Rose, Sharon

#1a & b

From: Doug Jones <cdrcrkflyfish@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:30 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 01b (Jones)--Re: Clark Fork Closure

Sharon,

Thank you for this information..

While I would miss having this stretch as an option. I do

see and understand the concerns of the construction area.

I must have mis-read the statement initially to have said that

the closure may also be permanent.

1b

Thanks
Doug
Doug Jones
cdrcrkflyfish@aol.com

On Aug 16, 2018, at 2:50 PM, Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Doug, for your input on FWP's proposed biennial rule to close a portion of the Clark Fork River (for ~2 years) as it flows through Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, NW of Deer Lodge in Powell County. I have added it to the comments we receive and review for this proposal.

You're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including FWP's recommendation to the Fish & Wildlife Commission, which has the final decision-making authority for this proposed rule.

Relative to your question about danger:

--Have you had a chance to look at our website relating to this proposal? http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0262.html

--The third item listed is the DEQ Fact Sheet, http://fwp.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=87345 , which primarily addresses DEQ's safety concerns during the project.

I hope this Fact Sheet helps answer your question. If not, please let me know, OK?

Thank you,
Sharon

Sharon Rose

Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: (406) 542-5540
shrose@mt.gov
Montana FWP

-----Original Message-----
From: Doug <cdrcrkflyfish@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: Clark Fork Closure

1a

Hello Sharon,

I recently received the email about the closure of the Upper Clark Fork. And was wondering what type of "danger" their is regarding floating and fishing in That stretch?

Thank you
Doug Jones
Sent from my iPhone

#2

Rose, Sharon

From: carlhamming@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9:21 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 02 (Hamming)--Public Comment: Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule

Name: Carl Hamming
City: Deer Lodge
Dear FWP,

I appreciate and understand the need to close the CFR through Grant Kohrs Ranch during the cleanup work; public safety should always be a top priority. However, since this stretch of river (and the ranch) experience much greater use and tourism than the upper phases of the CFR already remediated by DEQ, I request that FWP closes the river from October 2018 to May 2019 and then reassess the status of the cleanup effort and closures at that time. Perhaps certain parts of the river will be accessible for floating or the ranch will be safe for tourists within certain portions of the ranch for the summer. It seems that reevaluating the closure in the spring of 2019 will inject more flexibility into the process and minimize the impact to local residents and tourists. Due to the frequency of FWP Commission meetings, I do not believe it unreasonably burdensome to close the CFR for a shorter length of time and then reassess as the work progresses through Phases 15 and 16.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carl Hamming
Deer Lodge, MT

This e-mail was generated from the 'Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule' Public Notice Web Page.

Rose, Sharon

#3a & b

From: chris dombrowski <chris_dombrowski@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 03b (Dombrowski + 5 other outfitters) Re: G-K Closure Comment

Hi Sharon —

Did I respond to this email?

The comments below were written by me and officially signed off on by all other parties. | #3b

Please call me with questions
406.546.2041

Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2018, at 5:50 PM, Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov> wrote:

> Thank you, Chris, for your comments on FWP's proposed biennial rule to close a portion of the Clark Fork River as it flows through Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, NW of Deer Lodge in Powell County (from October 2018 to October 2020).
>
> And you're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including Region 2's recommendation to the Fish & Wildlife Commission, which has the final decision-making authority for this proposed rule.
>
> *I wanted to double-check that the comments below are from you? As opposed to being officially submitted (signed off) by yourself and the 5 other outfitters named at the end of your August 2nd letter?*
>
> Sharon
>
> **Sharon Rose**
> *Comments Coordinator,* Region 2
> Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
>
> 3201 Spurgin Rd
> Missoula, MT 59804
> Ph: (406) 542-5540
> shrose@mt.gov
> Montana FWP
>
> THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

From: chris dombrowski <chris_dombrowski@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 8:41 PM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: G-K Closure Comment

#3a

Dear Sharon Rose:

What follows is a letter that I sent to the Clark Fork Coalition, DEQ, FWP, and NRDP. Please consider it my response, as well, to your request for comments. I appreciate your efforts.

