary park infrastructure improvements or event facilities, should be an integral component of future management at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Establish a policy for development such that building expansion and parking expansion will be designed to protect park open space and the view shed. Designate zones ranging from natural protection and low visitor use to high visitor density zones. High use zones would focus future activities and amenities.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. In order to accommodate future demand for more parking, especially during special events, collaborate with local establishments to designate an off-site parking area near Interstate 15 and provide shuttle service to the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

3. Fence the park boundaries accurately.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Work with DNRC to establish acceptable use guidelines on adjacent state lands.

Discussion

State lands on three sides of the park are currently leased by All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) members. If existing leases end, it is possible the land may be used for purposes that detract from the desired park experience and hinder cultural resources protection. It is a priority to preserve the educational values of the park, which include the surrounding view shed, and to protect unexplored cultural resources on the state lands adjacent to the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with DNRC or leaseholders to revert lands to native grasslands.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

2. Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park. Consider the following guidelines:
 - i. Manage land to maintain the view shed.
 - ii. Manage land to maintain the park experience.
 - iii. Limit commercial resource extraction that may impair view shed or resource quality.
 - iv. Develop resource management plans to prevent soil erosion and maintain water quality where appropriate.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

3. Investigate purchasing development rights on surrounding state land to avoid uses inconsistent with park goals.

Timeline for Completion: Ten years.

4. Investigate possibilities for converting the state lands currently leased by ANPA into the state park through land exchanges or purchases.

Timeline for Completion: Ten years.

OBJECTIVE: Work to protect the view shed from subdivisions and other development incompatible with the park experience and desired setting.

Discussion

As population growth in Cascade County continues to expand south of Great Falls and along the Missouri River Corridor, development in the Ulm Pishkun view shed will become an increasing threat to existing park views and the park setting. Subdivisions are currently being promoted within the park view shed.

Recommended Actions

1. Partner with land conservation organizations, such as the Montana Land Reliance, to establish easements protecting the view shed.

Discussion

Efforts to protect the view shed should consider obtaining easements on lands eligible for Farm and Ranch Land Protection Act protection along the Missouri River corridor. Consult with the American Public Land Exchange and PPL Montana about their successful efforts at land preservation around the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Identify other potential partners for land conservation.

Timeline for Completion: One to ten years.

GOAL: Maintain landscapes similar to the buffalo jump era.

Discussion

The intent is to retain an open landscape to help envision the historic prairie, but certain low visual impact amenities are also desired to provide a wide range of visitor services and complete other management goals. Much of the park landscape currently supports plants that are mostly native to Montana; however, some species were not necessarily present when the buffalo jump was used. Noxious weeds are present in the park. Weeds need to be managed by professionals trained in control methods that will promote establishment of native grasses.

OBJECTIVE: Control noxious weeds and cultivate native plants to maintain the desired landscape.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop an integrated noxious weed control regime designed to establish the native landscape desired. Include alternatives to spraying, such as biological and mechanical means of control.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

2. Conduct a professional plant assessment, possibly in conjunction with a university. Assessment should include the following:
 - i. Inventory plants, including grasses and wildflowers, currently in the park.
 - ii. Identify and map noxious weed areas.
 - iii. Provide a professional opinion of what the landscape looked like during the buffalo jump era.
 - iv. Determine acreage of agricultural land and feasibility of returning to native species.
 - v. Based on the assessment, create a vision for the landscape and a plan for attaining that vision.
 - vi. Assess role of fire to manage native prairie ecosystem.
 - vii. Consider heavy cattle grazing in small areas to manage weeds and maintain native prairie conditions.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage and interpret a small, seasonal herd of buffalo on park property.

Discussion

The question of whether or not to establish live buffalo as part of the Ulm Pishkun State Park experience is a complex one. Live buffalo at the park make intuitive sense to some, considering the desire to manage the park to resemble the time of the buffalo, while others feel the interpretation at the park was designed to highlight the absence of the buffalo today. Buffalo management is resource intensive and may be an impediment to park operations and management that is already struggling with financial and staff resource limitations. Several management issues must be considered if buffalo are introduced into the park, including: whether the herd would be at the park seasonally or year-round, herd ownership and management, acreage dedicated to herd, affects on the view shed, visitor and buffalo safety, public relations with neighbors, a maintenance staff necessary to maintain fences and buffalo habitat, aesthetics management for incidences such as sick buffalo and buffalo wallows, overall expenses, water sources and distribution, and potential conflicts with archeological resources and research. Another fundamental consideration involves changes to include live buffalo in the interpretive messages and educational programming.

A buffalo management plan will be developed and include, at a minimum, consultation with tribal representatives, Wildlife Division, neighbors, the state veterinarian, and experienced buffalo herd managers.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with ANPA, park neighbors, and other stakeholders to produce a comprehensive buffalo management plan for the park. The plan must incorporate all management considerations outlined in this discussion and include an analysis of start-up fees and ongoing maintenance costs.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

2. Complete an environmental assessment for those lands to be inhabited by buffalo. (If range included DNRC land, lease-holders would also be required to complete an assessment.)

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

3. If a comprehensive plan and the environmental impacts are approved by FWP, add a small (approximately 6-9 head) herd of live buffalo to the park for the high use season.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

4. Change interpretive message to include live buffalo (see Interpretation and Education Issue).

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

GOAL: Balance wildlife management with visitor safety and resource priorities.

