

Appendix H: Plan Update and Review Committee Meeting Schedule and Summaries

The Plan Update and Review Committee (PURC) met according to the following schedule. Meeting summaries follow in this appendix.

PURC Meeting Schedule

January 30, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
March 17, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
May 5, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
June 24, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, West Yellowstone/Hebgen Reservoir
July 29, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
August 19, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
November 18, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
January 13, 2005, 10 am–12 pm, Helena

Adaptive Management Sub-Committee Meeting Schedule

April 28, 2004, 10 am–3 pm, Helena
May 5, 2004, 3-5 pm, Helena

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December 5, 2003

Dear Technical Working Group and Recreation Advisory Group participant:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a planned update of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP) in 2004 and to request your participation on a committee that will help complete the update.

The CRMP was developed between 1993 and 1996 to accommodate and adapt to changing conditions and public recreation needs in the Missouri-Madison corridor over the term of the Project No. 2188 License. The first five volumes of the CRMP were completed and filed with FERC in 1996. The Project No. 2188 License Order specifies a re-evaluation of the CRMP at 8-year intervals. The 2004 CRMP update, like the earlier plan development, will be completed in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and other interested parties

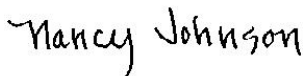
American Public Land Exchange Company (APLE), on behalf of PPL Montana, will facilitate the update. The purpose of the update is to identify and address changes that have taken place over the past eight years and to review the information and decision-making process that guides the River Fund Board on use of trust income to support and enhance recreation resources in the corridor. The update will require the coordinated effort of many individuals representing both agency and public interests.

The Plan Update Committee is currently being formed and APLE would like to solicit your participation as a committee member. Committee meetings will be scheduled in Helena starting in late January 2004 and will continue through the year. Regional meetings will also be held in West Yellowstone, Helena, and Great Falls during the update to inform the Regional Working Groups and Recreation Advisory Groups of proposed CRMP changes. Participation on the committee will require a substantial commitment of your time, both in attendance at these meetings and in completing 'homework' between meetings. If you have already volunteered to be a member of the Plan Update Committee, please accept our thanks. If not, please consider joining this group to help shape the CRMP for the future.

To indicate your interest in being a member of the Plan Update Committee, please email your name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number to me at nancy.johnson.aple@bresnan.net by **December 17, 2003**. Also indicate whether you will be representing a federal, state, or local agency, non-governmental organization, or member of the recreating public.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of recreation planning in the Missouri-Madison project area.

Sincerely,



Nancy Johnson
APLE – Helena

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

**Summary of Meeting
January 30, 2004
Wingate Hotel, Helena, Montana
10:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Jack Clarkson
Russ Dunn
Jeff Erickson
Doris Fischer
Milt Fusselman
Susan James
Cindy Kittredge

Allan Kuser
Glen Paul
Dave Payne
Brad Rixford
Kirsten Shelton
Pam Sveinson

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt

1. Background and Reason for the Update

Nancy Johnson provided information on the background of the plan and the reason for the update.

Background

As part of re-licensing for the Missouri-Madison hydroelectric projects in the early and mid-1990s, there was a broad-based effort to identify measures to protect and enhance recreation resources in the corridor.

The Missouri-Madison hydroelectric project corridor includes nine project reservoirs from Hebgen Reservoir at West Yellowstone to Morony Reservoir below Great Falls. The corridor also includes river segments between the project reservoirs, but excludes the Bureau of Reclamation Canyon Ferry project and the State of Montana Toston project.

The various partners collaborating on the corridor recreation project first signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1992, later revised in 1999 (with the creation of the River Fund).

The partners developed Volumes 1-5 of the Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP) between 1993 and 1996, and submitted the work to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1996.

FERC issued the new license for the Missouri-Madison hydro project in September 2000 and approved all seven volumes of the CRMP in June 2002.

The seven volumes, identified in the 2002 FERC Order, include:

1. Technical Report
The “substance” of the plan
2. Indicators, Desired Conditions and Update Procedures
Focuses primarily on what will be measured to determine progress—this has been updated since first submitted
3. Computer Manual
This is detailed documentation of computer process needed to develop data and maps—now outdated
4. 1) Photo Inventory and Site Information (Hebgen/Madison Region)
2) Photo Inventory and Site Information (Hauser/Holter Region)
3) Photo Inventory and Site Information (Great Falls Region)
Good background—but has been rarely used since first submitted in 1996
5. Recreation Studies
Updated every four years over the term of the license
6. Proposed Recreation Improvements
Identifies 38 projects to be completed in the first five years following issuance of the new license(September 2000)
7. Hebgen Reservoir Dock and Shoreline Management Plan and Black Eagle Recreation Area

Reason for the Update

The CRMP must be updated every eight years. It was submitted in 1996, making 2004 the schedule year for the plan update. The time-frame for the first set of projects in Volume 6 was for the five-years from 2000 through 2004.

A plan update is needed to: Anne – we’ll put in the APLE edit on this.

1. To advise recreation managers regarding efficient, responsive, and comprehensive delivery of recreation-related public services for the M/M corridor.
2. To advise the River Fund Board regarding the expenditure of funds to assist public recreation-related projects in the corridor.

PPL Montana leads the update process in partial fulfillment of its license responsibilities. (Note that many documents, including the current plan and MOU refer to Montana Power Company, which was purchased by PPL Montana)

Role of the Plan Update and Review Committee

The Plan Update and Review Committee (PURC) is responsible for developing the plan update. The River Fund Board will review the plan and submit their comments to the PURC. PPLM will submit the updated Plan to FERC after it is completed. FERC will approve the updated Plan.

Questions/Comments:

1. Has the River Fund Board met the \$5 million goal for the fund principal?

Nancy: The intent is to build fund principal over the first 5 years of the new license with a goal of \$5 million by the end of 2005. There is currently \$3.153 million in the long-term trust fund. The Board is responsible for overseeing the trust and has a professional fund manager.

2. Is there a process for public comment on the plan update?

Nancy: It is the responsibility of each PURC member to take plan update work back to their agency or area and share and obtain comments and ideas. Plan Update work will also be shared with each region (Hebgen-Madison, Hauser-Holter, Great Falls) at the Spring and Fall meetings of the Regional Working Groups (TACs) and Advisory Groups. Notice of Advisory Group meetings will be posted in local papers in advance of the meetings.

3. How does this relate to river "pulsing?"

Nancy: The pulsing issue likely comes under one of the many other plans that were developed for the re-licensing. The recreation plan is only one of more than 30 plans developed to implement the Missouri-Madison license. Others plans address issues such as water quality, wildlife, fisheries, etc. She will be asking Jon Jourdonnais of PPL Montana to make a presentation on the other plans at the next meeting.

4. What is the coordination mechanism as the recreation plan update crosses over with related topics, such as fisheries and wildlife, that have their own separate plans?

Nancy: As work progresses and specific issues are identified, the PURC will need to coordinate and share ideas with the other groups working on other topics.

5. There is a final report of the River Recreation Advisory Council that has been recently adopted and would be good for this group to look at (Cindy Kittredge) <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/fishing/rracfinalreport.pdf>. Anne – this is the address for the FWP website and the final report of the River Recreation Advisory Council. We should provide this web address to committee members at the next meeting.

2. Missouri-Madison MOU, River Fund Board, and Regional Groups

Nancy reviewed the MOU, copies of which were distributed at the meeting. A map showing the match amounts for various segments of the river and a current list of the River Fund Board of Directors were also distributed.

Questions and comments:

1. The two-year funding cycle referred to in the MOU (page 11, item 5) may not allow enough time for federal agencies to obtain their matching share.

3. Review Chapter 3 – Purpose of the Plan

Nancy distributed marked-up copies of Chapter 3. Mark-ups are as recommended by the APLE team. Nancy asked the PURC team members to review and comment and to focus on substantive topics, rather than fine points of grammar, etc.

Questions and comments:

1. Does the current plan identify “active” interpretation and education projects, rather than just passive (such as signs and brochures)?

Nancy: The current Plan has an I&E component that focuses more on passive methods of communication with the public. Some O&M funds have been used to help fund an interpretive staff position at Giant Springs State Park area in a more ‘active’ format.

2. There needs to be a framework to tie together all of the other plans (e.g., wildlife, fisheries, etc.) and the way in which those are funded. There should be more a comprehensive approach to planning, projects, and funding among topics.
3. As the number of outfitters increases, there needs to be better interagency coordination of outfitters. Seems like each agency handles it differently.

4. Initial Issue Review

Anne Cossitt briefly reviewed a two-page summary of issues identified in the 1996 CRMP.

PURC members were asked for their reactions to this initial summary, resulting in the following comments:

1. Air quality issue resolved on Hauser/Holter by other parties stepping in
2. Weed issues not on this list—weed issues addressed via other funding sources and other entities
3. Is there possible funding for corridor weed survey? CREP program designed to protect riparian areas with spraying for weeds but no grazing
4. Inter-relationship among: Water quality/riparian corridor/subdivision growth along rivers -- including runoff from lawns to the river
5. Effect on recreation and use from other changes in the corridor
6. What is the effect of TES species (e.g. arboreal toad) on the implementation of the plan? Need to ask the wildlife group.
7. Drought-dealing with effects of prolonged drought not mentioned in 1996 plan
8. Bats on Hebgen Reservoir—dealing with bats and need to mitigate conflict with/for homeowners
9. Water quality-- indiscriminate spraying by counties for mosquitoes
10. Ties between water quality improvement and providing habitat for bats/swallows (and related effects of spraying)

11. Need information/data on:
 - a. Change in uses of recreation
 - b. Volume: rates of recreation
 - c. Issue: how is this monitored, how often, need for standardized data collection among agencies
12. Effects of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial on recreation in corridor
13. Need for an Information and Educational effort to inform people of the sensitivity of various resources
14. Potential conflict between recreation users and other non-recreational users of the corridor
15. Willingness to pay—any practical way to collect money from users at access sites (FWP/FS/BLM)
16. Waters are a public resource –what is public responsibility to help support use on those waters

Anne Cossitt asked PURC members to respond to the following question:

What has changed in your agency/group or the area where you live/recreate since the plan was submitted in 1996? What's different now?

