

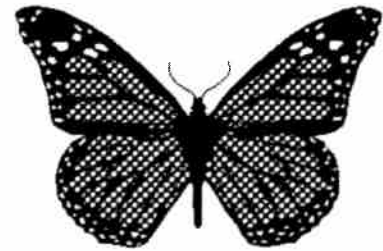
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STATE OF THE PARK
WHERE THE BEST
GETS EVEN BETTER

HARVEY GAP

COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION



Final Draft
Fall of 1992

**HARVEY GAP STATE PARK AREA
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DEVELOPMENT COST SUMMARY

FACILITY NAMES AND LOCATIONS

ACQUISITION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PLAN PURPOSE

This Management Plan has been developed as a part of the comprehensive program to develop and manage the recreation opportunities at Harvey Gap State Park (SP). The purpose of this plan is to identify the objectives and procedures with regard to managing the area for the preservation of the natural and developed resources, as well as for the enjoyment of the public and satisfaction of their recreation demands.

Although the plan contains data on the natural resources, visitors and history of the area, the focus of the plan is on current operations and future development needs.

B. PURPOSE OF THE PARK

The Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), generally referred to as Colorado State Parks, is statutorily-charged with responsibility to protect, preserve, enhance and manage for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the people of and visitors to Colorado, the natural scenic, scientific and outdoor recreation areas of the state (33-10-101-CRS).

Harvey Gap Reservoir was developed as a "State Recreation Area", which is defined by statute as a relatively-spacious body of water with limited land area under the control of Colorado State Parks

Recreation, which offers a full range of water-based recreation activities such as power boating, sail boating and fishing, and has sufficient land acreage for the associated camping and picnicking. Colorado legislation provides the authority for Parks to be actively participating in the management of Harvey Gap State Park - 33-10-107 (a) CRS. Powers of the Board and 33-10-108 (1) (2) CRS Duties of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. It should be noted, the area is now referred to as a "State Park" as per Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy.

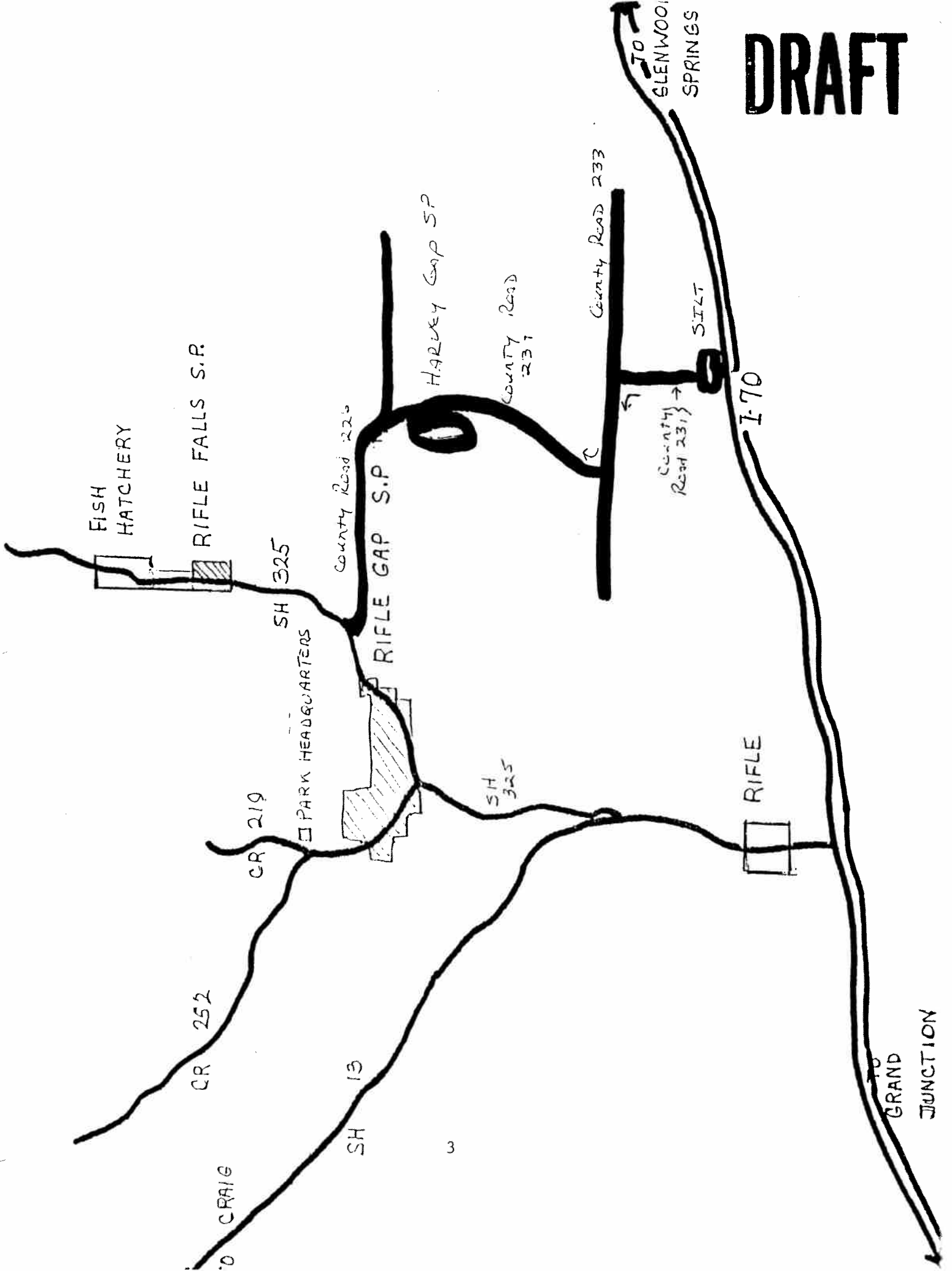
Administrative decisions must fall within the parameters of the existing lease with the Farmer's Irrigation Company and the Silt Water Conservancy District dated November 13, 1987, as amended. This lease expires December 31, 1992, at which time the lease may be renewed for an additional five years.

C. PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Harvey Gap State Park is a multiple-use recreation facility operated by the Colorado State Parks. Land and facilities are owned by the Farmer's Irrigation Company.

Harvey Gap State Park is situated on the Western Slope of Colorado in Garfield County in the Colorado River drainage basin. The park is located approximately fifteen miles northeast of Rifle, Colorado, and approximately five miles north of Silt, Colorado. The

DRAFT



city of Rifle is 25 miles west of Glenwood Springs, Colorado and 65 miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado. The town of Silt is located seven miles east of Rifle. Interstate Highway 70, running east and west from Grand Junction to Denver, provides the travel route used by people in the region.

Harvey Gap State Park offers activities such as windsurfing, sailboating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, sightseeing and boating. All gasoline-powered motors must be 20 horsepower or less in size. Harvey Gap State Park is an ideal family park, and is becoming increasingly popular with local residents and tourists.

D. GOALS

Colorado State Parks will provide the recreating public with the opportunity to have an enjoyable and safe outing while at Harvey Gap State Park.

Policies and techniques, based on Park's policies and guidelines, are used to provide for the safety and enjoyment of the park visitor, protection of the natural resources of the area and maintenance of the area.

Parks will provide and maintain a well-constructed, attractive recreation area offering a wide variety of recreational endeavors, so the public can receive the highest enjoyment and satisfaction attainable.

Maintenance is an integral part of the park operation.

Consideration has been given to the impact on the visitors.

II. BACKGROUND

A. HISTORY OF HARVEY GAP

In 1876, the Hayden Survey party described the area now known as Harvey Gap as "hopelessly arid" unless some source of water for irrigation could be devised. At this time the only inhabitants of the area were 10 to 15 Ute Indians, along with 50 to 75 head of their cattle, and a large herd of ponies. The location was known as "Old Squaw Camp". The Indians were evicted and placed on the reservation in 1881. In 1882, a rancher named John Harvey filed on the land north of the Grand Hogback, and began prospecting the hogback for coal. "Old Squaws' Pass" became known as the Harvey Ranch. The gap in the Grand Hogback became known as Harvey's Gap where a productive coal mine was opened. In 1888, an ambitious plan was launched to reclaim the area of Harvey Gap from cactus and other desert plants and cultivate the land for crops and orchards. A headgate was placed 100 yards below Rifle Falls so water could be diverted into the Grass Valley Canal which would flow into the area of Harvey Gap. The Project was never completed at that time due to lack of money. In 1895, an enterprising group of men formed the Antlers Land and Reservoir Company. Their plan was to build a reservoir in Harvey's Gap, build and own the ditches leading from this reservoir, acquire townsite lots in an area known as

"Antlers" four miles below Harvey's Gap, and lay out a town. They capitalized this project with \$100,000. Just as their dreams were becoming a reality, the earthen dam broke washing a huge gully through fields planted in young orchards destroying the young development, and most of the people in the Antlers area moved away.

Twelve years later, another group of investors, with an additional \$100,000, took up the plans of the former investors and engineered and constructed a permanent Harvey Gap Dam. Water from this new reservoir made it possible to reclaim the lands below Harvey Gap. And today apple and peach orchards blossom in the springtime, fields abundant with alfalfa and grains flourish and gardens grow large quantities of vegetables and fruits.

The town of Antlers grew to have a store, a school house where classes were held for over sixty years, a livery stable, a harness shop, and a few homes. Harvey Gap Reservoir continues to store irrigation water and provide outdoor opportunities for fishermen and other sportsmen.

B. THE PARK

Colorado State Parks began managing the recreational opportunities at Harvey Gap Reservoir in November, 1987. Construction of the parking lots, vault toilets, entrance station, picnic sites and fences began in May, 1988. Garfield County performed \$50,000 of "in-kind"

services while constructing all roadways and parking lots. Colorado State Parks invested \$55,000 to develop restrooms, the entrance station, picnic sites, fences and signs and swimbeaches. Construction was completed in June, 1988, with the user fees being charged beginning on July 1, 1988.

