

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 31, 2010

Agenda Item: Future Fisheries Projects, Summer 2010 funding cycle

Division: Fish and Wildlife (Fisheries) **Action Needed:** Approval of Final Rule/Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program continues to provide funds for projects that restore fishery habitats in streams, rivers and lakes for the benefit of wild fisheries. Applications are reviewed twice each year by a 14-member citizen review panel appointed by the Governor or his designee. Citizen Panel recommendations are forwarded to the Commission every six months for your consideration and approval. For the Summer 2010 funding cycle the Citizen Panel recommends funding 11 of 17 proposals at a Program cost of \$286,030.00. Matching funds or in-kind contributions from outside sources total \$1,534,834.00.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public is informed about Program funding opportunities via news releases, public presentations and information posted on FWP's website. All applications received for the funding cycle were posted on FWP's website, where there is an opportunity to submit on-line public comment. Two email comments were received as of August 15, 2010. One commenter supported the Nevada Creek restoration project and the other commenter supported the Bear Creek fish passage project. The Future Fisheries Citizen Panel conducted a public meeting in Bozeman on June 22, 2010 to review proposals, discuss proposed projects with applicants in attendance and receive public comment. No public comment was received. Environmental Assessments (EA's) have been prepared for projects recommended for funding; except for those proposals that fall under categorical exclusions (defined under ARM), the federal National Environmental Policy Act, or ongoing regional processes. The comment period for these EA's ended on August 16, 2010. No public comment was received.

Alternatives and Analysis

(1) Approve recommendations as submitted by the Citizen Panel; providing funds to assist in the completion of projects that will improve habitat for wild fish populations. (2) Disapprove or modify Citizen Panel recommendations; resulting in non-completion or partial completion of habitat improvement projects that would benefit wild fish populations.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

We recommend approval of the funding recommendations as submitted by the Citizen Panel. Completion of these projects would benefit wild fish populations.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve the Citizen Panel funding recommendations for the Summer 2010 funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.