1. Forest Service sees growth in use of dispersed camping areas on Hebgen -- esp. west shore.
2. Hebgen Lake Marina -- change in operation of project under the new license — increase in ice fishing
3. Madison- increase in commercial/residential development -- new landowners keep people off, increased interest in conservation of corridor, increased use of river
4. Effects of pulsing flows on Hebgen Reservoir
5. Gallatin Valley growth results in– increased use of Madison, increased commercial use by outfitters/guided clients
6. Helena National Forest – increased use of Gates of Mountain corridors, decreased amounts of funds for rec sites and improvements
7. PPLM – effect of low flow years on project operations and resources
8. Private landowner – Increased subdivision and residential growth along corridor, decreased access opportunities, trespass potential and landowners as de-facto recreation managers
9. Trout Unlimited – displaced users along river below Holter because of increased use on the river segment below the dam; importance of access opportunities
10. Lewis and Clark County – ongoing development pressure, County Growth Policy identifies implementation options: zoning/river setbacks/development permits on corridor
11. FWP – ensuring river access; water rights and potential for increased conflict
12. FS – increased drug use (meth labs in corridor)
13. FWP – ensuring adequate funding for FAS; non-angling use is component of demand

5. Timeline, Schedule, Communications

Nancy indicated the overall schedule is for the plan update to be completed around the end of the year. The group agreed to monthly meetings for the next few months and

then to re-assess need for monthly meetings over the summer months (which can be busy for resource agencies).

The next two meetings will be held:

March: 16th or 17th (depending on room availability, etc.), from 10:00 to 2:30 or 3:00 p.m.

April: 27th or 28th (depending on room availability, etc.), from 10:00 to 2:30 or 3:00 p.m.

The group agreed that email would work fine as the primary means of communication between meetings.

Jack offered to host a regional meeting at his business (Madison Arm Marina on Hebgen Reservoir) mid-June or later.

Follow-up Tasks:

PURC:

- Review Chapter 3 and get comments submitted by next meeting (Anne – did I tell them they could also bring comments to the next meeting???)
- Read and familiarize themselves with contents of plan by next meeting

APLE:

- Notice of final dates for March and April meetings will be sent to PURC members
- Send out contact information for all PURC members
- Send summary of this meeting
- Send CD and other meeting handouts to committee members not in attendance

Handouts from this meeting:

1. FERC Order Approving Comprehensive Recreation Plan (2002)
2. Trust Fund Status Report (December 31, 2003)
3. MOU (1999)
4. Missouri River Fund Board of Directors (Jan 2003)
5. Map of River Segments and Projects and Matching Fund Percentages
6. Volume I - Chapter 3 Proposed Revisions
7. Summary of Corridor Issues (from 1996 plan)
8. CD with plan update information (also one page description of cd contents)
9. Missouri-Madison Recreation Project brochure

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

**Summary of Meeting
March 17, 2004
Wingate Hotel, Helena, Montana
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Jon Jourdonnais	Cindy Kittredge
Russ Dunn	Allan Kusar
Jeff Erickson	Glen Paul
Doris Fischer	Dave Payne
Milt Fusselman	Brad Rixford
Susan James	Kirsten Shelton

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt
Kim Bergstrom

1. Project 2188 Partnership and Stewardship Presentation

Jon Jourdonnais gave a presentation on Project 2188 partnerships for stewardship of river resources to provide more background on license implementation, review stewardship opportunities, and highlight cooperation among public and private entities. (See attached Power Point outline.)

2. Chapter 3 Follow-up

Anne Cossitt asked for any written comments on the revised Chapter 3 distributed at the Jan 30 meeting. |

Brad commented that the River Fund Board has no good ranking criteria for prioritizing projects after 2005, especially if they're not directly tied to LAC. Nancy responded that in the MOU, each region sets up a prioritized list of projects. | What isn't clear, though, is how the Board takes those lists and prioritizes projects from all the regions together. Brad asked if possibly some criteria may suggest a cap on certain types of projects, like county road projects, and Nancy thought the regions may want to consider the urgency of projects when doing their prioritization. Also, the MOU says projects should be for public recreation.

Brad also added that the timeframe of projects needs to be adequate for getting federal matching dollars and Jon suggested the regions be aware of how much is in the pot of funds to gauge their expectations.

Milt noted that the maps on the CD are not complete; not all recreation sites are on them. Kim replied they are from the 2003 Visitor Survey and only include sites included in that survey effort. Nancy added that the only people who really use these maps are

the working groups; they aren't made available to the public. All agreed that they should be updated as part of this process.

3. Visitor Survey Presentation

Kim Bergstrom presented the preliminary results of the 2003 Missouri-Madison Recreation Survey for the corridor and four regions. (See attached Power Point outline.)

Feedback/Comments:

- The more detailed the information, the better.
- Ask about reservation system for campgrounds in the next survey.

4. Issues affecting Corridor

Anne led the discussion beginning with a handout of corridor issues in the existing plan and those identified at the January 30th meeting. For each issue, the group decided if the issue was within the scope of other Project 2188 areas (water quality, fisheries, or wildlife), whether it was a recreation issue that should be addressed by PURC and included in the CRMP, and what, if anything, other agencies were doing about issue topics.

Jon started the discussion by stating that the Board looks to mitigate project-induced impacts and that this group should think in those terms.

Susan brought up the need for overlap on the TACs and consideration by multiple TACS as appropriate when dealing with complex issues so they don't fall through the cracks (i.e. thermal warming: it affects recreation but is not influenced by or created by recreation; implementation of pulsed flows in the lower Madison affects recreation use, but currently there is no feedback to other TACs from recreation). Nancy agreed that while there is no real framework for how TACs interact, there needs to be a better means for communication between them. Some suggestions for this were:

- Annual meeting of all TACs
- Having a member of the recreation working group attend meetings of other TACs and provide report to and from that meeting.
- Add an agenda item to TAC meeting to hear update of what other TACs are dealing with.

Jeff asked if there is something in the Plan that defines what a recreation project needs to be to qualify for Board funds. Jon responded that really there isn't a specific set of criteria, but if all agencies agree to it, FERC should also accept it. The Missouri-Madison MOU for recreation specifies use of Trust funds for land acquisition, facility development, and operation and maintenance requirements for the benefit of public recreation-related use in the 2188 Project area as identified in the CRMP.

Doris asked what we're trying to accomplish by identifying issues in the corridor. Susan suggested that these issues lead to development of objectives, which will lead to [Brad] a ranking or prioritization criteria for future recreation-related projects and needs for the Board.

5. Manager's Survey

The Manager's Survey has been sent to public site managers in 2001 and 2002. PURC will be forming a sub-committee to re-visit the purpose of the survey and how collected information is used, as well as the ROS and LAC concepts behind it. The sub-committee members are:

- a. Milt Fusselman
- b. Brad Rixford
- c. Kirsten Shelton
- d. Jack Clarkson
- e. Kim Bergstrom
- f. Mark Sommer, APLE
- g. Nancy Johnson, APLE

6. Schedule of Meetings

Everyone agreed that email works great for communication.

The next meetings will be held:

April 28th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, Manager's Survey sub-committee at Helena Chamber of Commerce.

May 5th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena.

June 24th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Madison Arm Resort on Hebgen Reservoir.

July 29th time and location TBA.

Follow-up Tasks:

PURC:

- Review Chapter 3 and get comments submitted by next meeting
- Follow-up items as noted in the "Issues Matrix"

APLE:

- Notice of final dates and locations for April and May meetings will be sent to PURC members
- Send summary of this meeting
- Send presentations and other meeting handouts to committee members not in attendance

Handouts from this meeting:

10. Issues table
11. Source list for Lewis & Clark Commemoration research

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee
Adaptive Management Sub-Committee**

**Summary of Meeting
April 28, 2004
Helena Chamber of Commerce
10:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Milt Fusselman
Brad Rixford
Kirsten Shelton

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Mark Sommer
Kim Bergstrom

1. Use of ROS on Federal and State lands

Milt Fusselman: USFS

ROS was one basis for developing the Forest Plan, which is the source of information and guidance for management of USFS lands. Other documents of reference and guidance in the Hebgen area include the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Management Plan and PPL Montana's CRMP. The Forest Plan is the authority/ruling document over the CRMP in the case of conflict, which hasn't occurred to date. The Forest Plan is scheduled for update in 2008, but shouldn't wait to update the CRMP ROS classes until then because the two documents/processes go hand in hand.

Brad Rixford: BLM

BLM has essentially the same regard to ROS as USFS with their 15 year Resource Management Plans. There has been no ROS done previously, but they are now collecting VRM and ROS information to map and developing ROS classes for their smaller Activity Plans, which will transfer to the larger RMP. The new RMP will have management guidance for all resource-driven activities while the activity plans are the detail on the ground and really the one that uses ROS to drive what's happening. BLM has and will continue to refer to the CRMP in developing their ROS and activity plans.

Brad's comment: the ROS classes in the CRMP were developed by agencies that have a legal obligation to consult local, state, and federal plans (of which the CRMP is one that's been in place and effective since 1996). ROS is such a key component of site management that it should be "displayed" up front when talking about projects, sites, etc. and on the Manager's Survey.