C. THE AREA DESCRIPTION

Harvey Gap State Park is located at the elevation of 6,400 feet. A 160-acre reservoir, surrounded by 160 acres of land, comprises the leased portion of Harvey Gap State Park. An additional 2.1 acres of land, located at the swimbeach parking lot area, is managed under a right-of-way agreement with the United States Bureau of Land Management. Private property borders the park on the north, northwest and northeast sides. Bureau of Land Management property borders the park on the remaining sides.

The park is located in a pinion pine/juniper biome. Utah cedar, pinion pine and narrowleaf cottonwood are the predominant tree species on the area, with sagebrush, greasewood and rabbitbrush the primary shrubs. Flowers are limited, to Indian Paintbrush, sego lilies and prickly-pear cactus. Wildlife species present include mule deer, field mice, lesser chipmunks, cottontail rabbits and golden-mantled ground squirrels. Fishermen can angle for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill

and channel catfish. A more comprehensive list of flora and fauna can be obtained at the park office.

D. EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Harvey Gap State Park is a day-use park only; overnight camping is not permitted. There are three day-use parking areas located directly off of Garfield County Road 237 on the east side of the park. The northernmost parking area is called the boat ramp parking area. Provided here is the park entrance station, a brick vault toilet, a graveled parking lot for approximately 35 vehicles and four picnic sites with tables, barbecue grills, and gravel pad available. The park's single-lane boat ramp is located on the north side of this parking area.

The central parking area is called the windsurf beach parking area. Provided here is a brick vault toilet, a graveled parking lot capable of holding 25 vehicles and 11 picnic sites each with table, barbecue grill, and gravel pad. A Class-B swimbeach is provided in the cove to the south of this parking area whenever allowed by the reservoir water level.

The southernmost parking area is called the swimbeach parking area. Provided here is a brick vault toilet, a graveled parking lot capable of holding approximately 40 vehicles and 9 picnic sites with tables, barbecue grills, and a gravel pad. A Class-B swimbeach is provided in the cove on the north end of the parking lot whenever allowed by the reservoir water level.

Just north of the swimbeach parking area is a day-use area called the Ridge Picnic Area. This area is accessible only by foot, and contains 6 picnic sites complete with tables, barbecue grills, and a gravel pad. At this time, no electrical or telephone service is provided at this park.

III. AREA MANAGEMENT INFLUENCES

A. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFLUENCES

1. Harvey Gap is one component of a four-park complex. Rifle Gap State Park is the administrative center for this complex which consists of Rifle Gap, Rifle Falls, Harvey Gap and Sylvan Lake State Parks. The complex operates currently with two full-time employees--a Park Manager II and a Senior Ranger. The complex hires an average of fifteen seasonal work program employees (SWP's), of which three to five are assigned to Harvey Gap.
2. **Federal Government:** The United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) granted a right-of-way agreement for 2.1 acres of land located at the swimbeach parking lot. BLM owns land adjacent to the southeastern and southwestern sides of the park. The BLM allows camping on the portion of their property directly east of the swimbeach parking lot. Many of the visitors to Harvey Gap State Park camp on this property free of charge. The BLM does not provide any camping facilities, such as restrooms, use pads, picnic tables or firegrills.

3. **Law Enforcement:** Law Enforcement is provided by Colorado State Park Rangers. Back-up assistance is provided by the Garfield County Sheriff's Department and the Colorado State Patrol, when requested.
4. **Medical and Fire Service:** Clagett Memorial Hospital in Rifle is the primary source of medical service and is located fifteen miles from the park. Ambulance and fire services are provided by the Silt Fire Protection District. Both ambulance and fire services are dispatched through the Garfield County Sheriff's office.
5. **Division of Wildlife:** The Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery supplies the rainbow trout stocked in the reservoir each year. District Wildlife Managers enter the park frequently throughout the year checking fishing licenses making creel surveys, etc.
6. **Farmer's Irrigation Company and Silt Water Conservancy District:** The Irrigation Company owns and controls the water stored in Harvey Gap Reservoir. This results in a highly-fluctuating reservoir, due to its primary purpose--irrigation. Recreation is a secondary use. With control over and access to the control structures and headgates located at the reservoir, the water district has the right to release all of the water stored in Harvey Gap Reservoir. The Irrigation Company has leased the west portion of the park to a local stockman for grazing purposes for

ten to fourteen days during the summer months.

B. REGIONAL INFLUENCES

1. Administering four parks, plus three snowmobile grooming contracts, which cover a vast area, stretches the effectiveness of the complex's two-man management team.
2. The shop/office complex is located ten miles west of the park. This location is a deterrent to efficiency. The Park Manager and Senior Ranger have a difficult time monitoring or serving our park visitors with the park office in such a remote location.

C. VISITATION DYNAMICS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES

Harvey Gap State Park is primarily a summer-oriented recreation facility. Visitors participate in a wide variety of activities including fishing, boating (20-horsepower limit), hiking, windsurfing, sailing, picnicking and sightseeing. The high-use season begins in April and continues through September. Visitors continue to use the park in the winter months by snowmobiling on the frozen lake surface and by ice fishing. Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends attract the highest number of visitors. Parking lots are full normally by 10:00 am., and remain full until 6:00 pm.