OBJECTIVE: Develop a natural resource management plan.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop comprehensive resource management plan for park wildlife species, which would consider the following components.
 - a. Inventory fauna in park.
 - b. Maintain raptor habitat and protect snakes and their habitat to help naturally control mice and prairie dogs.
 - c. Establish management procedures and criteria for species dangerous to visitors. Consider higher control methods around high visitor use areas.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

2. Analyze grazing as a means of attaining desired resource conditions; consider feasibility with other park goals

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

OBJECTIVE: Actively manage a prairie dog population.

Discussion

The prairie dog population on the top of the jump is engulfing the entire grassland area and moving into neighboring land. The loss of grasses is increasing dust and consequently, wind erosion is occurring. The park needs to ensure that the animals do not negatively impact private lands surrounding the park, the park ecosystem, or the integrity of the jump as holes expedite water seepage near the cliffs. Prairie dog holes and tunnels are undermining park trails. At the same time, the prairie dog component of the natural ecosystem of the prairie needs to be maintained.

Recommended Actions

1. Consult with a prairie dog biologist, or equivalent FWP expert, to document where prairie dogs have colonized in the area. Use GPS mapping.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Document prairie dog impacts and identify potential liabilities for the State, including potential spread of disease.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

3. Develop a prairie dog management plan. Identify the long-term growth patterns of the prairie dog town at the top of the jump and manage the town for aesthetics, ecological health of the entire park, visitor health and safety, and neighboring land owner concerns. Manage the species through appropriate control measures that do not compromise the health of the burrow ecosystem (i.e. negatively impact species such as burrowing owls).

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

4. Educate visitors on prairie dog management.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

ISSUE: CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: Ulm Pishkun State Park is rich in cultural history. There were a number of studies conducted by professional and amateur archeologists between 1950 and 1995 (see Appendix D). These studies looked at surface and sub-surface anomalies to help understand past use of the site. Work by Fisher and Roll led to some compelling evidence about the seasonal use of the jump, human occupation at the site and use period. Additional work is needed to understand the jump from an archeological perspective.

Except for a few exhibit items, artifacts from the site are not stored on site. Ulm Pishkun does not have curatorial facilities necessary to properly store a collection, nor does the state desire to construct such a facility at this time. There is a need, however, to better understand the location and volume of material that was collected and what resources remain in the park.

Currently, little oral history on the Pishkun has been collected. This source would also increase understanding of the site.

A cultural resource management plan should be developed for Ulm Pishkun. The plan would detail how future excavations at the site would be approved and how tribal interests would help in decision making processes.

Goals and Recommended Actions

GOAL: Actively manage the cultural resources of Ulm Pishkun.

OBJECTIVE: Inventory known cultural resources at the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a comprehensive cultural resources management plan for the park. Include tipi rings, buried archeological materials, pictographs, drive lanes, and other possible jump sites along the east edge cliffs.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

2. Obtain an inventory listing of the artifacts removed from the park and held at MSU. Work with the University to secure photo images of the collection.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

3. Compile and organize documents on file within FWP, SHPO and other locations to establish a research library at the park related to past archaeological work. Include maps of tipi rings and drive lines, pictograph records, stone cairns, and past excavations.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

4. Continue to locate and map areas where buffalo bones are present below the ground surface.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

OBJECTIVE: Balance education about the cultural resources and their preservation.

Discussion

The need to educate visitors on the cultural resources and the importance of preserving these resources must be balanced with efforts to protect the resources. Increased education about cultural resources, although beneficial, also increases awareness and interest in the resources. This interest often generates increased visitation and use of the area, thus increasing threats to the resource from foot traffic, vandalism, and destruction by excessive use.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop enhanced educational materials and signs that educate visitors about the importance of preserving the cultural resources. Convey the irreparable loss caused by vandalism and theft.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

2. Develop a vandalism prevention and detection program with protocol for investigating possible archeological resource crimes.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

3. Research and implement methods to preserve pictographs.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

OBJECTIVE: Increase knowledge of the park's cultural resources to increase park staff and visitor understanding.

Discussion

A vast opportunity for continued archeological research exists at the park. Archeological investigations would provide valuable educational opportunities for students, visitors, and professionals, and possibly including archeological school tours. Coordinating archeological interpretation with the other ways of learning history offered at the park may lead to greater cross-cultural understanding of the park's heritage. Prior to any archeological investigation that is undertaken at the park, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and an advisory group, comprised of tribal representatives who may have an interest in the project, will occur. At a minimum, this will include the Blackfeet Tribal Cultural Preservation Office.

Recommended Actions

1. Work with archeologists to document new research in the park and on surrounding lands.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

2. Plan and coordinate an archeological investigation that would provide additional information pertinent to the archeology field. Make this information also available for public viewing and interpretation. Include area schools in this operation.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

3. Develop cooperative relationships with Native American and other schools wherein students can participate in archeological investigations.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

4. Consult with archeologists about a potential permanent archeological research site reproduction that contains interpretive information about methods and tools.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

5. Use results of additional archeological investigations to enhance educational materials and resources. Build on the considerable archeological information that already exists for Ulm Pishkun.

Timeline for Completion: Five to ten years.

ISSUE: RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Issue Statement: The park mission emphasizes the need for a place at which Native Americans can share their cultures and for all people to learn about the importance of buffalo. Groups need a place to congregate, and to celebrate and honor ancestors. Additional activities will help draw repeat visitors and lengthen their visit. The types of recreational opportunities provided, however, must be consistent with the park goals and missions, such as: interpretive messages, resource management goals, and historic view sheds.