Kirsten Shelton: FWP

The Parks divisions doesn't use ROS in site development plans for Fishing Access Sites or designated Parks, but they are currently developing another classification system for

their Parks that includes categories of Heritage, Natural, and Recreation parks (modeled after Idaho Parks system). This won't apply to FASs (which are more or less cookie-cutter sites) and it isn't quite ROS, though it does provide some classification. They generally don't refer to the CRMP.

2. Is ROS still a good management tool to use in the CRMP?

Yes - it provides a basis for protecting more primitive areas in face of increasing pressure for access.

Agencies may consider putting in a word for tax breaks for private property that borders waterways to remain undeveloped to increase incentive to not subdivide. This might be something to include as a goal or objective in the Plan – which is tied to the counties as they are signators – which will lend credence to the support to not subdivide.

Note for follow-up: There may be something like this already in place in Lewis & Clark county. Need to follow-up with all counties (except Madison) to submit their road and development plans to PURC. Also look to open space initiatives, Smart Growth Coalition, Montana Land Reliance, Trust for Public Lands, and American Planning Association for supporting documentation.

3. Private Property and ROS

Mark's comment: ROS classes may not always be an appropriate measure to determine the pocket areas most worthy of protection by easements or acquisition because some of these could exist in RN/RM classes, as opposed to just Primitive class.

Brad's comment: ROS could be an important driver for conservation easements for recreation, but maybe not for other types of use.

PPL Montana may be a good entity to coordinate efforts for acquisitions and conservation easements.

4. Conclusions from ROS Discussion

12) ROS is a good tool to:

- describe and inventory the Corridor and its attributes
- guide recreation development and future planning in the Corridor
- safeguard against and deter development which would result in permanent loss or change on the more primitive lands and therefore retain the primitive character of the Corridor.

2) ROS is widely recognized and used by Federal agencies and, for the most part, is applicable and in keeping with FWP sites.

5. Manager's Survey

Brad's comments: The bulk of the monitoring information on the survey is irrelevant and doesn't have to be reported to FERC. If money is needed, the manager will come to the TACs and make a request, so have the basic site information (name, location, operating agency, ROS class, fee and use information) plus the basic operational requirement (in dollars) and a section for deferred/major maintenance and replacement that reports what

the action will be, the target year, total project cost, contribution from the agency, and the request for funds from the River Fund Board.

He feels the Manager's Survey has two purposes:

- i. Assess the economic needs for future maintenance funding (in order to take care of what we have before we go buy a bunch more land and develop it) in terms of
 - a. how much is required to operate a site annually – this is the top priority
 - b. funding for major corrective/replacement maintenance – this is a mid-level priority
 - c. funding for new improvements at a site – this is the lowest priority.
- ii. Monitor indicators tied to the LAC framework.

The group ran out of time to fully complete this discussion, so they will meet again on May 5 directly following the full PURC meeting in Helena to critique the Manager's and Visitor Survey and discuss LAC indicators.

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

**Summary of Meeting
May 5, 2004
Colonial Inn, Helena, Montana
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Jon Jourdonnais	Cindy Kittredge
Rick Morris	Allan Kuser
Jeff Erickson	Clark Whitehead
Doris Fischer	Dave Payne
Milt Fusselman	Brad Rixford
Susan James	Kirsten Shelton
Ronald Yates	

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed PURC members. All attending members introduced themselves and the agency, governing entity or entity represented. Anne Cossitt reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

2. Proposed final product and schedule

Anne reviewed the handout on final product and schedule for the CRMP update.

Decision: PURC concurred with overall project approach and schedule with the following comments:

- The document will be "stand-alone," but could refer to other existing adopted plans and policies without having to re-state positions or details contained within those documents.
- There should be open regional open houses for public comment on the draft plan. These should occur after the first draft is completed this fall.

Other comments:

Doris asked if private landowners had been surveyed for their perceptions on how recreation impacts them. Nancy said she wasn't aware of any efforts of this type but it may be an idea for the future. Cindy supported this and feels the landowners have the responsibility of protecting the view shed but tend to be left out of the planning process.

Follow-up:

APLE team:

- Revise schedule to include regional public open houses in Fall 2004.

- Add issue of “landowner” surveys to a “Parking Lot” of ideas that come from the PURC, but which have not yet been totally addressed or resolved (The “Parking Lot” can be visited and discussed at each PURC meeting to identify steps to address issue.)

2. Existing Plans and Policies-Update for Draft

Nancy asked the agencies and counties to review the Recreation Management section of the current plan (pages 1-25 through 1-29) and to update this section with current information on various agency planning documents and policies as they relate to recreation in the Missouri-Madison corridor.

Follow-up:

PURC: Submit 1 or 2 paragraphs of updated information by June 10. (Nancy clarified specific assignments for specific individuals.) If you are unsure of your assignment, please contact Nancy.

Nancy: Will contact PURC members who did not attend meeting with any specific assignments.

3. Adaptive Management/Manager’s Sub-Committee

Kim presented information from the April 28th meeting:

- The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is used to a great extent in building management plans for the Forest Service (Forest Plans) and the BLM (Resource Management Plans and more site-specific Activity Plans). The FWP does not use ROS but is currently developing a classification system for their parks. The setting and management of parks ties closely to the ROS classes.
- ROS is one of several tools for identifying pocket areas of private land that would be worthy of protection (via easements or acquisition). ROS may help identify some of these areas and PPL Montana may be a good entity to coordinate easement efforts.
- ROS is a good management framework for the CRMP because it helps to describe and inventory the Corridor and its attributes, guide recreation development and future planning in the Corridor, and help safeguard against development that would result in loss or change on the more primitive lands. It is also widely recognized and used by the Federal agencies and is in keeping with FWP site management.

Clark suggested including information from Visual Resource Management Plans with other LAC indicators because it goes beyond ROS. Forests also have inventories of Visual Management Objectives that go into their Forest Plans. This would all help to identify the areas that are recognized for natural qualities.

The sub-committee’s next meeting is Wednesday, May 5 (immediately following this meeting). Discussion will critique the Manager’s and Visitor’s surveys and LAC indicators.

4. Issues Statements and Goals

Anne led the discussion on issues statements with a handout of draft statements and goals developed from discussions at the two previous meetings. General comments and suggested changes are included below.

Overarching goal:

- Expand to include clarification about the range of opportunities going from primitive, non-motorized to urban, motorized.
- Relate it to resource protection.
- Goal limited to Project 2188 parameters (and MOU)
- Expand description of water-based recreation to the corridor-wide context
- Bear Trap Canyon area should be “Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness”
- Change “overarching goal” to “Vision statement”

Condition and Capacity of Developed Recreation Sites

- Expand goal to include a broader spectrum and not just *intensively* used sites. Also make applicable for acquisition of new sites or add a new goal for new sites.
- Add reference to site maintenance and/or management in goal statement.

User Demands/Desires for Various Uses and Experiences

- This was a catch-all for more specific issues.
- We may be losing usefulness by grouping for the whole corridor – maybe look at regional listing of user desires.
- Change goal: “To *monitor and* evaluate demands...” (words in italics are new)
- Goal: Use “intensity” or “priority” instead of “seriousness” for describing demand at end of sentence.

Conflicts among Users

- Break conflicts into 2 groups: “Between Users” and “Between Users and Landowners”
- Change goals to:
 - To reduce and/or mitigate conflicts among recreation users.
 - To reduce and/or mitigate conflicts among recreation users and landowners.
- Add “Motorized versus Non-Motorized” as a conflict
- Use PWC instead of Jetskis; powerboat instead of motorboat.
- Add reference to sea planes
- Include “noise from other groups”

Changes in Land Use

- Change Note at bottom from “Although it is assumed that any action will always be...” to “Since any action will always be...” Move “Note” to above paragraph, as it is key.
- Be sure that this section emphasizes that there are several views on changes along the rivers, including the perspectives of private landowners
- Goal statement could add following : “seeking opportunities that don’t infringe on private property rights...”

- Cindy: express a desire to or show there is available help for landowners to maintain recreation experience.
- Jon: instead of preventing development, encourage open space and provide assistance with doing so – take a positive position.
- Doris: Goal is to encourage open space and mitigate effects on recreation from changes in land use.
- Many members had issues with “mitigate” and suggested a more positive term (enhancement, encouragement, maintain, retain, etc.)

Inter-relationship between Recreation Uses and Other Resources

- Take positive stance in Goal statement
- Add scenery and economic development to list

Assumed Universal Accessibility and Public Safety were fine since they’re from the existing plan.

Access and Access Roads

- Change goal to “Work collaboratively with other road programs...”
- Need to include access to water-based recreation and not just the roads issue.

Other general comments:

- Add a lead-in paragraph that ties in the funds for site projects.

Follow-up:

PURC: send any additional comments/thoughts to Anne Cossitt (cossitt@usadig.com)
 APLE: will re-draft the statements of issues and goals for review and discussion at the next meeting.

5. Decision-Making Process/Project Selection Criteria

Nancy introduced the current process outlined in the CRMP for identifying future projects that would qualify for Trust funds or a PPLM match. Nancy reviewed a flow chart handout, which was developed by APLE team members based on the existing CRMP and MOU. The existing process has not yet been used or tested in the time since the FERC 2188 project license was approved.

Process

The PURC was asked for their ideas and suggestions about process for projects and decision-making from the Regional areas to the River Fund Board. APLE team members clarified that the MOU was the cornerstone from which to build new ideas as necessary. According to the MOU, Regional Working Groups can establish working rules for making recommendations and ranking projects, and for gathering input from the Advisory Groups.

Discussion/Comments/Questions:

A question was raised on how PPL Montana match funds would be available – by way of the Trust or something else? Do they match agency dollars or Trust dollars?

The timeline of funding requests and dispersal must be adequate to allow agencies to pursue matching funds, generally about two years ahead of time.