As more people move to this region, demand for recreational activities exceeds the existing supply of areas and ways to recreate. For this reason, it is important for Colorado State Parks, and particularly the

staff at Harvey Gap, to prepare to meet this increasing demand through further development of the recreation areas, adding full-time staff and increased training in public relations and law enforcement. Planning now to meet these future demands is essential.

1. **The Park User:** In 1988, State Parks conducted a visitor-use survey. Results were not gathered for Harvey Gap State Park, but visitor comments collected by park staff at other parks in this area indicated that a majority of visitors to the park live between Vail and Grand Junction, Colorado, and consider Harvey Gap State Park Area to be their primary destination.
2. **Carrying Capacity:** Carrying capacity for day-use picnic tables is 30. Day-use parking areas will accommodate 100 vehicles.
3. **Visitation trends:** The park staff began compiling visitation statistics in January, 1988. That year 20,437 people visited Harvey Gap. Park-user fees were not collected until after basic park construction was completed. Around \$7,071 in user fees was collected in 1988. In 1989, the park showed a slight decrease in visitation with 16,830 visitors recorded. This decrease is due, in part, to required user fees. A full year of revenue collections resulted in \$12,709. The first low- water year was 1990, with the boat ramp coming out of the water by July 15th. and statistics verify this. Visitation dropped to 11,378 people,

and \$9,742 was collected in revenue. In 1991, the park low-water trend continued. The park recorded only 11,646 people visiting, and \$8,171 collected in revenue. When annual precipitation is enough to allow the reservoir to remain filled for longer periods of time, visitation and revenue will increase.

IV. TODAY'S AREA DEVELOPMENT

Total Land and Water	= 320 acres
Land Surface Area	= 160 acres
Restrooms	= 3 brick vault toilets
Single-lane concrete boat ramp	
30 picnic tables and barbecue grills	
One entrance station with information signs	
3 graveled parking lots capable of holding 100 vehicles	
.6 miles of hiking trails	
2--Class-B swimbeach areas	
Signs as required	

V. TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

- Provide the highest quality recreation experience obtainable with the given resources.
- Improve existing facilities and develop additional facilities to bring Harvey Gap up to Park's Standards.

-Seek out and develop recreational opportunities that encourage usage during present lower-use periods, which are weekdays and during the winter months.

-Seek to control the noxious weed problems that exist at the area.

-Acquire additional property needed for more efficient management and development.

VI. FUNDING OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Future development at Harvey Gap State Park will be funded with Lottery and Highway User Tax Fund dollars according to Colorado State Park's Horizon Plan.

VII. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

In order to fulfill "Tomorrow's Challenges", portions of Harvey Gap State Park must be improved or developed. These portions include construction of hardened walkways to allow physically-challenged visitors access to park restroom facilities, parking lots and swim beaches, fencing two miles of property along County Road 237 to control livestock grazing, electrical service to the park entrance station, development of hiking trails accessible to the physically-challenged around the lake complete with fisherman-access jetties, additional gravel in all parking lots, widening and lengthening of the concrete boat ramp, additional sand on swim and surf beaches above the high water line, and construction of a group picnic shelter. There will be no net loss in

reservoir storage capacity following all construction performed below the high water line.

If the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-owned land east and west of the park is obtained through agreement with the BLM, additional development could occur. These could include a 30-site campground, hiking and nature- study trails, cross-country skiing, OHV, biking and horse trails, and additional open space for passive recreation.

Adjacent private landowners will be contacted to see access can be provided and/or land acquired for potential camping on the west side of the reservoir.

VIII. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

The following list is conceptual in design and subject to change:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PHASE</u>
1. Harden walkways to allow easier access for the physically-challenged to Park--rest- rooms, parking lots, beaches.	I
2. Construct fence on property boundaries to control livestock grazing.	I
3. Construct hiking trail around the lake, some portions accessible to the physically disabled.	I
4. Improvements to the boat ramp.	I

- | | |
|---|----|
| 5. Provide electrical service to the entrance station. | II |
| 6. Construct a group picnic shelter. | II |
| 7. Additional gravel for all park roadways. | II |
| 8. Additional sand placed on all swim and surf beaches above high water line. | II |

PHASE I

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

1.	Walkways (Soil/Cement Base)		
	A. Harden all walkways to improve access for the physically challenged.		\$20,000.00
2.	Fencing		
	A. Fence two miles of property along County Road 237, three cattle guards.		52,800.00
3.	Access for physically-challenged		
	A. Trail around a portion of the reservoir		25,000.00
	B. Fishing access jetties (possible grant available), no net loss of reservoir storage capacity.		10,000.00
4.	Boat Ramp		
	A. Improvements to boat ramp-widen, straighten. (possible grant available)		8,000.00
	TOTAL	=	\$115,800.00
	5% DEVELOPMENT	=	5,790.00
	TOTAL	=	121,590.00
	10% CONTINGENCY	=	12,159.00
	TOTAL PHASE I	=	\$133,749.00