GOAL: Expand recreational opportunities at the park for a variety of users.
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OBJECTIVE: Develop multi-purpose group use facilities at the park consistent with the park setting.

Discussion

An arbor design and group use shelter should educate visitors about appropriate construction in prairie grassland habitats. Materials used, wind protection, attention to the view shed and feel of the park should be considered in construction.

Recommended Actions

1. Dedicate a location for and design a dance arbor within the park to provide an arena for activities such as dances, Pow wows, and speakers. A location should be:
 - i. Close to underground electric.
 - ii. Accessible to outdoor water faucets.
 - iii. In a location that will not compromise the park view shed.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

2. Coordinate with ANPA to seek funding for the arbor facility.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

3. Develop a design for a group use shelter that compliments dance arbor design:
 - i. Include lasting materials to reduce maintenance needs.
 - ii. Provide wind protection.
 - iii. Minimize intrusion on the park view shed.
 - iv. Allow space for portable restroom facilities.
 - v. Leave a distance between the group use area and the visitor center that attracts visitors to the center and the gift store, but also acts as a buffer to keep numbers in the visitor center at a manageable level. The location should also avoid disturbing visitors not associated with group use area events.

Timeline for Completion: Five years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage the park for day use, but encourage camping in the local area. Provide primitive camping opportunities in the park during special events on a limited basis and when impacts are limited.

Discussion

In order to encourage longer visits at the park, increase visitation, and special event attendance, camping opportunities in the area are necessary. Currently, there is little opportunity to camp in the Great Falls vicinity. While providing camping facilities is not desirable at the park, possibilities exist for private enterprises to create camping opportunities near the park. Primitive camping may be possible at the park during special events as long as the impacts of camping, including garbage, fire, and toilet facilities, are mitigated.

Recommended Actions

1. Actively encourage and work with private enterprises to develop camping within the Ulm area. This may include providing incentives for visiting Ulm, such as a discount on camping with proof of a visit to the park.

Timeline for Completion: Two to three years.

2. Develop guidelines to allow primitive camping in designated areas of the park during special events only. This would include support services such as portable restrooms and access to potable water.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

OBJECTIVE: Manage trail use and expand trail opportunities in the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a trail management plan to design, improve, maintain and sign new and existing trails.

Timeline for Completion: Three years.

2. Determine potential for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail development in other areas of the park that won't conflict with existing uses and view sheds.

Timeline for Completion: Three to five years.

GOAL: Manage recreation activities in ways that do not conflict with the park resources and the desired visitor experience.
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OBJECTIVE: Minimize resource and social impacts.

Recommended Actions

1. Implement a "Leave No Trace" educational program to minimize inappropriate resource and social impacts.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Allow smoking only on hard surfaces to protect park resources and neighboring crop lands.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Enforce park division rule prohibiting use of all motorized vehicles for recreation purposes within the park boundaries except on park roads.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Enforce no shooting policy in areas historically used for target shooting, such as along the switchbacks up to the jump.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

OBJECTIVE: Allow limited hunting and trapping in the park.

Discussion

In 1998, the FWP Commission adopted a no hunting policy in parks that disallows hunting, with exceptions (refer to the State Park Hunting Policy in the Appendix). Big game is not prevalent at Ulm Pishkun State Park and few hunters request access to hunt birds annually. Some lands surrounding the visitor center have been cultivated in CRP, but this may also change in the next then years as the park attempts to restore native prairie. As the park implements this plan, visitation will increase year-round and recreational opportunities across the park may expand, such as additional trails and buffalo viewing opportunities. Visitors could then be exposed to dangers associated with hunting. The park may also acquire adjacent lands. Hunting opportunities outlined here apply to the current conditions in the park and may change as the plan proceeds and visitor safety is evaluated.

Recommended Actions

1. Require written permission from park manager to hunt or trap in the park. Develop an informational handout with map and erect signs at entrance and other locations around the park to notify the public.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Limit weapon use to bow and arrow for big game species and shotgun for upland birds and waterfowl.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Allow hunting only on the following park lands. Erect signs along boundaries. As visitation increases and buffalo are added to the park, or if complaints warrant change, these areas may change or be eliminated from hunting.
 - a. Section 13, south half
 - b. Section 19, south half
 - c. Section 24, all park land

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on lands adjacent to the park that do not conflict with park use.

Timeline for Completion: One to two years.

ISSUE: INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Issue Statement: An Ulm Pishkun State Park Interpretive Plan will be developed based on interpretive guidance in this management plan. The park was envisioned in part as an educational facility; therefore, education and interpretation will be a focus for the park. Native American-related programming will be included.

Discussion

The interpretation and education section of this plan is intended as a guide for development of a comprehensive interpretive plan for the park *within two years*. The following goals, objectives, and recommended actions are not linked with a definitive timeline since implementation will coincide with completion of an interpretive plan. An interpretive plan for the park is recognized as keystone to successful fulfillment of the park vision.

Goals and Recommended Actions *(to be considered and implemented as part of an overall interpretive plan completed within two years)*

GOAL: Base interpretation and education on key interpretive topics as they pertain to the Ulm Pishkun site:

- Cultures and histories of Native American tribes and nations.
- Archeology
- Prairie Ecosystem
- Geology
- Settlement history, including quarry, bone mining, uses today.

Discussion

It is important that all interpretive themes and programs concentrate on topics specific to the Ulm Pishkun site. Attention to the interface between the park's interpretive program and other area visitor destinations should be considered when developing interpretive material. FWP would collaborate with local museums ensure appropriate interpretation of local history.

