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GRANITE STATE PARK

a plan for development

prepared by the

WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION



## INTRODUCTION

### G R A N I T E       S T A T E       P A R K

The Granite State Park is a beautiful area, located between Cheyenne and Laramie. The area lends itself to water skiing, fishing, picnicking and camping. This park would include the Granite Reservoir, Hynds Lodge and the Camp Jack regions. These sites all have access from the Happy Jack Road.

Cheyenne and Laramie, two of Wyoming's principal cities, have had many residents who question the lack of a state park located in the southeastern part of the state.

This belief is strongly reinforced by the results of road counts made in this area, indicating that the region certainly demands development. An average of 200 cars enter the Granite Reservoir area daily, and more than 450 cars pass on the Happy Jack Road.

Proper development of this region with its natural potential of beautiful scenic and ideal recreational areas, most certainly justifies it for a state park.

There is another reason we make our plea for the Granite State Park. With just a little foresight, it is easy to see this beautiful area becoming over-run and destroyed without proper maintenance, roadways and facilities to take care of the ever-growing demands for outdoor recreation.

## A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Hynds Lodge area is about 26 miles from Cheyenne and 22 miles from Laramie. This site includes 120 acres in Section 8, Township 14 North, Range 70 West. The area has a large mountain formation of granite rock with many beautiful shade trees making it ideal for recreational use.

The Camp Jack area is adjacent to the Hynds area in Section 8, which includes 240 acres. This region is dispersed with large boulders and heavy trees, ideal for overnight camping and picnicking.

The Granite area is also located in Township 14 North, Range 70 West, which will include 640 acres of land and water in Sections 15, 16, 21 and 22.

This area has a beautiful reservoir lending itself to fishing, boating, water skiing. The region surrounding the reservoir is ideal for picnicking and camping along with large spaces available for group activities with many shade trees nearby.

Near the west end of the reservoir on its north side are 40 acres of state land that will be ideal for overnight camping sites.

### EXISTING FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

In the Hynds Lodge area, which is used for a Boy Scout Camp, the existing facilities include six picnic tables and grills, one pressure type well, ten tent sites, five pit-type sanitary facilities and the Lodge. The Lodge has 25 chairs along with two propane heaters.

The Camp Jack area is a completely new recreational site which has been used by the Scouts. This area does not have any existing facilities.

Granite Reservoir area has three sanitary facilities and four picnic tables and grills on its south side. This is an area that needs much

development to meet the ever-growing demand for recreational facilities.

On the north side of Granite Reservoir there are 12 picnic tables and 21 grills, five sanitary facilities and two boat ramps. This north side has been developed more than the south side, but it is still lacking in campsites, water well, parking areas, shelters, along with the need for more sanitary facilities, tables and grills. The road network is random and inadequate.

#### LAND OWNERSHIP

All land needed for the ultimate development of a state park in this area can be easily acquired by the state.

The Granite Reservoir and lands immediately around it are owned by the City of Cheyenne. This region is now under lease to Laramie County. Laramie County has asked the state to take over this area for development of a state park. Adjacent to the Granite Reservoir are 40 acres of state land ideally located for overnight camping sites. This land is presently under grazing lease. The Lessee has indicated willingness to cooperate in a state park development.

The Hynds Lodge area is also owned by the City of Cheyenne, and the City would be happy to see this area become part of a new state park.

The Camp Jack region is owned by the Bureau of Land Management. This land adjoins the Hynds Lodge area and includes approximately 240 acres. The Camp Jack area has been classified for recreational use and most of the land is available for purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

We foresee no problems in acquiring any of the lands needed for this proposed state park.

A PLAN FOR  
DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

With its excellent location and aesthetic values, this potential recreation site is ideal for the development of a state park. It has the type of terrain to meet the great recreational need felt in the Laramie County and Albany County areas. It has beautiful trees, rock formations and the reservoirs, which lend themselves to fishing, boating and water skiing.

All the facilities which are planned for this park are not only as maintenance free as we can construct, but are also the type of facilities that blend in with the natural beauty of the area. By keeping our labor and depreciation costs down through the purchase of long lasting facilities, the initial investment for facilities will be a long lasting one.