Can River Fund dollars go to a private entity for anything besides acquisition of lands or an interest in lands, and if so, do they need an Agency or County sponsor? *[As a side note, a concern was expressed in a recent sub-committee meeting about private landowners accessing Trust funds for projects on private lands. Since participating agencies and counties have built the trust as parties to the Missouri-Madison MOU, the option of use of trust income by private parties was questioned.]*

Each PURC member took a turn describing how they envisioned the process would work at the regional level. The following ideas were expressed:

- There should be a real place for the public and the Advisory committee within the process. (It was noted that the MOU indicates that the Regional Working Group will include a member of the public, but it was not clear if each of the Regional Working Groups have such a member from the public)
- There should be some sort of written application form for projects (however, there were differences of opinion regarding at what point an application would be required)
- As projects move up from the regional level to the River Fund Board—the projects should have clear written descriptions
- The Regional Working Groups should prioritize their projects before sending to the River Fund Board
- Remember that this is not the limitless fund—it's more likely to be around \$100,000 per year of Trust income for all three regions combined
- Advisory Committees could function as clearinghouses for new projects and assist applicants with project design
- Advisory Committees could gather public input about needs/issues/projects
- Regional Advisory Committee meetings should be noticed publicly far enough in advance for the general public to be informed
- Working towards consensus is a good goal. (Note: some folks believed that consensus should never be compromised, others indicated that where consensus failed, a 2/3 majority vote was good enough to move a project along)
- Is it necessary that a project always have a sponsor that is a signatory to the MOU?

Project Selection Criteria

Anne presented a brief description of Washington State's project selection criteria, which is a scoring system with 3 equal factors:

1. Does it satisfy state priorities or needs?
2. Does it satisfy local priorities or needs?
3. Does it demonstrate sound technical merit?

Several comments related to criteria surfaced during the meeting, but there was little time at the end of the day to fully explore criteria. This will be on the agenda for the next

meeting. Suggestions for project criteria that came forward during the meeting included (but had little or no discussion and no attempt at decision or consensus):

- Must comply with FERC license requirements, including Article 426 of the license
- Priority for maintenance and operation of existing sites before acquiring new sites
- Involves more than one entity—shows collaboration

Decisions: (via informal discussion, not vote)

- Work on process and criteria is ongoing and will be revisited at the next meeting

Follow-up:

- PURC: Review MOU before revisiting process and criteria. If PURC members have any questions about MOU, please send to APLE team by June 10.
- APLE:
 - Pull together draft process approach, incorporating comments from meeting today—use as start for next meeting discussion
 - Develop some draft suggestions for criteria, incorporating comments from meeting today—use as start for next discussion

6. Schedule of Meetings

The next meetings will be held:

June 24th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Madison Arm Resort on Hebgen Reservoir.

July 29th time and location TBA.

Follow-up Tasks:

PURC:

- Recreation Management updates to Nancy by June 10 (assignments as noted below. If there is no one assigned to a topic, Nancy will be contacting folks as necessary.)
 - Kirsten – SCORP 2003 update, add RRAC info
 - Allan – add and build on FAS info
 - Nancy – talk with FWP in Great Falls about the Giant Springs Management Plan
 - Milt – Gallatin National Forest
 - Nancy – check with Beaverhead/Deer Lodge National Forest
 - Dave – Helena National Forest
 - Ron – add Lewis & Clark National Forest
 - Doris - Madison County growth policy (previously submitted to APLE team)
 - Jeff – Lewis & Clark County growth policy (previously submitted to APLE team)
 - Nancy – check with Jennifer Madgic of Gallatin County on their updated plan.
 - [Need to have information from all counties in corridor]
 - Brad, Clark, Susan – BLM Resource Management Plans
 - Andrew Finch – Great Falls Missouri River Urban Corridor Plan
 - Rick – Fort Benton city growth policy
 - Doris – Ennis city growth policy

- Nancy – PPL Montana Licensing and Ongoing Coordination Efforts sections
- Doris – checking on Community Economic Development Strategies document for Gallatin County...maybe something for all counties?
- Jon – provide other plans (fisheries, water quality, wildlife)
- BOR Conservation Trust for Canyon Ferry for use of trust dollars - website
- Kim – travel and tourism information and Lewis & Clark Bicentennial (Clint Blackwood)
- Revisit the MOU for clarification of questions raised today
- Send any additional thoughts/comments on issue statements, process, and criteria to Nancy or Anne by June 10
- APLE:
- Clarify PPL Montana match funds/summarize how Trust finances go
- Clarify questions on MOU
- Send out map for route to Madison Arm Resort
- Revise schedule to include regional public open houses in the Fall (2004)
- Begin a “Parking Lot” for issues brought up but not fully discussed or resolved (e.g., issue of “landowner” surveys). Have “Parking Lot” at each meeting
- Redraft issue statements, draft a working concept for Project Selection Process and Criteria
- List of Advisory Committee contacts

Handouts from this meeting:

12. Recreation Management section of the CRMP
13. Proposed Final Product outline
14. Issues Statements and Goals draft
15. Existing Process and Guidelines for Decision-Making flow chart
16. May 5, 2004, Independent Record article on Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Adaptive Management Sub-Committee
Summary and Follow-up of Meeting
May 5, 2004
Colonial Inn, Helena
3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:
Milt Fusselman
Brad Rixford
Kirsten Shelton

APLE staff present:
Nancy Johnson
Kim Bergstrom

1. ROS

Re-cap of the April 28th meeting's discussion on ROS resulted in the following recommendation for the PURC on ROS and LAC.

- Site improvements, expansion, or development should be
- 1.) compatible with current ROS classes, and
 - 2.) not likely to exceed LAC thresholds in the foreseeable future.

2. LAC Indicators and Standards

One goal of today's meeting was to critique the Manager's and Visitor's surveys. The committee decided, however, this couldn't be completed until the LAC Indicators and Standards/ Thresholds were examined for relevance. The sub-committee developed the following recommendations for future monitoring of indicators and desired conditions. The sub-committee used the following assumption in reviewing LAC indicators and desired conditions: site managers are responsible for first ensuring the safety of visitors, followed by protection and maintenance of the resource and facilities to a pre-determined level of development. Refer to the attached spreadsheet for additional information on previous indicators and monitoring efforts.

Water Quality: All elements are monitored under other Articles and the Water Quality Monitoring Plan of the license.

Land Use: The topic of land use changes in the corridor has two sides: 1) where does change and development occur, and 2) how do we work with counties, local governmental entities and interested landowners to implement strategies that enhance open space and conserve wildlife habitat and riparian areas in the Project 2188 area.

The most readily-available information on land use development patterns are the cadastral data and 911 rural addressing. The cadastral data shows land ownership and boundaries and is updated annually. The 911 rural addressing is a fairly new set of data that pin-points home locations. These two pieces of information would be effective at tracking land use development over time in the Corridor.

While no legal means exist to prevent development of private lands in the Corridor, there could be some realized benefit from identifying those lands with high wildlife or open space value that would warrant a conservation effort if a landowner were interested. .

To accomplish this, the PURC could recommend the development of a Land Conservation Strategy that would identify and prioritize the tracts of private land that would be most worthy of conservation should the opportunity arise. The Strategy would require the input of planners and scientists from the fields of recreation and wildlife and others and would be a collaborative effort to establish one prioritized “wish list” of lands.

Fisheries Resource: There are a couple of sources of information on the fisheries resource: PPL Montana and MFWP.

Fisheries biologists for PPL Montana collect information annually on population dynamics by species. The question they can answer for recreation managers is ‘what is the overall health of the fishery, both population-wide and by species?’ Beyond that sort of “overview”, we’d be getting more into the physical data. This could be an annual report made to the recreation group on an annual basis if desired.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks conducts an angling pressure survey every other year in odd numbered years which gets more at the social aspects of fishing. The results of the survey provide angling pressure and trips, satisfaction and crowding ratings, and number of people seen. The regularity and accessibility of the FWP information for the corridor – divided into Madison, Lower Missouri, and Upper Missouri– would provide a consistent source of angling information in addition to the information gleaned from the four-year visitor survey (see attachment). To be effective as LAC *indicators*, threshold levels would have to be established for this data. This has not yet been done by FWP, so we’d have to decide if recreation folks are the right ones to be saying where the thresholds should lie. It is also important to keep in mind that it would be up to FWP and the Commission to take action if satisfaction were low or crowding was high, so any threshold the Plan establishes will not necessarily trigger management actions by FWP. For these reasons, it may be better to report fisheries data as informational only and let the fisheries TAC take the reins on actual hands-on management and monitoring of the resource.

In order to make a recommendation to the PURC on the Fisheries Resource LAC indicator, please provide feedback on the following:

- 1) Should the PPL Montana fisheries folks make an annual informational report on the overall health of the fishery? If yes, should the report be population-wide and/or by species?
- 2) Should the FWP angling survey be utilized for LAC? If so, should the Plan have thresholds established from this information or should it be strictly informational? If thresholds are established, what would the suggested management actions be when the threshold is reached/surpassed?

Riparian Vegetation: All elements are monitored under other Articles and resource plans of the license.

Air Quality: Discontinue collecting information on number of complaints on smoke. Continue collecting information on dust complaints from Manager’s Survey and set threshold at 0 (Desired Condition is no complaints). Add a satisfaction question to the Visitor survey: “Satisfaction with amount of dust on area roads” with threshold of 0 (neutral response) on scale of -2 to +2 (Desired Condition is positive rating on

satisfaction scale). *[Note to sub-committee: Did we also want to add a satisfaction question about road conditions within or adjacent to recreation sites? My notes were unclear.]*

Management options for exceeded threshold are road dust abatement or road surface hardening.