PHASE II

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

1.	Utilities		
	A.	Provide electrical service to the park entrance station, restrooms.	\$10,000.00
2.	Group Picnic Area (150 Persons)		
	A.	Construct group picnic shelter	40,000.00
	B.	Amenities and furniture (tables, grills, etc.)	10,000.00
3.	Roadways		
	A.	Additional gravel in all parking lots	10,000.00
4.	Beaches		
	A.	Additional sand on all swim/surf beaches above the high water line.	10,000.00
		TOTAL	= \$80,000.00
		5% DEVELOPMENT	= 4,000.00
		TOTAL	= 84,000.00
		10% CONTINGENCY	= 8,400.00
		TOTAL PHASE II	= \$92,400.00

Bureau of Land Management lands adjacent to the park may be available for future development if and when public interest is shown to be of need. Developments could include campground sites, trails (hiking, biking, OHV, horseback and nature study).

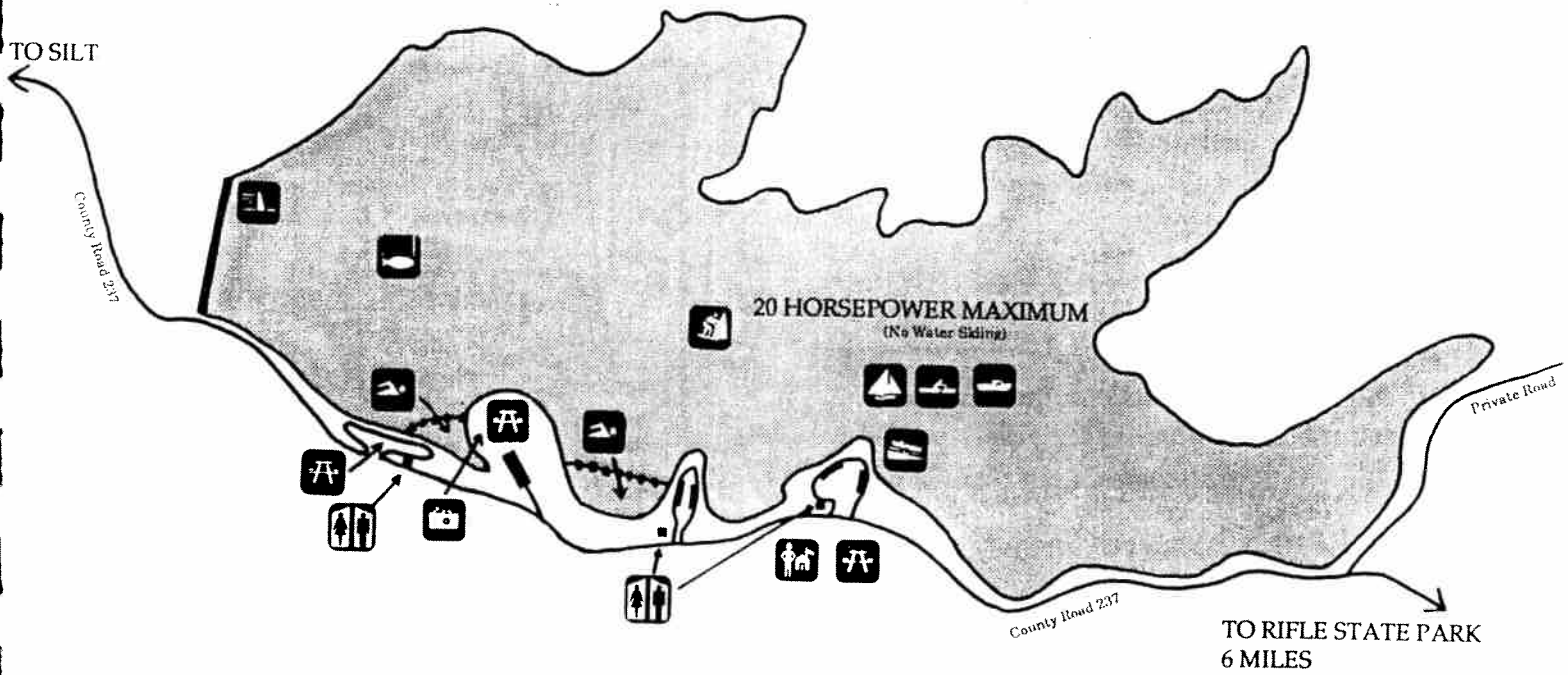
IX. HARVEY GAP STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT COST SUMMARY

Phase I	\$115,800.00
Phase II	80,000.00
Professional Services	9,790.00
Contingency	20,559.00
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS	\$226,149.00