Best,

Chris Dombrowski

***

2 August 2018

Dear CFC, DEQ, NRDP, and FWP:

Thank you for allowing me to take part in the float on Tuesday from Arrowstone Park in Deer Lodge to the Vet Clinic. I valued the opportunity to hear from the major players in this complicated restoration endeavor, and I further appreciated the your respective attempts to include me, at least on a tertiary level, in the converstation.

As I said on Tuesday, I have been angling on the stretch of river through Grant-Kohrs for nearly twenty years, and guiding and outfitting on it for nearly that long. As a young fisherman and reader growing up in Michigan, I studied writing by the late author and Deer

Lodge resident Gary LaFontaine, whose books *Caddisflies* and *The Dry Fly* first clued me in to the angling riches of the upper Clark Fork. Over the years it has become clear to me that only a select few anglers share my passion for the place; this is largely for the better, as a such a fishery can only sustain so much pressure. Though most folks who enjoy this resource do so covertly, we are a passionate bunch, and I am honored to help voice their concerns and positions.

At a certain point on Tuesday, I had to laugh at the irony of my own stance: There I was—while floating past discarded aluminum baseball bats, tires, discarded rebar and bricks—attempting to extoll the virtues of a fishery to scientists, hydrologists and biologists whose knowledge of the ecosystem's illnesses far exceeds my own. And yet I would assert that, from a guiding perspective, my knowledge of the stretch is quite intimate, equaled by only a few others who have also floated it over a hundred times. Collectively, we make up a group of outfitters and guides who earn a large part of our income on the upper river, and we don't continue to make the 150 mile round trip drive to Deer Lodge because we enjoy filling up the gas tank each day; we do it because the body of water offers what our clients continue to call world-class opportunities to catch and release trophy Brown trout on small water. (A document containing client testimontials, photos and is being compliled and will be attached.)

As I began to detail on Tuesday, the fiscal implications of the proposed closure to outfitting businesses such as my own (and those owned by John Perry, Eric Ederer, Dan Mahoney, Josh Lauer, and others) are potentially drastic—as is the impact on the community of Deer

Lodge. We regularly purchase fuel in town, stop at the A&W for burgers on the way home, hire a local shuttle driver, etc. As part of an industry that generates 7.1 billion dollars in comsumer spending annually, 2.2 billion in wages and salaries, and 286 million in state and local revenue, we outfitters and guides make a large contribution to the small community's economy.

Some may wonder why we are voicing our concerns at this late juncture; I can only answer that, for better or worse, we were under the assumption that the clean-up would keep to a downstream progression, and that we would have ample time to form a unified position on the water near Grant-Kohrs.

I realize that "ample time" is a loaded phrase in this endeavor. The DEQ, NRD, and other parties are attempting to undoe, in the course of a couple of decades, damage that was over a century in the making.

And yet, I write today to strongly urge that all organizations involved in the next phase of the clean-up take ample time to evaluate the fishery in Phase 5-6 before implementing or allowing any reclamation to take place on the Grant-Kohrs stretch. The restored Phase 5-6 stretch is currently a desert, virtually devoid of trout, and certainly a skeleton of what it was as a fishery before the efforts began. (The last formal fisheries survey in this reach was completed in 2009; the 2015 survey was likely compromised by the fact that restoration efforts had already begun.) If the same reclamation methodology is implemented in the

Grant-Kohrs reach, we risk losing an immensely important resource, as well as authentic, fluvial habitat that houses trophy trout. Is not a key goal and component of NRDP's restoration plan, the fishery's health?

In closing, as a lover of wild trout and rivers, as a tax paying owner of this resource, and as stake-holding member of the outdoor community that is a seminal component of our great state's economy, I urge all involved parties to halt all closures and rehab until a legitimate fisheries study can be performed on the most recently restructured stretch of river. If the fishery has not returned to its previous strong state there, why would it be a wise use of funds to replicate a similar strategy downstream? There is no reasonable answer to this question.