Noise: Keep “number of noise complaints” from Manager’s Survey as the unit of measure, but change it to “Number of times 2 or more noise complaints were received in 1 night”. Set thresholds at:

- 2 for weekends at developed sites and
- 1 for weekdays at developed sites and
- 0 for weekends and weekdays at undeveloped sites.
-

Add indicator from Visitors survey for “Satisfaction with seeing/hearing others” with threshold at 0 (neutral) on -2 to +2 scale for all sites (Desired Condition is positive rating on satisfaction scale).

Management options for exceeded threshold are initiating quiet hours and disallowing animals at the site.

Noxious Weeds: Keep as monitoring component on Manager’s Survey, with threshold activity level at 3 (Fair) (Desired Condition is activity level of 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good)).

Management option is more intensive noxious weed control.

Vegetative Damage: Change “Shrub or Tree Damage” on the Manager’s Survey to “Vegetative Damage” to include grasses, shrubs, and trees. Set threshold as high (Desired Condition is low or moderate damage) for developed ROS classes and medium (Desired Condition is low damage) for primitive ROS classes.

Management options are public education and rotating areas out of use on a regular basis.

Soil Erosion: Change this to two measurements on the Manager’s Survey: “Soil Erosion on Shoreline” and “Soil Compaction or Disturbance in Camping or Use Areas”. Set thresholds as moderate (Desired Condition is low levels) for shoreline erosion and high (Desired Condition is low or moderate levels) for compaction or disturbance in use areas.

Management options are erosion protection, public education, and rotating areas out of use on a regular basis. *[Note to sub-committee: This last one is a bit unclear. Aren’t camping and day use sites established to concentrate use, which would make high soil compaction or disturbance acceptable? If so, should we change the question or should we add a “Very High” response category to the Manager’s Survey? Other suggestions?]*

Litter: Consolidate items B2-garbage collection and B3-dumpster pickup on the Manager’s Survey to be “Garbage/Dumpster Collection” and threshold activity level at 3 Fair (Desired Activity Level is 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good)). Continue to monitor B1 (Litter Pickup) on Manager’s survey and set threshold activity level at 3 (Fair) (Desired Activity

Level is 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good)). Continue to monitor "Satisfaction with cleanliness of the area" from Visitor's survey and set threshold at 0 (neutral response) for -2 to +2 scale (Desired Condition is positive rating on satisfaction scale).

Management options for exceeded threshold are more intensive litter pickup or garbage collection, additional receptacles, and visitor education.

Toilets: Continue to monitor "Toilets pumped" and "Toilets cleaned" (B4 and B5) on Manager's survey and set threshold activity level at 3 (Fair) (Desired Activity Level of 4 (Good) or 5 (Very good)).

Management options for exceeded threshold are more regular toilet pumping or cleaning, additional facilities, and visitor education.

Facility Repair/Damage to Structures: Continue to monitor site facility elements on page 1 of the Manager's survey with threshold condition level at 2 (Poor) (Desired Condition is 3 (Fair), 4 (Good), or 5 (Very good)).

Management options for exceeded thresholds are replacement or repair, or removal/closure of structure if there are public safety concerns.

Facilities Needed: Past data and reporting of additional facilities preferred at a site by visitors (from the four-year visitor's survey) do not appear to provide reliable information to base management decisions on. There are two main problems associated with the question: 1) it is an open-ended question asking for *what* additional facilities or services are preferred without giving the respondent the opportunity to indicate that *no* additional facilities or services are preferred, and 2) the percentage of people suggesting additions is greatly dependent on the number of people responding to the question. For example, maybe 25% of people said they would like showers added to a site. This may be only 2 people (2 out of 8 total responses to that question) or it may be 15 (15 out of 60 total responses to that question), but either way its 25% and can therefore be misleading. Based on this, a suggestion is to add the pre-qualifier question as previously discussed ("Do you think additional facilities are needed at this site? yes or no) and instead of establishing a threshold percentage necessary for management to consider adding amenities, simply make a statement that "any new facilities to be added to a site should be supported by visitor desire and safety."

Management option for exceeded thresholds are addition of facilities if they are appropriate to the ROS class and setting and funds for annual maintenance if available.

Use and Crowding: Continue to monitor perceptions of crowding on Visitor's survey. Establish threshold at 6 (Moderately crowded) for developed ROS classes and 3 (Slightly crowded) for undeveloped ROS classes on scale of 1 (not at all crowded) to 9 (extremely crowded). Continue to monitor satisfaction with number of campsites within sight or sound on Visitor survey. Establish threshold at 0 (neutral response) on -2 to +2 scale for all ROS classes. For camping, day use, and boat ramp use on Manager's survey, continue to monitor as a percent of capacity instead of number of days full. Change "Boat Ramp" to "Boat Ramp Parking". Establish thresholds as follows:

DEVELOPED ROS CLASSES		UNDEVELOPED ROS CLASSES	
<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Weekday</u>

Campground	80%	80%	70%	50%
Day Use	90%	90%	90%	50%
Boat Ramp Parking	90%	90%	n/a	n/a

[Note to sub-committee: Kim assigned the thresholds for the Undeveloped ROS classes based on the thresholds for the Developed ROS Classes. Please be sure to review them.]

Management options for exceeded thresholds are establishment of a camping reservation system, enforcement of capacity at parking areas through ticketing and/or “Site Full” signage, and additional site development, or acquisition of new sites.

User Conflicts: Monitor visitor conflicts through satisfaction rating instead of number of and reaction to encounters on Visitor survey. For “satisfaction with conflicts with other users” establish threshold as 0 (neutral response) on -2 to +2 scale (Desired Condition is positive rating on satisfaction scale) for all ROS.

Need to develop management options for when threshold is reached.

3. Manager’s Survey

Members of the sub-committee turned in their hand-edited versions of the Manager’s survey to Kim, who will incorporate changes and send out for review. The sub-committee felt the Visitors’ survey should be discussed by the full PURC.

4. Follow-up, Recommendations, and Timeline

Summary will be sent to sub-committee for their review and approval prior to the June 24 PURC meeting. The sub-committee will then make a recommendation to the PURC at the June 24 meeting on use of ROS, indicators and thresholds to use under LAC, and format of the Manager’s Survey.

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

Summary of Meeting

June 24, 2004

Madison Arm Resort, Hebgen Lake, Montana

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Jack Clarkson
Doris Fischer
Milt Fusselman
Pam Sveinson
Russ Dunn

Allan Kuser
Dave Payne
Brad Rixford
Charlie Sperry

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt
Mark Sommer
Jeff Frost
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed all PURC members and introduced Charlie Sperry of MFWP, replacement for Kirsten Shelton. She thanked Jack Clarkson for hosting the meeting. All attending members introduced themselves and the agency, governing entity or entity represented. Anne Cossitt reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

1. Visitor Survey Update

Jeff Frost gave a presentation on the finalized Missouri-Madison Visitor Study, which included a demonstration of how the electronic document is linked and navigable. The results included updated information for each region as well as a trend analysis for the first three study years, 1995, 1999, and 2003. Trends revealed that most visitor characteristics are quite similar and have changed very little since 1995. CDs will be distributed to committee members once final review has been completed by Jon Jourdonnais. Committee members provided the following comments:

- Regional information is less useful than site-specific information. However, sample sizes large enough to ensure accuracy are very important when providing site-specific information.
- An analysis of day use versus overnight use would be interesting.
- Perceptions of crowding should be separate for "on the water" and "at the site" due to management implications.
- Crosstab analysis of the type of activity participated in and the disliked uses may reveal some interesting information.
- The visitor survey doesn't really capture the amount of group use, that is, those groups utilizing the "group facilities" at a site.
- The "outfitted guests" group type should be a separate question, though it will likely not be as high on the reservoirs as the river reaches.

- BLM and MFWP representatives expressed interest in partnering on the next round of the survey to help boost sample sizes and possibly include the river reaches.
- Would be helpful to define the “operating environment” of the season (i.e. impacts from forest fires, if gas prices are high or fluctuating, etc.)

2. Recommendations from Adaptive Management Sub-Committee

Kim provided a summary of the recommendations to the PURC from the sub-committee related to ROS and LAC indicators. These recommendations will be emailed with the Managers’ and Visitors’ surveys to all committee members following the meeting. Members present were generally comfortable with the recommendations made by the sub-committee. Discussion focused on item 16 under recommendation 3 (Road Conditions). Members felt the issue should be included as a recommendation for consideration because it is an important topic that should be examined. Most members felt the visitor survey is not conducted frequently enough to capture the issue in its entirety, so questions should be added to both the Managers’ survey and the Visitors’ survey. Members agreed that the BLM, MFWP, USFS, and PPL Montana need to brace themselves and be ready to kick in for county road maintenance. The PURC will vote for acceptance of the recommendations at the next meeting.

Decision: Keep “Roads” issue in the recommendations.

Follow-up:

PURC: Submit comments on the recommendations and proposed changes to the Managers’ and Visitors’ surveys to Kim by July 15. (pinnaclersch@onewest.net)

3. Land Use Changes in the Corridor

Mark presented GIS maps showing the available data for tracking land use changes in the Corridor. There were three main sources of the data: the U.S. Census, cadastral boundary information, and 911 addressing information. The U.S. Census provides density information. The cadastral boundary data show parcel boundary locations. The 911 addressing data show house locations. This information is good for showing where growth has occurred and for possibly identifying lands that are in the greatest threat of development. The frequency of compiling and reporting this information came into question. Annually seemed to be too frequent, while a four-year interval (as with the visitor survey) seemed to be too long.

4. Issues Statements and Goals

Anne presented the updated Issues Statement and Goals handout. Points and suggestions noted at the last meeting were incorporated. Committee members were asked to review the updated draft and submit comments to Anne by July 9. These will be finalized at the next meeting.

Follow-up:

PURC: send any additional comments/thoughts to Anne Cossitt (cossitt@usadig.com)

5. Decision-Making Process and Project Selection Criteria

Nancy reviewed a flow chart handout that was updated from the previous meeting and a screening criteria handout as a template project submittal form at the regional level.