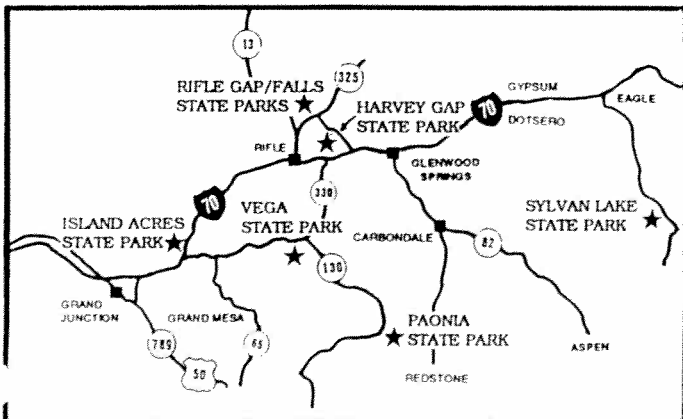


Harvey Gap State Park

c/o Rifle Gap State Park
 0050 County Road 219
 Rifle, CO 81650
 (303) 625-1607



LOCATION MAP



	Park Boundary		Overlook
	Roads and Parking Areas		Wind Surfing
	Buoy Line		Dam
	Park Headquarters		Boating
	Boat Ramp		Swimming
	Picnic Area		Fishing
			Restroom

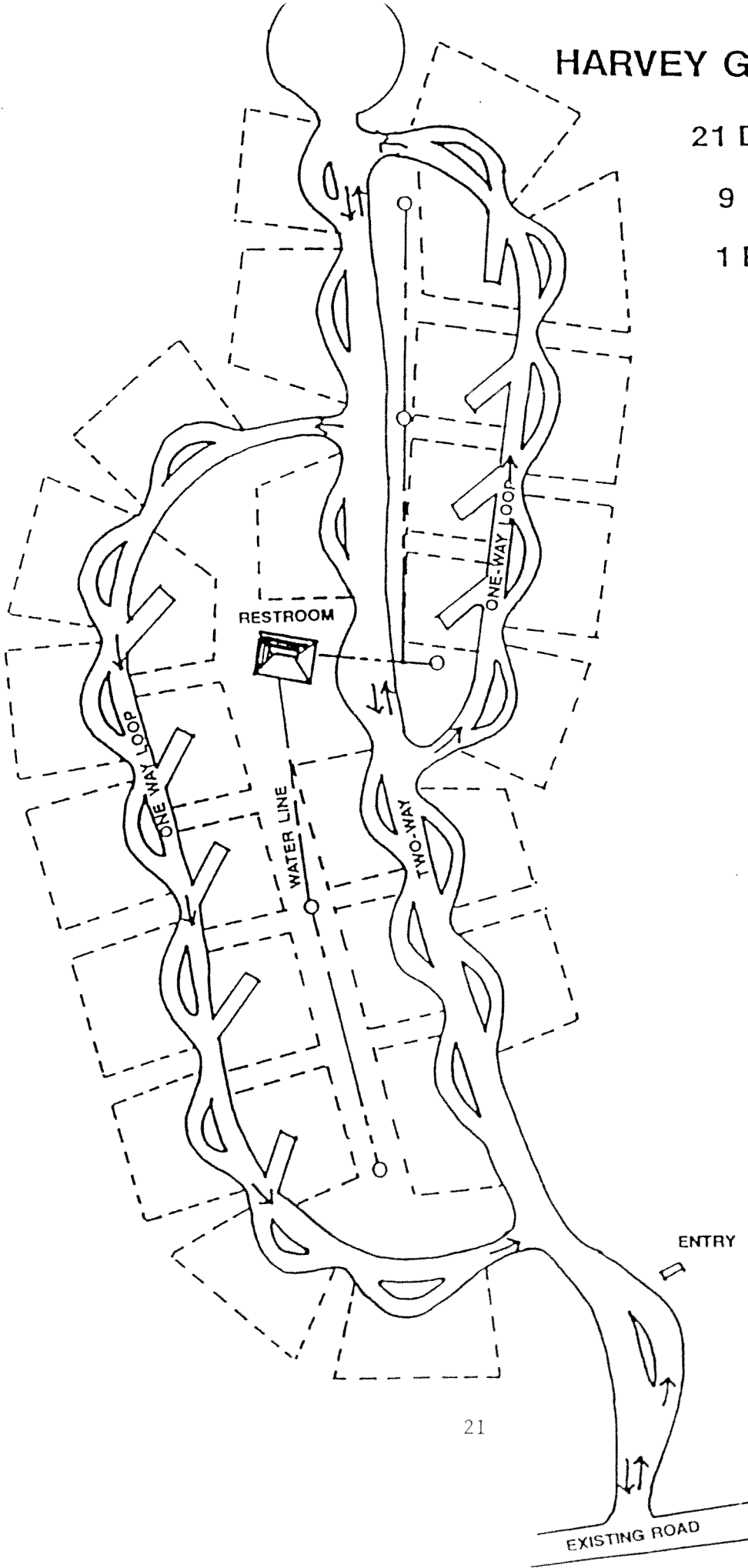
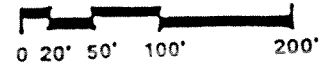
HARVEY GAP CAMPGROUND

21 DRIVE THRU SITES

9 SPUR SITES

1 RESTROOM FACILITY

SCALE



OPTION B

NEWS RELEASE



For immediate release:
July 6, 1992

Contact: Dave Giger
(303) 625-1607

Colorado State Parks will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 1992 at the Silt City Hall at 231 N. 7th in Silt, CO at 7:00pm to discuss the proposed Harvey Gap State Park Management Plan.