Sincerely,

Chris Dombrowski, Outfitter

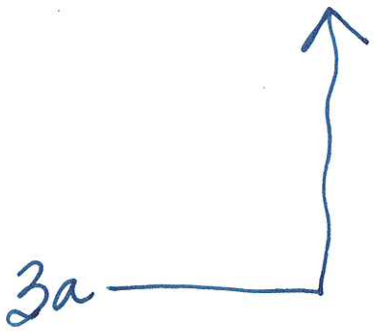
Eric Ederer, Outfitter

Dan Mahoney, Outfitter

Josh Lauer, Outfitter

John Perry, Outfitter

John Wilcox, Guide



Rose, Sharon

#4

From: jphabeck@montana.com
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 9:48 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 04 (Habeck)--Public Comment: Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule

Name: Dr. James Habeck, UM prof emeritus botany
City: Missoula
Mostly FYI: I co-chaired a graduate thesis research project on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch back in 1987-88 era by then graduate student Dr Gary Ray,,,re heavy metals stored in river banks, and released [periodic peak releases] wherever there was greater than average flooding waters passing through that part of the Clark Fork River system. That thesis is available at UM Mansfield library.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule' Public Notice Web Page.

Rose, Sharon

#5

From: Jimmy Watts <shuksan.rod.co@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 11:36 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 05 (Watts)--Upper Clark closures

Hi Sharon,
I'd like to thank those involved for inviting public comment on the proposed closure of a few miles of the upper Clark Fork River in Powell Co. I also appreciate, hopefully, the well intended efforts to clean up the area and restore a native habitat.

On those grounds, however I encourage continued input from those most intimately knowledgeable of that beautiful place- those that fish it, walk it, float it, those whose watchful eyes that have spent countless hours with their attention zeroed in on the heartbeats and flutters and fins that pulse the place.

Once or twice a year I vacation there from my home in Washington State. It's a pilgrimage to see both friends and fish in Missoula, and every time pay homage to the remarkable brown trout that inhabit this considered section of the upper Clark.

As a bamboo fly rod maker, and impassioned champion of rivers, I know of no more remarkable and abundant fishery where healthy browns rest under the cutback of the high grass around Grant-Kohrs.

I beg of the DEQ in their hopefully well intentioned efforts and restoration, that they please do not close this remarkable fishery, and at the very least do not harm this healthy fishery with their efforts at clean up.

Thank You-
-jw

Jimmy Watts
Shuksan Rod Company
"handmade split-cane fly rods"
www.shuksanrods.com

Rose, Sharon #6

From: Joel Thompson <montanatroutaholic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 11:46 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 06 (Thompson) Re: Clark Fork River Closure at Grant-Kohrs Ranch--Proposed Biennial Rule
Attachments: image001.png

Sharon,

I strongly oppose the proposed closure of the Clark Fork River running through the Grant Kohrs Ranch. I could potentially see very temporary closures on days someone might be at risk, but to close it permanently for 2 years is ridiculous. I also question why it would need to closed at all in the summer months anyway. The best time to work on this rehab would be in the winter months when there less impact on the land not being worked on.

I am also VERY concerned about what has happened up in the restored portions of phase 5-6. The fishery up there is virtually dead. No trout in in an area where they were once plentiful. This indicates to me that something is not working right and the DEQ and FWP need to figure that out before killing off another stretch of our river.

I was born and raised in Deer Lodge. I am 5th generation Montanan and 3 of those generations being in the Deer Lodge valley. I have seen with my own eyes what that poor river has endured and I have also seen it heal itself over the years. Please don't jeopardize that without figuring out what went wrong up stream first. It would be a HUGE hit to the local Deer Lodge economy and the state of Montana.

Sincerely,

Joel Thompson

Rose, Sharon

#7

From: littleblackfootoutfitters@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 07 (Brown) Public Comment: Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule

Name: Trent Brown
City: Elliston
As an Fishing outfitter in the Upper Clark fork drainage I appreciate the work being done in the Upper Clark Fork. I do have concerns about the river closure addressed in this closure. I encourage the Commission to urge the DEQ to limit the closure to the least amount of time as possible and open the section of river as soon as it is feasible. Guides and outfitters use this area along with the public and by closing this section it will most definitely create higher use in areas adjacent to the closure. This closure will also essentially close the river to floating from Arrowstone Park in Deer Lodge to the State land access point near the Veterinary Clinic north of Deer Lodge on the frontage road. This will include not only the Grant Kohrs ranch but the entirety of the section due to access limitations. This should be considered when passing the closure and alternatives to accessing the area should be considered along with the closure.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Clark Fork River Closure of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area-Proposed Biennial Rule' Public Notice Web Page.