Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Brush Lake State Park

Proposal Initial Site Improvements

DECISION NOTICE

November 29, 2005

Environmental Quality Council
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Parks Division
- Fisheries Division
- Wildlife Division
- Conservation & Education Division
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Commission Secretary
- Regional Office Managers
- Directors staff
- Legal Unit
- Lands Unit
- Law Enforcement Division

Williston, ND Chamber of Commerce
State Senator Sam Kitzenberg – Glasgow
State Senator Frank Smith – Poplar
State Rep. Margaret Campbell – Poplar
State Rep. Karl Waitschies - Peerless
Sidney Chamber of Commerce
Daniels County Treasurer
Valley County Treasurer
Montana State Library, Helena
MT Environmental Information Center
Montana Audubon Council
State Historic Preservation Office
Sheridan County Commissioners
Sheridan County Sheriff
Sheridan County Planner
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
John Brenden (MFWP Commission)
Darlyne Dascher
Mike Volesky – Governor's office
Plentywood Chamber of Commerce
Wolf Point Chamber of Commerce
Culbertson Chamber of Commerce
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
City of Plentywood
Roosevelt County Commissioners
Daniels County Commissioners
Sheridan County Treasurer
City of Culbertson
Roosevelt County Treasurer
Scobey Chamber of Commerce

On October 13, 2005 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment concerning a proposal to develop initial recreational improvements at the newly established Brush Lake State Park. Brush Lake is located approximately 31 road miles southeast of Plentywood. Specific recreational improvements proposed in this project would include the rerouting and upgrading of an entrance/interior road, a gravel parking area, boat ramp and boat dock, a vault latrine, designated swimming area, picnic tables and fire rings.

At the conclusion of a thirty four-day public comment period, the Glasgow office of MFWP received three letters in reference to the proposed improvements and the

environmental impacts. Two of the 'comment letters' were supportive to see the presence of recreational facilities at the north end of Brush Lake State Park.

The U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) office at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Medicine Lake, Montana, offered specific comments in reference to the text of the Draft EA. Overall the comments from the USFWS run parallel with the recreation management goals and environmental protection MFWP desires to commit.

A portion of the USFWS input questioned whether the Draft EA addressed the long-term impacts that the proposed improvements will have with the influx of visitation into the area. It is the intent of MFWP for the EA to address the impacts of the construction of the improvements and the long-term impacts of the recreational use in the area. Therefore, the Final EA has been restructured to emphasize the environmental impacts the users will bring about to the park and surrounding area, along with measures of mitigation.

By notification of this Decision Notice, the Draft EA is hereby made Final with modifications suggested by the USFWS. Copies of the Final EA are available at the Glasgow office of MFWP.

The Department recommends proceeding with the development of recreational improvements at the north-end of Brush Lake State Park. We expect that the proposed facilities will be available for public use by July of 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal and the final decision, please contact me at the Glasgow office, 228-3700.

Sincerely,

Pat

Pat Gunderson
Region 6 Supervisor