OBJECTIVE: Consider and compliment the missions and eras covered by other area attractions.

OBJECTIVE: Consider changes to the park name to make it more relevant to the site (see Park Promotion and Visitation issue for more information).

OBJECTIVE: If live buffalo are incorporated into the park, change the interpretive message to include them.

- i. Incorporate live buffalo into the visitor center theme that currently centers on the question, “What thing in your culture if taken away would change your life forever?”
- ii. Include story of how the buffalo survived and tie in with the ecosystem and the Native American cultures.
- iii. Provide interpretation at the visitor center and along the roads.

GOAL: Focus interpretation and programming on identified audiences to meet their needs and interests.

OBJECTIVE: Identify target audiences and design programming specifically for that group.

Recommended Actions (categorized by audience)

▪ **Schools**

Discussion

The park is currently working with some schools to create curriculum to supplement “no child left behind” benchmarks that schools are unable to meet. In addition, educational trunks, and OPI accredited training about Ulm Pishkun are options for further work in this area.

- o Integrate the interpretive program with State curriculum objectives and benchmarks for subjects.
- o Renew the FWP transportation grant program (Visitor Services Bureau) for schools that cannot afford the transportation costs to reach the park.
- o Continue developing programs to take to the schools if the schools cannot come to the park.

- **Adults**

- Provide learning opportunities that are tied to credits and skills, such as beading and other traditional craft.
- Utilize archeological investigations to provide adult educational experiences and raise funds for the park.

- **Area Residents**

See Promotion and Visitation Issue page 11.

GOAL: Design and implement interpretation and education to enhance the visitor experience beyond current park exhibits and interpretive signing.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance the exhibits through physical changes and through programming.

Recommended Actions:

1. Reduce the amount of reading involved with new exhibits.
 - i. Include more photographs and other visual material in the displays.
 - ii. Provide oral histories and other audio material in the displays.
2. Enhance the tipi area to provide more details about the use history of the structure.
3. Utilize exhibits as part of programming events to enhance stories.
4. Incorporate live buffalo into the exhibits once they are instituted in the park (see Natural Resource Management discussion).
5. Include wildlife issues in the interpretation and education program.
6. Include regional geology (for example, the cliff is composed of sandstone and shale deposited millions of years ago near the margin of an inland sea).

OBJECTIVE: Use an on-site archeological investigation to increase attention on the site's resources and history.

Discussion

Past archeological research at Ulm Pishkun contributed to understanding of when and how ancient Native peoples procured buffalo. While these findings are of tremendous significance, professionals believe future investigations could reveal new information about ancient cultures and about Ulm Pishkun. New research also holds potential of dating the site more accurately.

Archeological excavations must include provisions for the following:

- a) Proper cataloging and storage of excavated materials (buffalo bones, artifacts, etc.).
If excavations are carried out over multiple years, a large storage space will be required, especially for buffalo bones.
- b) Analysis of archeological materials. This entails guidance from experts in animal bone analysis, stone artifact analysis, and other specialties.
- c) Dissemination of results to the public and professional archeology communities.

Recommended Actions

- 1. Include field schools, in association with professionally led on-site archeological investigations, in the education and interpretive program.
 - i. Provide one or two week sessions for paying guests to participate in the archeological research on-site.
 - ii. Work with regional high schools, tribal colleges, universities, and other educational institutions to establish credit-granting programs for work with the archeological researchers.
 - iii. Explore opportunities to partner with area lodging and restaurant establishments in association with the research.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance adult educational opportunities and programming.

Recommended Actions

1. Capitalize on fundraising opportunities associated with adult education programs.
2. Utilize the adult education program to highlight the importance of preserving this important site.
3. Provide opportunities for teachers to obtain recertification credits through educational programming at the park.
4. Concentrate on recruiting interns from area post-secondary schools, including the Montana State University-Great Falls, University of Great Falls, and Malmstrom Air Force Base's Master's program.
5. Develop and continue to update an annual list of potential intern projects that will benefit the park and ensure interns will also receive educational benefits. Distribute this list to educational programs in the area.

ISSUE: FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Issue Statement: As park visitation increases, parking will be inadequate. Additional personnel will be needed to maintain visitor services. Increased facilities and maintenance will require added storage and office space. Such growth, however, can also impact the visitor's experience. We must minimize the effects of increased group use and new development, such as a group use area and trails. Infrastructure and facility maintenance need to address visitor and staff safety, and help prevent vandalism.

GOAL: Ensure that park facilities contribute to a quality visitor experience consistent with the park mission.

Discussion

More visitors, programming, and special events at the park will generate additional maintenance, interpretive, and management needs. Appropriate levels of trained personnel at the park will be essential to maintaining positive visitor experiences as the park changes and grows.

OBJECTIVE: Increase maintenance services in the park.

Recommended Actions

1. Remove garbage from dump sites and areas used for target shooting on northeast side of park (along road to jump); erect signs or fencing to prohibit future dumping.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Develop a protocol for routine maintenance, janitorial needs and procedures at park facilities.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Develop a reference guide for cyclic maintenance and how to assess, track and repair roads, buildings, utilities, water systems, vehicles and other infrastructure components. Identify major maintenance projects.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

4. Maintain high-use areas in ways that reduce human conflicts with rodents and snakes.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

5. Develop integrated pest control methods for Visitor Center to protect exhibits, and limit secondary effects on wildlife species.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

6. Develop a storage and work-shop facility for maintenance equipment and repair.

Timeline for Completion: Two years.