This meeting is open to the public; the media is welcome to attend. Important topics to be addressed at this meeting include a discussion on the actual current operations at Harvey Gap State Park and proposed improvement and development in the future. Public comment is welcome.

Copies of the proposed Harvey Gap State Park Management Plan may be reviewed at the Silt City Hall at 231 N. 7th in Silt, the Silt Branch Library at 600 Home Ave. in Silt, the Rifle Branch Library at 107 E. 2nd in Rifle, the Glenwood Springs Branch Library at 413 9th in Glenwood Springs, the Parachute Branch Library at 244 Grand Valley Way in Parachute, or the Aspen Daily News at 517 E. Hopkins in Aspen.

Colorado State Parks is statutorily charged with the responsibility to protect, preserve, enhance, and manage for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of and the visitors to Colorado, the natural scenic, scientific and outdoor recreation areas of the state.

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Rifle Gap State Park
0050 Road 219
Rifle, Colorado 81650
Phone (303) 625-1607



Roy Romer
Governor

Laurie A. Mathews
Director

August 1, 1992

Mr. Bob Pretti
Farmer's Irrigation Company
Silt Water Conservancy District
PO Box 216
Silt, CO 81652

Dear Bob;

Enclosed please find the minutes of the Harvey Gap State Park proposed management plan presentation held on July 28, 1992 in Silt Colorado. These meeting minutes were taken by my secretary, Lynnette Bay.

Please have your Board of Directors review these minutes. Any corrections or additions need to be returned to me by August 7, 1992 so I may include them in the next draft of this management plan.

Thank you for your cooperation in the preparation of the Harvey Gap State Park proposed management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Giger".

David Giger, Park Manager
Harvey Gap State Park

HARVEY GAP STATE PARK PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION
JULY 28, 1992

The presentation began at 7:18pm at the City Hall in Silt, CO. The slide show was presented by Kevin Tobey. Attending park employees were Kurt Mill, David Giger, Kevin Tobey, and Lynnette Bay. There were 16 individuals from the community who attended.

The slide presentation ended at 7:28pm. The public was asked for their comments on the proposed plan. The following are those issues:

- Possible idea of holding water in the lake longer. Farmers and ranchers would continue to use irrigation water they are entitled to, but would use a minimum amount at a time so water would remain in Harvey Gap reservoir for a longer period of time.
- The largest loss of water is from evaporation. This could be reduced by the use of pipe or cement lined ditches, but this would be very expensive. Public wanted ideas of how to pay for these expenses.
- Harvey Gap supplies 36 miles of ditches and canals.
- Project of additional sand for beaches. Will this sand seep into the lake, reducing storage capacity? No, would be only placed above high water line.
- Fishing jetties - Would the installation reduce the reservoir storage capacity? How to build jetties - rock, sand, drive pilings into lake bottom for no movement, etc. Parks said no net loss of storage capacity.
- Water quality pertaining to swimbeaches - some downstream users drink the water. Parks must abide by all Department of Health regulations pertaining to water quality for swimbeaches.
- Railroad vs Farmers Irrigation injunction for amount of water held behind Harvey Gap Dam. Farmers will investigate to see if injunction still in effect.
- Question on "disease on trout" in Harvey Gap Reservoir. Parks explained that we have been told by Division of Wildlife biologists that sores on fish are caused by parasite, fish safe to eat.
- Clarify no camping restriction in lease - at request of State Parks - Parks originally interested in camping at Harvey Gap, concerned with high costs of construction.
- From Bureau of Land Management - continued camping in area across from swimbeach parking lot could result in more conflicts with livestock grazing. Problem of people leaving gates open, placing broken bottles in stockpounds.
- Farmers - concern with high price of placing fencing around property boundaries, type of fence. Farmers has leased right to graze stock on west side of reservoir for 10 to 14 days during the summer months. Recommendation - install woven wire fence, upper and lower barbed wire. Do not fence entire boundary.
- Any development to be done - please send plans to Farmers and Silt Conservancy for input and approval.
- Question of how many parks are self-sufficient. Few, system as whole is approximately 70% self-sufficient.

Correction on water depths and levels: Harvey Gap is 53 feet deep, can currently draw out 45 feet, leaving 8 feet (due to siltation can't get last 8 feet). Farmers have the right to draw all water out of the reservoir if desired.