Discussion/Comments on the updated Decision-Making Process

- There was some concern about the new flow chart giving projects submitted by the public equal weight with those submitted by agencies.
- It was clarified that all regional projects – public and agency – would be prioritized at the fall meeting of the Regional Working Groups, to move forward as recommendations to the River Fund Board.
- There was some question as to how the recommended projects from all three regions would be prioritized. Will the Board be expected to prioritize them or should there be an intermediate step added where representatives of all three regions come together to consolidate the three sets of regional recommendations into one final set of prioritized projects?
- Discussion occurred about the timeframe for fund transfers for agency projects. The timeline for agency match dollars to be available is approximately two years, so agencies would need to have an MOU for project funds or have the funds transferred to an agency account in order to secure final agency approval on a project. Given this scenario/timeframe, a need was also expressed for careful management of transferred or committed funds to revert back to the River Fund Board for re-appropriation should agency project funds not become available.
- A question was raised as to what level PPL Montana match funds would be made - do they match agency dollars or Trust dollars?

Discussion/Comments on Project Selection Criteria

- The form doesn't allow basic O&M funding needs to rank higher than new construction, even though everyone has agreed to the premise of taking care of what we have before building new sites. To accomplish this, wording and a possible second form was suggested to put O&M projects at the top. Wording such as "Is this a project for operational needs or maintenance that is already in place?" or "Is the project needed to maintain existing facilities?"
- There was a suggestion that long-term O&M be identified with new construction projects, also.
- Some members feel a prioritized/hierarchical order should be established as:
 1. O&M needs
 2. Replacement/corrective maintenance projects
 3. New construction projects
- Suggestion to delete "(if known)" from sentence at bottom of first page.
- There was some question about the meaning of "use of existing resources" in the first question on page 2.
- Item 5 under ALL REGIONS on page 3 should be changed to "Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks River Recreation Administrative Rules".
- Add item 7 under HEBGEN-MADISON REGION on page 3 as "Hebgen Lake Development Plan".
- Some members supported the idea of partitioning the available funds so that opportunities for easements or acquisitions are not lost due to constant funding

of O&M projects. Division could occur on a geographic basis (such as 1/3 of the fund for each region), on a project-type basis (such as 1/3 for O&M, 1/3 for new construction, and 1/3 for acquisitions or easements), on an annual basis (where each region gets 100% of the funds each year, on rotation), or on another basis.

Key thoughts/discussion points on Project Selection Criteria:

1. Should O&M come first before other projects? This indicates the need for a new goal statement and change in the screening criteria.
2. How should annual funds be allocated, on a pre-determined basis or not?

Follow-up:

- PURC: Agencies and counties will provide Nancy with estimated costs for the following items for the next two years in order to facilitate a “test-run” of the project selection criteria. Costs should be submitted by July 15.
 1. Annual O&M shortfalls (O&M that isn’t covered in their budget)
 2. Annual replacement/corrective maintenance projects.
 3. Road and weed management shortfalls.
- APLE:
- Generate an additional submittal form for O&M projects.
- Generate summary of the above submitted budgets for test-run on screening criteria.

6. Schedule of Meetings

The next meeting will be held **July 29th** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Chamber Offices in Helena.

Committee members will hold **September 16** as a possible meeting date following review of the first draft of the Plan, to be distributed to PURC members in August. Time and location TBA.

October 19-21 are the scheduled dates for regional open houses for public review of the draft Plan.

November 18th will be a scheduled meeting for final review and acceptance prior to Plan submittal to the River Fund Board.

Handouts from this meeting:

17. Adaptive Management Sub-Committee Recommendations
18. Managers’ Survey (Recreation Site Maintenance and Management Questionnaire)
19. 2003 Missouri-Madison Visitor Survey Questions
20. Issues Statement and Goals draft (June 10, 2004)
21. Existing Process and Guidelines for Decision-Making
22. Proposed Process & Guidelines for Decision-Making
23. Project Screening Criteria for Candidate Projects

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

Summary of Meeting

July 29, 2004

Helena Chamber of Commerce, Helena, Montana

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Doris Fischer
Milt Fusselman
Allan Kuser
Glen Paul
Dave Payne
Brad Rixford
Chas Van Genderen
Susan James
Roger Semler

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed all PURC members and introduced Chas Van Genderen and Roger Semler of MFWP. All attending members introduced themselves and the agency, governing entity or interest represented. Anne Cossitt reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

1. Missouri-Madison Visitor Study

CDs of the final Missouri-Madison Visitor Study results were distributed to all committee members present. Comments and suggestions for future changes to the visitor study may be submitted to American Public Land Exchange and will be considered prior to the next visitor survey.

2. Recreation Maps

Committee members were asked to review 18 maps from the 1996 CRMP showing all recreation sites within the Missouri-Madison corridor and mark errors, inconsistencies, changes, or additions that need to be made for the Plan update.

3. Completion Schedule and Outline

Committee members reviewed the draft completion schedule and plan outline.

Members noted that agency responsibility related to public safety is extremely complex, which creates confusion for agencies and the recreating public.

4. Issues and Goal Statements

Committee members reviewed the draft issue and goal statements, specifically the newest one related to O&M funding. Comments and discussion led to the following points of consensus.

- Add an issue and goal statement related to outdoor ethics, focusing on how visitor behavior has the potential to impact natural resources and experiences. The goal is to address outdoor ethics through community outreach and education. Roger volunteered to draft this section.
- There needs to be a statement of how the issues and goals tie into the process for decision-making and project funding.
- The public safety issue needs to be expanded to include more aspects of what it specifically entails, including boating safety, communication issues, jurisdictional awareness, etc. Also, the goal needs to be amended to state it will “proactively increase public safety”. Members from MFWP will submit bullet items for specific elements related to public safety.
- The Access and Access Roads issue, as written, does not effectively address the importance of access points other than roads. Remove access points from this issue (and let it remain about roads) and include them in the new issue of Addressing Future Needs.

5. Regional Priorities

Regional priority issues were to be determined by committee members as they were in the original plan. However, members felt that establishing regional priorities in the plan may not be the best approach since priority issues will come out through the regional meetings when projects are discussed and prioritized.

6. ROS and LAC Recommendations

Committee members discussed the comments received regarding the ROS and LAC recommendations presented at the June 24 PURC meeting. Consensus was reached on the following points:

- Currently, only designated sites in the corridor receive the Managers’ Survey. PPL Montana should consider adding dispersed areas to the set of sites that receive the Managers’ Survey. This may require an entirely new or partially modified form because the issues related to dispersed sites is many times different than those related to developed sites. PPL Montana will consider this suggestion.
- Identify PPL Montana as the source of the land use data. Updates will occur for the corridor in conjunction with visitor surveys and in regions or segments on an as-needed basis.
- The Noise thresholds are too complicated. Measure unresolved complaints and set thresholds at 2 for weekends and 1 for weekdays for all sites.
- On the Managers’ Survey, track the number of complaints related to sanitation and toilet facilities and have managers report the degree to which sanitation is a problem at their site (low, medium, or high). Also add a satisfaction question to the Visitors’ Survey related to sanitation and toilet facilities.

- No changes are to be made to the use and crowding indicators, except that “fee differentials” needs to be clarified.
- Questions A9 and A10 on the Managers’ Survey should address “resident staff or volunteers present at the site all season long” and “staff or volunteers making frequent visits to the site throughout the season”, respectively.
- The Visitors’ Survey needs to address motivations for why people felt crowded and why they disliked encounters, as opposed to just where they felt crowded or where they encountered uses they disliked.

One topic that was unresolved by committee members was that of Air Quality as it relates to road dust. There was no consensus on how this should be approached, since some members felt one complaint was too many and other did not. The suggestion was made to track the number of dust complaints through the Managers’ Survey and Visitors’ Survey, but to keep it informational as opposed to having an established threshold. The basis for this suggestion was that since the individual agencies don’t have a threshold for this indicator, it may not be appropriate for this plan – which is non-binding and has no legal weight – to establish them. This topic will be revisited.

7. Decision Process and Criteria for Project Selection

Committee members were given drafts of the Decision-Making Process and Criteria for Project Selection. Discussion about the criteria for project selection revealed some issues that need to be resolved. Committee members provided comments on how they would like to see the criteria amended:

- Collapse it into 1 form with weights and points for each item.
- Use ranking – such as 1-5 priorities – instead of points.
- Don’t put a cap on the total number of points for different types of projects.
- Better define all the terms and categories.
- Don’t require letters of support. Trust that the managers are doing their job by talking to others within their agency.
- Keep it simple.
- Have an eligibility review where all requirements have to be met in order for a project to be considered.
- Get more information on elements of new site construction.

Committee members reached agreement on the following points:

- Major O&M projects should have a higher point margin than other projects.
- Role for the Corridor Ranking Committee will be to organize the RWG recommendations and advance projects to the RFB for funding. (Note: 1 member was concerned with taking decision-making abilities away from the RFB and assigning it to the CRC).
- One form for all applications.
- A points and weights system tied to each element of the application form.
- Allow some discretionary points for the RFB to award. (Note: 1 member was concerned about giving the RFB too much ability to alter the prioritization presented by the CRC).

8. Resolution

To resolve the issues that went unresolved at this meeting, the PURC will meet again on August 19 to discuss:

- The new Issue and Goal statement related to outdoor ethics.
- The Air Quality indicator for LAC.
- Modified project selection criteria that takes into account member recommendations and concerns.
- Timeline for identification of new projects.

9. Schedule of Meeting

August 19th will be the next PURC meeting and will be held at the Chamber Offices in Helena, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

October 19-21 are the scheduled dates for regional open houses for public review of the draft Plan.