OBJECTIVE: Provide adequate parking for large vehicles and large groups.

Recommended Actions

1. Repaint and reconfigure the parking lot to establish areas for big RV's pulling cars and to guide all visitors in efficient use of the parking lot.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

2. Increase parking capacity to accommodate larger crowds during special events. Engineer and design the parking area in a manner that does not further detract from the view shed at the top of the jump. Consider matching surface to local soil colors.

Timeline for Completion: One year.

3. Utilize land off-site for additional parking during special events, or extend parking into fields surrounding visitor center when impacts will be limited or can be mitigated.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing, as needed.

OBJECTIVE: Develop safety and emergency operations procedures.

Recommended Actions

1. Identify and address safety issues for park visitors, including road management, wildlife concerns, tort claims, and heat and other emergency medical situations. The results of this effort should result in a formal, detailed visitor safety policy and plan for the park and posting of relevant notices to the public, such as dehydration, snakes, terrain, weather, etc).

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

2. Identify and address safety issues for park staff, including after-hours security. The results of this effort should result in a formal, detailed staff safety policy and plan for the park, including fee remittance handling and transport, and agency jurisdiction associated with law enforcement, fire suppression and medical emergencies.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3. Identify staff first aid and emergency response training needs and maintain currency with required certifications.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing.

ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Ulm Pishkun State Park Advisory Committee that worked to develop the management plan feels the park will benefit from ongoing public input and support from a formalized advisory committee. The committee recommends such a group be formed to meet as appropriate to provide guidance and support on park affairs. It is recommended that the committee meet once every two years to consider park proposals and questions that require public scrutiny. The committee would not be a decision-making body and decisions would not require permission from the committee. In addition, the committee will meet to review and update the plan as schedule five years after plan approval.

IMPLEMENTATION

This plan will be implemented in accordance with the following action timeline. While there is no guarantee each action will be completed by its timeline for completion, this schedule provides a guideline for park managers when implementing this plan. Therefore, barring mitigating circumstances, the desired plan for implementation will be completed within the following time periods after plan approval:

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Disseminate the current park brochure and other promotional materials to Chambers of Commerce, airports, local businesses, different parks and hotels, schools, and possibly contracted racks.
	Increase visitation annually through enhanced interpretive programming at the park.
	Develop the park's reputation through word of mouth.
	Add the term "buffalo jump" to the new kiosks in park.
	Schedule and advertise new park events and programming that are of interest to area residents through a variety of media and methods.
	Work with Chambers of Commerce and Russell County to include Ulm Pishkun in packaged-tour deals in the area.
	Continue working with the regional museum consortium to collaborate on programs and activities.
	Communicate park events and attractions with partners.
	Provide refreshment and food services through a special use permit to sell food through booths during special events.
	Establish flexible hours for visitor groups that would like to visit the park outside of normal Visitor Center hours. Advertise the availability of Visitor Center visits outside of normal hours.
	Identify pet areas for easy recognition; post leash requirements and precautions about rattlesnakes.
	Develop a contact list of park partners.
	Publish a newsletter twice a year for distribution to the tourism community.
Financial and Human Resources	Develop a list of projects available for various volunteer groups. Distribute the list to the groups annually or more often as the need arises.

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY continued	
Financial and Human Resources	Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.
	Work with FWP Regional Volunteer Coordinator to recruit volunteers at the park.
	Pursue corporate sponsor budget options for such things as fuel reimbursement to retain volunteers.
	Increase volunteers contributions in an effort to double 2004 contributions.
	Collaborate with Division to increase park revenues.
	Publicize the availability of conference room/classroom for events and conferences. Utilize the park special group use permit policy requiring a reservation/use fee.
	Upgrade gift store inventory management.
	Upgrade cash register system.
	Maintain membership in Museum Gift Store Association.
	Prepare annual sales activity report.
	Partner with All Nations Pishkun Association (ANPA) to raise funds through special events
	Enhance gift shop inventory. Continue partnering with appropriate vendors to consign gift shop inventory following the statewide enterprise fund policies.
Natural Resource Management	Work with DNRC or leaseholders to revert lands to native grasslands.
Recreation Management	Implement a "Leave No Trace" educational program to minimize inappropriate resource and social impacts.
	Allow smoking only on hard surfaces and trails to protect park resources and neighboring crop lands.
	Enforce park division rule prohibiting use of all motorized vehicles for recreation purposes within the park boundaries except on park roads.
	Enforce no shooting policy in areas historically used for target shooting, such as along the switchbacks up to the jump.
	Require written permission from park manager to hunt or trap in the park. Develop an informational handout with map and erect signs at entrance and other locations around the park to notify the public.
	Limit weapon use to bow and arrow for big game species and shotgun for upland birds and waterfowl.
	Allow hunting only on the following park lands: Section 13, south half; Section 19, south half; Section 24, all park land. Erect signs along boundaries.

ONGOING / IMMEDIATELY continued	
Education and Interpretation	Continue to develop programs to take to the schools and provide programming at the park.
Facilities and Services	Remove garbage from dump sites and areas used for target shooting on northeast side of park (along road switchbacks to jump); erect signs or fencing to prohibit future dumping.
	Develop a protocol for routine maintenance, janitorial needs and procedures at park facilities.
	Develop a reference guide for cyclic maintenance and how to assess, track and repair roads, buildings, utilities, water systems, vehicles and other infrastructure components. Identify major maintenance projects.
	Maintain high-use areas in ways that reduce human conflicts with rodents and snakes.
	Utilize land off-site for additional parking during special events, or extend parking into fields surrounding visitor center when impacts will be limited or can be mitigated.
	Identify and address safety issue for park visitors.
	Identify and address safety issues for park staff.
	Identify staff first aid and emergency response training needs and maintain currency with required certifications.