- Question about proposed plan for campground in back of management plan - There will be no water provided to campers if campground ever built.
- Question on how State Parks gets Highway User Tax Fund money. \$500,000 statewide for maintenance of park roadways.
- Francisco Mendoza, BLM, Glenwood - Concerns about BLM property across from swimbeach parking lot. Currently used for camping, problems with trash, sanitation, people leaving cattle gates open, etc. They installed a new drive through gate and walk through gate. Asked possibility of State Parks building campground, how many years, costs involved. Told that at this time Parks has no plan for building camping sites at Harvey Gap.
- Farmers - told story of access gate to BLM land being locked shut with chain and padlock. Cowboys had to cut chain open to get out. How to stop this?
- Farmers - would it make more sense to have a private enterprise build and manage camping at Harvey? BLM could lease the property to a private enterprise. Parks - okay with them to have private campground, but felt may have trouble getting interested people to build there.
- A compliment was given from Farmers to Parks on the cleanliness of the park, no problems like those encountered in past years at Harvey.
- Asked why Parks garbage truck over to the park so often, picking up bags before they are completely full. Answer - truck to Harvey three times per week, primarily to have water with additives to clean the toilets, then pick up trash without wasting bags.
- Noxious weeds - discussion of different methods of control, problems that go with the weeds. All agreed weed control very expensive, all parties need to work together to be effective. Spraying chemicals below high water line could be dangerous to stock and to public.
- Farmers - are primarily happy with facilities, think improvements will be worthwhile, but were concerned about costs of development and operation.
- BLM still wanted to talk about camping. Suggested using the swimbeach parking lot, camping on west end. Parks said this ideas was unacceptable to them - day use and camping do not work well together. BLM - how about camping on west side of lake. Parks: potential, but would have to obtain public accessment easement, purchase property, possible water rights.

The public meeting ended at 8:55pm.

SILT WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
120 s. 7TH STREET, BOX 216
August 19, 1992

David Giger, Park Manager
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
0050 Road 219
Rifle, CO 81650

Gentlemen:

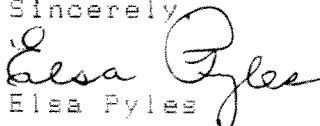
We have reviewed the minutes of the Meeting held at Silt Town Hall and it is the concensus of the Board of Directors that they do not agree with the following items:

"Possible idea of holding water in the lake longer. Farmers and ranchers would continue to use irrigation water they are entitled to, but would use a minimum amount at a time so water would remain in Harvey Gap reservoir for a long period of time."

"Fishing jetties - would the installation reduce the reservoir storage capacity? How to build jetties - rock, sand, drive pilings into lake bottom for no movement, etc. Park said no net loss of storage capacity."

If you have any other questions, please contact me.

Sincerely



Elsa Pyles
Director-Secretary

AUG 06 1992



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GLENWOOD SPRINGS RESOURCE AREA
50629 HIGHWAY 6 AND 24
P.O. BOX 1009
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602

In Reply Refer To:
8300
(7-880)

August 3, 1992

Mr. Dave Giger
Rifle Gap State Recreation Area
0050 County Road 219
Rifle, Colorado 81650

Dear Mr. Giger:

The comments below resulted from our staff review of the proposed Harvey Gap State Park Management Plan. Overall, the State Park management has improved the recreation opportunities in the area, and the proposed plan would enhance these opportunities.

A technical error is found in page 7, Area Description. The swim-beach parking area and toilet on the 2.1 acres of BLM land are authorized under a right-of-way and not a lease, although a lease has been discussed.

While the plan correctly states that free camping is allowed on the BLM land east of the swim-beach parking lot without any facilities provided, they are not BLM campers creating an impact on Park facilities. These campers are State Park visitors creating an impact on public land because camping is not allowed in the park. These park visitors are causing sanitation and litter problems, damage to the unimproved road, vandalism to fences and gates, and conflicts with livestock grazing operations on public land. The demand for camping by park users will continue and the need for adequate facilities is obvious.

Camping facilities could be developed on the affected public land by State Parks or other parties under a lease, or under the BLM recreation management program. However, given the willingness to allow camping on the reservoir leased land, as indicated by District Board members at the July 28 meeting, I request that you fully consider campground development at an alternative location. A campground on the west side of the reservoir would open up an under utilized side of the reservoir and prevent growing congestion on the east side, while eliminating camping related impacts on public land. A special order could be issued to close public land east of the swim-beach parking area to camping to prevent conflicts and recurring problems, although it could still be available for trail type uses and dispersed recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject proposed plan. If you have any questions, please contact Francisco J. Mendoza at the address above or phone (303) 945-2341.

Sincerely,

Margaret Wyatt
Acting for
Michael S. Mottice
Area Manager

HARVEY GAP MANAGEMENT PLAN

07-28-92

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Bob & Opal Patti	0213 County Rd 228 Silt, Co 81652	Farmers Irrigation Co.
Norm & Virginia Hunt	5597 - 233 Rd. Silt, 81652	Silt Conservancy Dist.
Elmer Robers	5174 Co Rd 237 Rife 81650	Farmer & Rancher
Bill Johnson	2804 Rd 250 Silt 81652	FARMER RANCHER
Dea Jan Urban	0284 Rd 259-A Rife, Co	Farmer
Abby Jensen	" "	" "
John Jensen	" "	" "
Alvin Roberts	1655 247 Rd. NewCastle, Co.	Rancher
Arthur Meko	Box 33 Silt Colo	
James W Roberts	4450 245 Rd NewCastle Co.	