November 18th will be a scheduled meeting for final review and acceptance prior to Plan submittal to the River Fund Board.

Handouts from this meeting:

1. Missouri-Madison Visitor Study final results on CD
2. Completion schedule and Plan outline
3. Issue and Goal Statements
4. ROS/LAC recommendations and discussion points from June meeting
5. Managers' Survey and Visitors' Survey Questions
6. Decision-Making Process
7. Criteria for Project Selection
8. Timeline for Identification of New Projects

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

Summary of Meeting

August 19, 2004

Helena Chamber of Commerce, Helena, Montana

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Brad Rixford
Chas Van Genderen
Allan Kuser
Susan James

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Anne Cossitt
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed all PURC members. Anne Cossitt reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

1. Issues Statements

Committee members reviewed the updated draft of the Issue and Goal Statements, and suggested changes. Minor grammatical changes were suggested to four of the issue statements, and considerable discussion took place regarding the last issue statement, which addresses O&M and its new inclusion of access points.

The point was made during discussion that this is the only goal that specifically refers to funding, even though all goals relate to funding in that the project criteria requires a goal to be addressed. The group agreed that there needs to be some language in the CRMP to clarify why O&M projects would automatically get a higher score since there is nothing in the Issue Statements section to clarify that this is the highest priority nor is there any other background provided for this funding policy. There was also concern whether the goal allowed for land acquisition and conservation easements. The committee came to consensus on a slightly altered goal statement for this Issue, and agreed that revisiting the Issue Statements at the next PURC meeting on November 18, 2004, was a good plan.

2. Criteria for Project Selection

Two process-type discussions took place related to the criteria for project selection: (1) what information would be submitted and the weight each element has, and (2) how points are to be awarded.

(1) Informational requirements

Brad brought a draft project application and scoring criteria form for the committee to review, and Nancy brought a revised version of the draft discussed at the July PURC meeting. Members decided that a combination of elements on the two versions was appropriate and the next draft would include that merge.

(2) Awarding points

Several questions were raised about how points would be awarded by the Regional Working Groups (RWG), Corridor Ranking Committee (CRC), and River Fund Board (RFB). In terms of scoring by the Regional Working Groups, the committee agreed that individual members would score project applications and their scores would then be either totaled or averaged. These details need to be worked out by the Regional Working Groups prior to review of the first applications.

Discretionary points awarded by the CRC and RFB, however, should be granted using a different approach. The group agreed that allowing individual discretionary points amounted to an individual vote and that discretionary points of the CRC (max of 20 per project suggested) and RFB (max of 15 per project suggested) had to be awarded on a collective basis. The goal for those point awards is consensus. It was undecided whether a 2/3 vote was appropriate or if no points should be awarded if consensus was not reached. The group agreed that details for how discretionary points are awarded need to be worked out, and the more detail that can go into the CRMP, the more there will be for the public to respond to.

3. LAC Indicators

Committee members discussed the topic of Air Quality as it relates to road dust. This topic was unresolved at the July meeting. There was no consensus on how this indicator should be approached, since some members felt one complaint was too many and others did not. Members of the group noted that dust complaints from area residents were distinctly different from dust complaints received from site users, and that trying to respond to all of these sources was complicated.

The suggestion was made to track the number of dust complaints through the Managers' Survey and Visitors' Survey, but to keep it informational as opposed to having an established threshold. The basis for this suggestion was that since the individual agencies don't have a threshold for this indicator, it might not be appropriate for this plan – which is non-binding and has no legal weight – to establish them. However, some members felt that dust complaints at the site were important for visitor satisfaction and should be tracked as an LAC indicator. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

4. Completion Schedule and Outline

Committee members reviewed the proposed completion schedule and outline for the Plan and agreed it was appropriate.

5. Follow-up Items

- 1) Updated Issue and Goal Statements via email with meeting summary.
- 2) Revised Project Selection Criteria and Scoring via email with meeting summary.
- 3) Recommended and possible solutions to the Air Quality LAC indicator.

6. Meeting Schedule

October 19-21 are the scheduled dates for regional open houses for public review of the draft Plan.

November 18th will be a scheduled meeting for final review and acceptance prior to Plan submittal to the River Fund Board.

Handouts from this meeting:

1. Completion schedule and Plan outline
2. Issue and Goal Statements
3. ROS/LAC recommendations and discussion points from July meeting
4. Criteria for Project Selection

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Open Houses and Public Meetings - October 18-21, 2004
Summary**

Meetings were held at:

Great Falls, Montana on Monday, October 18, 2004

West Yellowstone, Montana on Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Ennis, Montana on Wednesday, October 20, 2004

Helena, Montana on Thursday, October 21, 2004

Participants at Great Falls:

- Lance Olson (Cascade County Commission)
- Steve Vosberg (_____)
- Krista Wendell (Great Falls Weed and Seed, former county commissioner)
- Doug Wicks, Recreational Trails, Inc.
- Jared Drummand (Montana Conservation Corps)
- Kris Dunn (Montana Conservation Corps)
- Jenn Gallmeier (Montana Conservation Corps)

Participants at West Yellowstone:

- Claude Coffin (USFS)
- Milt Fusselman (USFS)
- Beth Horn (resident)
- Rick Horn (resident)
- Mel Knutson (resident)
- Pat Knutson (resident)
- Jerrine Micklewright (resident)
- Bob O'Brien (seasonal resident)
- Larry O'Brien (seasonal resident)

Participants at Ennis:

- Ted Coffman, Madison County Commission
- Lane Adamson, Madison Valley Ranchlands Group
- Doris Fischer, Madison County Planner

Participants at Helena:

- Archie Harper, Helena National Forest
- Cedron Jones
- Dave Payne, Helena National Forest
- Glen Paul, Trout Unlimited

At each meeting, Nancy Johnson provided an update on local projects for that region that are part of the initial 32 projects proposed in the Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP). PPL Montana is cooperating with federal and state agencies and other partners in the completion of these projects. At the Great Falls meeting, Doug Wicks added more detail on current work on segments of the Rivers

Edge Trail. At the West Yellowstone meeting, Claude Coffin provided more detail on projects the Forest Service is cooperating on.

Anne Cossitt and Nancy Johnson provided an overview of the draft revised CRMP at each meeting. Information was presented on the 2004 timeline and work done by the Plan Update and Review Committee, and the remaining schedule for completion of the revision. The purpose of the CRMP and a comparison of key differences between the 1996 CRMP and the 2005 CRMP were also presented.

At each meeting, information was presented on where to obtain a copy of the draft revised CRMP and how to submit comments.

Comments received included the following:

- PPL Montana should look at upgrading the hydropower facilities themselves—some of the turbines are quite old. Wouldn't they be more efficient if they were upgraded and modernized?
- The document is nicely done! It's all here and it's not seven volumes like the 1996 plan.
- On page 3-13/3-14—Change the header from Giant Springs State Park to Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to make it consistent with the other headers in this section. As a sub-heading, put Giant Springs State Park. Also under a different sub-heading, provide information on the other FWP facilities in the region, including Fishing Access Sites.
- On page 2-27, under the topic of "Outreach and Education," broaden the description beyond the concerns of adjacent landowners—include analysis of impacts on vegetation, other environmental resources (e.g., the effect of campsites on vegetation, etc). Include analysis of impacts of vandalism. Also broaden the public education component.
- Add some sort of disclaimer upfront that clarifies why this document does not need to go through MEPA/NEPA review.
- Update the Hebgen area maps to delete the Hebgen Lake Motel and Campground. It is no longer in operation.
- What opportunities for non-motorized recreation in the corridor are recognized by the CRMP, and what provisions exist for getting feedback or input from non-motorized users?
- It would be good if the CRMP included a statement acknowledging the link between providing additional boat ramps and developed sites, the level of boat use, and impacts from that use.

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

**Summary of Meeting
November 18, 2004**

**Helena Chamber of Commerce, Helena, Montana
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Brad Rixford
Chas Van Genderen
Allan Kuser
Jon Jourdonnais
Russ Dunn
Eric Griffin
Dave Payne
Doris Fischer
Doug Wicks

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed all PURC members and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

1. Completion Schedule

Nancy reviewed the timeline for Plan revision during 2004 and the remaining schedule for Plan completion and submission to FERC.

Jan 2004	PPL Montana convenes the first PURC meeting.
Jan-Sept 2004	PURC works on updating plan during six meetings.
Oct 2004	PPL Montana releases 2005 Draft Plan for public review. Fall meetings/open houses of Recreation Advisory Groups and Regional Working Groups and review of 2005 Draft Plan.
Nov 2004	PURC considers public comment and revises Draft as necessary and sends to River Fund Board for comment.
Dec 2004	River Fund Board reviews and comments on Draft.
Jan 2005	PURC considers River Fund Board comments, revises Plan as relevant, and forwards to PPL Montana.
Feb 2005	PPL Montana submits Plan Update to FERC.

2. Overview of Actions and Plan Updates

Nancy reviewed Plan sections drafted since the August PURC meeting.

(1) Application Form and Scoring Criteria

The application form and project selection criteria included in the Plan was a merger of elements found in previous drafts as well as those submitted by Brad Rixford for PURC consideration. The application was reviewed in detail and members were comfortable with its content and scoring ranges. It was noted that possible adjustments could be made to some of the scoring criteria – such as those for “partnership and collaborative efforts” and “operation and maintenance” – but that review will take place after the application form and scoring had been put to the test in its current form.

(2) Future Management Strategies

The future management strategies contained in Chapter 2-5 of the Plan were noted as a new addition and discussed in detail.

Managers’ Survey: Survey proposed on an annual basis with the updated form developed by the PURC, and anticipated web-based data collection methods.