ANNUALLY	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Develop and distribute an annual poster advertising all park events.
	Coordinate one or two annual events, including an annual Pow Wow at the park in conjunction with the state annual Pow Wow schedule. These events may be produced in association with All Nations Pishkun Association.
	Re-institute "Evening on the Pishkun," perhaps through ANPA.
Financial and Human Resources	Develop and continue to update an annual list of potential intern projects.

WITHIN ONE YEAR	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Develop a marketing plan to strategically increase visitation and attract a wider audience. Consider the following actions and include schools in the plan.
	Work with an advisory group to evaluate the park name. Decide whether the Blackfeet word “Pis’kun” should replace “Pishkun” in the name or be removed. Determine if the term “Ulm” should be removed from the name.
	Determine policy to recognize and allow Native American use of specific sites to carry out traditional ceremonies.
Natural Resource Management	Establish a policy for development such that building expansion and parking expansion will be designed to protect park open space and the view shed. Designate zones ranging from natural protection and low visitor use to high visitor density zones. High use zones would focus future activities and amenities.
	Consult with a prairie dog biologist, or equivalent FWP expert, to document where prairie dogs have colonized in the area. Use GPS mapping.
	Document prairie dog impacts and identify potential liabilities for the State, including potential spread of disease.
Recreation Management	Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on lands adjacent to the park that do not conflict with park use.
Interpretation and Education	Renew the FWP transportation grant program for schools that cannot afford the transportation costs to reach the park.
Facilities and Service	Develop integrated pest control methods for Visitor Center to protect exhibits, and limit secondary effects on wildlife species.
	Repaint and reconfigure the parking lot to establish areas for RV’s and to guide all visitors for efficient use of the lot.
	Increase parking capacity to accommodate larger crowds during special events. Engineer and design the parking area in a manner that does not further detract from the view shed at the top of the jump. Consider matching surface to local soil colors.

WITHIN TWO YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Secure an advertising budget to implement the marketing plan and enhance ongoing recommended actions below.
	Enhance Interstate, kiosk signing and messaging to more clearly describe what is found at the park (i.e. buffalo jump, Native American cultural center, etc).
	Develop and utilize a press kit to advertise the park, and its events and programs.
	Provide FWP-sponsored tours of the park for Chambers of Commerce.
	Provide information on the park for hotel frontline trainings, to new businesses, and other area attractions.
	Provide staff and volunteer presentations about the park to organizations in the area.
Financial and Human Resources	Expand the volunteer program to recruit a more diverse age range of volunteers.
	Partner with schools, clubs, and special interest groups to produce programs, videos, and information on a seasonally.
	Develop visitor use management procedures and protocol for increased number of visitors, outlining strategies for staff to manage high levels of use.
	Explore a funding partnership between FWP, tribal colleges, and the seven tribes for a Native American intern dedicated to the park to lead park tours and educational programming.
	Upgrade the ¾-time Lead Park Ranger to a full-time, year-round position whose primary emphasis is to engage in park tours and educational programming.
Natural Resource Management	In order to accommodate future demand for more parking, especially during special events, collaborate with local establishments to designate an off-site parking area near Interstate 15 and provide shuttle service to the park.
	Develop an integrated noxious weed control regime designed to establish the native landscape desired.
Natural Resource Management	Develop a prairie dog management plan.
	Educate visitors on prairie dog management.
Cultural Resource Management	Develop enhanced educational materials that educate visitors about the importance of preserving the cultural resources. Convey the irreparable loss caused by vandalism and theft.
	Develop a vandalism prevention and detection program with protocol for investigating possible archeological resource crimes.

WITHIN TWO YEARS continued	
Recreation Management	Coordinate with park neighbors to encourage hunting guidelines on adjacent lands that do not conflict with park policies.
Interpretation and Education	Develop interpretive plan for the park based on past interpretive work at the park and recommendations in this plan.
Facilities and Service	Develop a storage and work-shop facility for maintenance equipment and repair.

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Enhance some exhibits to provide new incentives to visit the park. Rotate some exhibits seasonally or give additional presentations in the lobby, classroom, or outside the visitor center.
	Establish a “Locals Day” at the park.
	Provide limited, unobtrusive food services at the park seasonally using a mobile and temporary vendor, or pre-packaged items.
Financial and Human Resources	Provide narration in the exhibit hall through audiotapes and headsets.
	Develop a pamphlet that describes cultural and natural resources at Ulm Pishkun for visitors to refer to when visiting the cliff.
	Provide video that does not overshadow the rest of the visitor experience. Video would provide an alternate method of learning about the park for populations who have trouble physically experiencing the park.
Natural Resource Management	Fence the park boundaries accurately.
	Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park.
	Conduct a professional plant assessment, possibly in conjunction with a university (see components in text).
	Work with ANPA, park neighbors, and other stakeholders to produce a comprehensive buffalo management plan for the park.
	Complete an environmental assessment for those lands inhabited by buffalo.

