



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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Meeting Date: Apr. 17, 2024

Agenda Item: Fishing Access Site (FAS) Annual Rule

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: The commission adopted the existing fishing access site (FAS) annual rule in April of 2023. The rule establishes the fees for public use at fishing access sites, including camping fees, group use fees, and facility rental fees. It also establishes the special recreation permit fees for organized groups and competitive events for the Blackfoot and Madison rivers. FWP recently completed a consolidation of public use rules that serves all recreation and conservation properties administered by FWP (ARM 12.12.101-140). Parts of the FAS rule that were included in the consolidated public use rules were removed from the FAS rule. Changes to language in the FAS rule were also included to provide further consistency with the consolidated public use rules. No fees were changed.

- A. FAS Annual Fee table language regarding “Group Use Permits” was replaced with “Special Use Permits,” which encompasses “Group Use” and aligns with the language used in the consolidated public use rules.
- B. Camping at FASes: FAS rules that duplicated rules in ARM 12.12.107 (Designated and Dispersed Camping Sites) were removed. Remaining site-specific rules are as presented.
- C. Facility Rental: No changes.
- D. Group Use: “Permit” was removed to coincide with the language used in the consolidated public use rules. Parts of the FAS rule that duplicated rules in ARM 12.12.119 (Day Use, Group Use, and Special Recreation Permits) were removed. Remaining site-specific rules are presented.
- E. Special Recreation Permits: No changes.
- F. Food Storage: Rules removed as they are addressed in the consolidated public use rules.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The department will solicit public comment for a four-week period prior to the April commission meeting. Public comments will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the April commission meeting.

Alternatives & Analysis:

Alternative A: No action. The FAS annual rule would expire.

Alternative B: Adopt the FAS annual rule with presented changes and remove duplicated language that is included in the consolidated public use rules.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the commission adopt this proposal as presented, recommends removing duplicated language included in the consolidated public use rules that apply to FASes. These changes provide further clarity to the public regarding site-specific rules.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the FAS annual rule with proposed changes.