Visitors’ Survey: Interval proposed to change the qualitative survey from four years to six years (to coordinate with a new six-year interval for FERC Form 80 reporting) and initiating an annual visitor counting effort throughout the Corridor. The visitor count methodology is currently being developed and will include counts within parts of the Corridor each year, but not counts for all sites in all years. Agency representatives provided support and willingness to collaborate on the visitor counting efforts, either through cost-shares on automated counter units or personnel support for installing or maintaining the units.

Plan Update Interval: Interval proposed for a six-year update instead of an eight-year update to coordinate with the new six-year interval for FERC Form 80 reporting.

Education and Outreach: PURC members were asked to review the strategy outlined in chapter 2-5 of the Plan and provide comments.

Landscape Inventory for Open Space Values: This inventory on private lands in the Corridor will include county-level land development updates and development density in the Corridor to track changes over time. The question arose of how ROS would be used on private lands to identify high priority lands for conservation efforts. The APLE team is working to update the ROS information contained in the Plan as agency management plans are updated. No ROS maps were included in the draft revised Plan. The Helena National Forest recently updated ROS classifications on lands they manage, and the BLM Butte field office is currently in the process of doing so with their 20-year management plan update. It is believed the Gallatin National Forest will be updating their ROS information as well. These federal updates will be the basis for new ROS classifications and maps in the Plan. The APLE team is exploring ways to appropriately categorize private lands – either with ROS classes or a similar categorization – to identify their settings and open space characteristics. Doris Fischer reported that Madison County landowners are currently working to categorize their private lands as a basis for conservation efforts. The APLE team will continue to work cooperatively with counties and private initiatives in developing the landscape inventory.

(3) Completion of Draft Revised Plan

The Draft Plan was completed and sent out to an extensive list of recipients for comment on October 1. This list included PURC and River Fund Board members, as well as members and contacts from the Regional Working Groups and Recreation Advisory Groups.

(4) Long-Term Trust Income, year-to-date 2004

Nancy reported the year-to-date income of the long-term trust account with a current balance of \$3.2 million. The trust is currently managed for growth, and the Board will revisit the investment strategy at their December meeting.

Jan 2004	\$3700
Feb 2004	\$7731
Mar 2004	\$5830
Apr 2004	\$2086
May 2004	\$5805
Jun 2004	\$5876
Jul 2004	\$4661
Aug 2004	\$6701
Sep 2004	\$6302
2004 YTD Total	\$48,692
2004 YTD Monthly Average	\$5410

Nancy also reviewed the implementation schedule for use of Trust income. The proposed implementation schedule would start in September 2005. The Board will make decisions in September 2006 to allocate fund income gained from September 2005 to September 2006. The River Fund Board will discuss this implementation schedule at their December meeting.

(5) Open Houses/Public Comment

Open houses were held to review the draft revised Plan and obtain public comment. The schedule for open houses was:

- Great Falls, 10/18/2004
- West Yellowstone, 10/19/2004
- Ennis, 10/20/2004
- Helena, 10/21/2004

(6) Document Format

The Draft Plan was sent to interested individuals on CD; River Fund Board members received a hard copy. Most PURC members indicated that for the final Plan, a hard copy would be preferred, though a few would like it on CD either instead of the hard copy or in addition to the hard copy. PURC members will be asked again in January what format they would like to receive a final copy in.

3. Comment Review

Kim reviewed with PURC members the public comments received to date on the Plan as summarized on two handouts, and those submitted by PURC members unable to attend the meeting. There were a few comments received related to conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreationists. PURC members were comfortable that the goals established in the Plan recognize the importance of ensuring opportunities for a

spectrum of activities and experiences in the Corridor, including motorized and non-motorized.

The following changes/additions were suggested to respond to public comments received:

Noise Complaints: note in the Plan that the LAC indicator for noise is the number of *unresolved* complaints, not simply the number of complaints.

Visitor Displacement and User Conflicts: note in the Plan that by increasing the opportunity for a variety of activities in the Corridor, public land managers recognize that the opportunity for more conflicts between users and uses also increases. However, mechanisms are in place to report and act on conflicts that need attention. Recreationists can report to agency managers, comment on the Visitor Survey, attend meetings of the Recreation Advisory Groups, or contact members of the Regional Working Groups. Managers can discuss conflicts that need attention at meetings of Regional Working Groups, and develop appropriate actions. To further track the number of overall visitor complaints about conflicts, an addition will be made to the Managers' Survey asking the number of conflicts reported, the location of the conflict, and possibly how/if those conflicts were resolved.

PURC member comments:

- Tie language about "access points" from the 1996 Plan into the 2005 Plan. This terminology seems to be lost in the update and should be included for consistency and clarity.

Board member comments:

- Doris Fischer reported that the Madison County Commission was pleased to see access roads identified in the Plan as an issue related to recreation development, and recognition of the cost of road maintenance as eligible for funding.
- Eric Griffin reported that Lewis & Clark County Commissioner Anita Varone would be discussing maintenance of county roads at the Board meeting.

4. Comment Deadline and Follow-Up Tasks

PURC members were asked to continue reviewing the document, especially the project application materials and monitoring components of the Plan. They were also asked to review the exhibit maps in Appendix A4 for accuracy.

PURC member comment deadline is **November 30, 2004**.

River Fund Board member comments received on **December 9, 2004** (date of their annual meeting).

5. Meeting Schedule

January 13, 2005 will be held as a possible meeting date to review comments from the Board and final Plan changes. PURC members will be notified by December 17th on the need for this meeting.

Handouts from this meeting:

1. Application Form and Scoring Criteria (from Draft Plan)
2. Open House and Public Meeting Summary
3. Summary of Public Comments Received through November 18, 2004

**Missouri Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan
Plan Update and Review Committee**

Summary of Meeting

January 13, 2005

Helena Chamber of Commerce, Helena, Montana

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Allan Kuser
Dave Payne
Pam Sveinson
Milt Fusselman
Eric Griffin

APLE staff present:

Nancy Johnson
Kim Bergstrom

Nancy Johnson welcomed all PURC members and reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

1. Review status of Trust Fund since the Board meeting December 2004

Nancy summarized a discussion that took place at the December 2004 meeting of the River Fund Board of Directors regarding transfers from the short-term fund to grow the Trust Fund principal. There was more than \$2 Million in the short-term fund as a result of projects that have been funded by PPL Montana per license requirements but have yet to move forward. The Board passed a motion to transfer sufficient funds from the short-term fund to the Long Term Trust to reach the goal of \$5M principal in the Long Term Trust. This transfer of \$1.569 Million occurred during the first week of January and the Long Term Trust currently carries a principal of \$5 Million.

3. Project Application Form

Nancy reviewed the current draft of the River Fund project application form with changes made by the Board highlighted. Most changes were grammatical, but the Board felt no need to score projects as they were considered. Thus, the point ranges were altered somewhat, granting the Regional Working Groups scoring up to 80 points that had previously been 70 and the Corridor Ranking Committee scoring up to 20 points.

The Board will take project recommendations and scoring by the RWG and CRC under consideration when making final decisions on awards and funding levels, but reserves the right to exercise their discretion in doing so. Committee members commented that giving the Board freedom to fund projects as they see fit leaves the process potentially open to political agendas, but there were no suggested changes related to the Board's decision process.

Other suggested changes, which will be made to the application form, include:

- Reformatting the PPL Montana match-levels map on page 4 of the application so that the match levels are more easily distinguished on

black-and-white copies as well as color copies. Also, Morony and Rainbow Dam should be included on the map since they are mentioned in the paragraph above it.

- Add text to the “Scoring Techniques” section of the second scoring criteria (“Project responds to a clearly identified need”) prompting applicants to include a discussion of consequences if funding is not achieved for a proposed project.
- Application text implies that the Board will fund projects based on final scores. Since this may not be the case, there needs to be language added on page 1 of the application that the RWG and CRC scoring provides the Board with recommended projects, with the Board as final decision maker.
- Add an option to “Application Forwarded to” on page 6 to indicate project applications that have been forwarded to other Missouri-Madison Technical Advisory Committees.

Lastly, it was noted that there is some value in posting successful project applications and resulting funding amounts on a web site to be available for others to review.

3. Discussion of County Roads

Nancy summarized a discussion from the December 2004 Board meeting related to roads, included below.

Eric Griffin, Lewis and Clark County Public Works Director, reviewed his concerns about the impact of river-related and reservoir-related recreation on county roads. He referred to his letter dated November 26, 2004 to Nancy Johnson, in which he requested that the River Fund Board commit a certain dollar amount (or percentage) of the annual River Fund Trust allocation to county road maintenance and improvements over the life of the trust fund.

Board members present acknowledged the negative effect of increased recreation-related traffic on county roads and also recognized the limited budgets of county government to address increased impacts. It was pointed out, however, that the total dollar allocation anticipated each year from the trust fund might be in the neighborhood of \$200,000, hardly enough as a total sum to make much of a difference on some of the major problem areas. In addition, the fund must address a variety of recreation-related issues.

It was suggested that the best way for counties to leverage additional dollars for their recreation-related projects would be to lobby Congress for specific projects. In so doing the counties could clarify the relationship between recreation improvements made by federal agencies such as the BLM and Forest Service and related negative results on the road area related to the specific project. Congress could then consider funding for one-time major capital improvement projects. This, in the end, would likely result in a better cost-savings for counties than a small annual sum from the River Fund Trust allocation, split among all the counties in the river corridor area. The River Fund Board could function as a supporter of county requests to Congress, by writing letters of support for specific projects.

4. Meeting Schedule

No further PURC meetings were scheduled, as the Plan will be submitted to FERC by PPL Montana in February. Nancy mentioned the option of scheduling a conference call (date and time TBA) with the Committee if needed to obtain feedback from other PURC members that were unable to attend the meeting due to inclement weather conditions.

Handouts from this meeting:

1. Application Form and Scoring Criteria (Updated draft)