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS continued	
Natural Resource Management	If a comprehensive plan and the environmental impacts are approved by FWP, add a small (approximately 6-9 head) herd of live buffalo to the park for the high use season.
	Change interpretive messages to include live buffalo.
	Develop comprehensive resource management plan for park wildlife species
	Inventory fauna in park.
	Maintain raptor habitat and protect snakes and their habitat to help naturally control mice and prairie dogs.
	Establish management procedures and criteria for species dangerous to visitors. Consider higher control methods around high visitor use areas.
	Analyze grazing as a means of attaining desired resource conditions; consider feasibility with other park goals
Cultural Resource Management	Develop a comprehensive cultural resources management plan for the park. Include tipi rings, buried archeological materials, pictographs, drive lanes, and other possible jump sites along the east edge cliffs.
	Obtain an inventory listing of the artifacts removed from the park and held at MSU. Work with the University to secure photo images of the collection.
	Compile and organize documents on file within FWP, SHPO and other locations to establish a research library at the park related to past archaeological work, including maps of tipi rings and drive lines, pictograph records, stone cairns, past excavations.
	Continue to locate and map areas where buffalo bones are present below the ground surface.
	Research and implement methods to preserve pictographs.
	Work with archeologists to document new research in the park and on surrounding lands.
Recreation Management	Dedicate a location for and design a dance arbor within the park to provide an arena for activities such as dances, Pow wows, and speakers.
	Coordinate with ANPA to seek funding for the arbor facility.
	Develop a design for a group use shelter that compliments dance arbor design.
	Actively encourage and work with private enterprises to develop camping within the Ulm area.
	Develop guidelines to allow primitive camping in designated areas of the park during special events only. This would include support services such as portable restrooms and access to potable water.

WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS continued	
Recreation Management	Develop a trail management plan to design, improve, maintain and sign new and existing trails.
	Determine potential for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail development in other areas of the park that won't conflict with existing uses and view sheds.
Interpretation and Education	Integrate the interpretive program with State curriculum objectives and benchmarks for subjects.

WITHIN FIVE TO TEN YEARS	
Issue	Action
Park Promotion and Visitation	Utilize any future archeological research to promote the park on a national scale.
Financial and Human Resources	Strive for sixty volunteers contributing 3,500 hours annually, or double 2004 contributions.
Natural Resource Management	Work with DNRC to establish guidelines for acceptable use of state lands adjacent to the park.
	Investigate purchasing development rights on surrounding state land to avoid uses inconsistent with park goals.
	Investigate possibilities for converting the state lands currently leased by ANPA into the state park through land exchanges or purchases.
	Partner with land conservation organizations to establish easements protecting the view shed.
Cultural Resource Management	Plan and coordinate an archeological investigation that would provide additional information pertinent to the archeology field. Make this information also available for public viewing and interpretation. Include area schools in this operation.
	Develop cooperative relationships with Native American and other schools wherein students can participate in archeological investigations.
	Consult with archeologists about a potential permanent archeological research site reproduction that contains interpretive information about methods and tools.
	Use results of additional archeological investigations to enhance educational materials and resources. Build on the considerable archeological information that already exists for Ulm Pishkun.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee Membership

Planning Committee Public Members

Mary Anne Cosgrove

Gayle Fisher

Jack Fisher

Brad Hamlett

Ed Hastings

Lyle Heavyrunner

Cindy Kittredge

Chuck Niswanger

Fay Schaller

Planning Committee FWP Members

Faith Robertson, Region Four

Kirsten Shelton, Helena

Ulm Pishkun Management Plan Draft Committee Charter

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has begun the process of developing a long-range, comprehensive management plan for Ulm Pishkun State Park. This plan will be written in order to create a framework in which specific management activities will be proposed and implemented over the next ten years. A citizen-based committee will be formed to assist in an advisory capacity in the drafting of this plan. Non-FWP committee members will be selected to represent a diversity of park users and interests. The committee will include FWP members and the process will be facilitated by a member of the Helena Parks Division management team. Additional FWP employees may be consulted for specific information pertaining to park resources.

The mission of the management plan committee will be to identify park issues and trends, and to formulate management recommendations for addressing them. The committee will be asked to identify and develop recommendations from a balanced perspective, considering funding, staff, resource needs, and community desires.

Committee recommendations will be used by FWP management to develop the management plan that will guide future projects and activities at Ulm Pishkun. These recommendations will not be binding, as FWP is ultimately responsible for the management of the park, but they will be crucial in helping FWP to meet the needs and desires of Ulm Pishkun's constituency.

Committee members will be asked to commit to monthly meetings from September of 2003 through March of 2004. Meetings will be scheduled to accommodate member schedules as much as possible. Utilizing the input from these meetings, FWP will draft a management plan during this period, with a first draft being completed in April 2004 for the committee's review. A second draft will be available for public comment in April 2004. A final management plan will be delivered to the FWP director for approval by June 2004.

APPENDIX B: 2003 VISITOR SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Visitor Demographics

The Ulm Pishkun State Park 2003 Visitor Survey provides useful information on visitor demographics. Sixty-percent (60%) of survey respondents were non-residents and 40% were residents. The majority, 72%, of respondents visited the park with their family, while 14% visited the park with friends, and 10% visited alone. On average, respondents visited the park with 2.8 persons per vehicle.

Visitation Trends

Visitors found out about the park through a variety of sources, the most frequent being family or friends, travel brochures, road signs, and living nearby. For half of survey respondents, the park visit was one of several destinations, and the park was not a planned destination for another 31% of respondents. Ninety percent (90%) of respondents visited the park once in the past year. Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents spent 2 hours at the park and 39% of respondents spent one hour at the park.