PICNIC TABLES AND SHELTERS

The picnic tables and grills will be placed around Granite Reservoir near the water. There will be enough distance between each site to give a good recreational usage. We will need 57 tables and grills for this area.

The Camp Jack area will need 18 tables and grills placed to give the best recreational experience. This area has been planned to provide a place where families may experience a more private outing.

Three large picnic shelters will be needed along the reservoir where shade trees are not available at the present time.

CAMPING AREAS

There will be eight camping areas and these will be large enough for easy access and mobility. Seven of the campsites will be adjacent to the

reservoir, but far enough away to insure against pollution of the water.

In the Granite Reservoir area there will be four six-unit camper and trailer sites and four one-unit camper and trailer sites, three six-unit tent sites and two one-unit tent sites. Between each there will be an undeveloped buffer zone; sanitation facilities, a pump type water well along with picnic tables and grills nearby for the camper's use.

In the Camp Jack area, two six-unit camper and trailer sites are planned along with six one-unit tent sites; sanitation facilities, a pump water well along with picnic tables and grills nearby for the camper's use.

#### SANITARY FACILITIES

All the rest rooms in the park will be made of pre-cast aggregate that will blend in with the native materials in the area. These rest rooms are the single double vault type sanitary facilities. This type of rest room is very nice looking and will hold up against the weather and public abuse.

Four sanitary facilities will be needed. These will be placed within easy access to the area they are serving.

#### ROADWAYS

Construction of 1.5 miles of road along the northeastern border of the reservoir will give access to some very beautiful picnic and camping sites.

#### MAINTENANCE

Year around campground and recreation clean-up, maintenance and general repair can be handled by one man full time and another man working four months during the summer. Work will vary with the season although we feel one man will be able to handle this area during the winter months. This park will be open on a year around basis.

Development of a storage building along with fire fighting equipment, snow removal equipment and lighting in this area is also planned.

#### SUMMARY

The southeastern part of Wyoming most certainly has a great need for the Granite State Park. This region has two of Wyoming's largest cities demanding an area where they can experience outdoor recreation. Many of the people living in this area want a place where they can go to enjoy the outdoors without the disadvantages and extra cost of driving a long way from their homes.

The Granite State Park has the ideal location along with inspirational landscape and recreation values that will attract visitors from all sections of the state.

This region's aesthetic values include beautiful water areas, large shade trees and rock formations along with large open areas lending themselves to camping and group activities. All in all, this adds up to be the ideal site for a state park in southeastern Wyoming.

The Granite State Park with all the proper facilities and roadways planned will most certainly be one of Wyoming's most beautiful State Parks.

COST ESTIMATE FOR  
PHASE ONE OF

GRANITE STATE PARK

DEVELOPMENT AND TWO YEAR OPERATION

DEVELOPMENT COSTS:

1. Construction of 1.5 miles of new road and loop roads for camping area on North side of Granite Reservoir.	\$ 41,200.00
2. 57 Picnic Tables and Grills.	18,750.00
3. 40 Campsite pads for campers and trailers and 26 pads for tents.	6,600.00
4. Three large picnic shelters	3,000.00
5. Five safe water wells, four of the hand pump type and one of the pressure pump type for the Park Superintendent's living area.	8,000.00
6. Three single double vault type pre-cast sanitary units.	9,300.00
7. One dump station along with 30 barrels and two firewood bins.	6,000.00
8. Large parking area for the two boat ramps on the North side of Granite Reservoir.	1,000.00
9. Development of storage building along with fire fighting equipment and other equipment needed.	12,000.00
10. Engineering and contingency costs.	6,238.00
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TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS	\$ 108,488.00
STATE SHARE	\$ 54,244.00
FEDERAL MATCHING	\$ 54,244.00



OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS:

11. The maintenance man will have the responsibility for all clean up, general repair and routine maintenance within the park. Work will vary with the season and one and one-fourth man years will be needed at \$7,200.00 per year.	\$ 14,400.00
12. Supplies, equipment and depreciation estimates will be approximately \$5,678.00 per year.	11,356.00
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TOTAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR FIRST TWO YEARS	\$ 25,756.00
 TOTAL STATE COST FOR BIENNIUM	 \$ 80,000.00