Visitor Activities

A majority of respondents visited the Visitor Center and the Top of the Jump. Approximately half of all respondents visited the park trails. Respondent activities at the park demonstrate the interpretive emphasis at Ulm Pishkun. While in the park, the top five respondent activities were visiting the interpretive hall (88%), enjoying the views (85%), reading interpretive signing (83%), using the interpretive trail at the top of the jump (74%), and visiting the archeology display room (62%). Ten percent (10%) of respondents requested additional services and activities at the park. These services included programming (3%) and video interpretation (3%).

Visitor Satisfaction

Overall, 95% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with their visit to the park. A majority of respondents were satisfied with park services and amenities identified in the survey. Among those services and amenities, respondents were most satisfied with park cleanliness, staff service, and restrooms and least satisfied with park trails, tours, and the gift shop. Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified amenities or services that could improve their satisfaction. These included changes to the signs and displays (2%) and a variety of other suggestions. The top three amenities respondents liked most about the park were information and displays (21%), views and scenery (16%), and the Jump itself (15%). The three amenities respondents liked least about the park were the weather (11%), improvement needs at the Top of the Jump (3%), and the rattlesnakes (3%).

Other Comments

Twenty seven percent (27%) of respondents provided “other” comments in the space provided on the survey. Those comments included 14% of respondents who enjoyed a positive experience at the park. A variety of other comments (all totaling less than 3% of total responses) included suggestions for improvement in education and interpretation, trail improvements, and requests for live buffalo.

APPENDIX C: MONTANA STATE PARK HUNTING POLICY
1998

1) State parks are closed to hunting except for those circumstances identified in section 3 of this policy. Signs informing the public of the particular state park hunting, firearms discharge or archery equipment rule will follow the FWP *Sign Manual* and will be placed near park entrances and as otherwise appropriate. Safety zones must be marked at least during hunting seasons. In no case will hunting be allowed in state parks lying within community jurisdictional boundaries.

2) Definitions.

- A. "Department" means the state department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).
- B. "Director" means the director, FWP.
- C. "State Park" means an area managed by FWP for outdoor recreation, historic or cultural preservation, public education, and which is listed in FWP's *Montana State Park Brochure*.
- D. "Hunting" means to pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture or the act of a person possessing a weapon, as defined in 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting, wounding, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife of this state in any location that wildlife may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take by any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or capturing.
- E. "Depredation Hunting" means special conditional hunting approved by the director to control wildlife populations that exceed carrying capacity and are damaging the natural or cultural environment or are causing depredation to private property as a result of closure.
- F. "Safety Zones" are those lands and waters within state park boundaries that are closed to the discharge of firearms and archery equipment and closed to hunting as posted.

3) The director may allow hunting in a state park or portion thereof if the state park meets one or more of the following conditions:

- A. Hunting has historically occurred in that state park or was included in the original intent of the park land purchase.
- B. Depredation hunting upon recommendation and documentation of FWP biologists and/or game wardens where game populations exceed carrying capacity and are damaging the natural or cultural environment or causing depredation to adjoining private lands as a result of closure.
- C. Not part of a safety zone.
- D. Hunting does not conflict with and is compatible with state park purposes and does not create unsafe conditions for state park visitors as determined by the appropriate state park manager.

4) The director may restrict hunting in a state park or portion thereof if hunting conflicts with or is not compatible with state park purposes and causes unsafe conditions for state park visitors as determined by the appropriate state park manager.

5) If newly acquired lands are added to a park, if a new park is added to the system, or if the uses of a park significantly change, a specific evaluation, involving public input, will be made and the director will decide if, or under what conditions, hunting is to be allowed. Public input will include notice of proposed action and the opportunity for public comment on the advisability and acceptability of the proposal.

Parks historically open to hunting include:

Council Grove State Park - restricted to archery and waterfowl only
Bannack State Park - 958 acres open, historic closed
Beaverhead Rock State Park
Madison Buffalo Jump State Park
Missouri Headwaters State Park
Parker Homestead State Park
Ackley Lake State Park
Giant Springs State Park - waterfowl only adjacent to river
Sluice Boxes State Park
Ulm Pishkun State Park
Cooney Reservoir State Park - 80 acres on west side open for hunting
Hell Creek State Park
Makoshika State Park
Medicine Rocks State Park
Pirogue Island State Park - restricted to archery and shotgun only
Rosebud Battlefield State Park
Tongue River State Park
Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park – Back NW area of the park

For more information regarding hunting in State Parks, please contact the Regional Park offices at:

Region 1 – 406-752-5501
Region 2 – 406-542-5500
Region 3 – 406-994-4042
Region 4 – 406-454-5840
Region 5 – 406-247-2940
Region 6 – 406-228-3700
Region 7 – 406-232-0900

**APPENDIX D: ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES REGARDING ULM PISHKUN
STATE PARK**

A Study of the Archaeology of the Vicinity of Great Falls, Shumate, Maynard; 1950.

Aerial Photogrammetry of Stone Circles and Piled Stone Alignments at the Ulm Pishkun State Monument, Davis Leslie. Found in Megaliths to Medicine Wheels: Boulder Structures in Archaeology, Davis, Leslie and Robert Carrol, published by the Archeological Association of the University of Calgary.

Archaeological Excavations at Ulm Pishkun State Monument, During the Summer of 1993: A Preliminary Summary Report, Fisher, John and Roll, Tom; March 1994.

Analysis of Archaeological Materials from Ulm Pishkun Buffalo Kill (24CA1012), Fisher, John W.; May, 1995.