

Charter

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is developing a plan for managing recreation on the Madison River. The plan will focus on *recreation* management rather than *resource* management, with the understanding that resource protection is of highest priority.

The members of the Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC) serve by appointment of the FWP Director and are tasked with developing recommendations for managing recreation on the Madison River.

The MCAC is a critical step in the planning process. The MCAC's assignment is to prepare a Committee Report on recommendations for managing recreation on the Madison River. FWP will invite the public to comment on the Committee Report.

FWP will prepare a Draft Management Plan and environmental analysis based on the work of the committee and public comments. The public and the committee will be invited to comment on the Draft Plan and environmental analysis. The FWP Commission will adopt a Final Plan based on the recommendations of the committee, comments from the public, environmental analysis, and input from staff.

The FWP statewide river recreation rules apply to the process of developing management plans or rules for river recreation. The MCAC's recommendations must comply with these statewide rules. According to the rules, management plans and rules must be: technically and socially feasible; legal; affordable; measurable; enforceable; and reasonable to administer.

The MCAC will perform the following tasks:

- ❖ Assess river recreation information and existing conditions on the Madison River;
- ❖ Identify desirable or acceptable recreation conditions for the Madison River;
- ❖ Develop a list of management actions (less restrictive to more restrictive);
- ❖ Identify conditions that would warrant implementation of management actions.

The MCAC's recommendations should reflect the interests of its members, the public that recreates on the Madison River, and those affected by river recreation management. It is imperative that the MCAC use a process that encourages civility, trust, and respect. Listening to and integrating each person's interests is paramount to success.

The MCAC serves in an advisory capacity. While the role of the committee is critically important, there is no guarantee that the Final Plan will follow the committee's recommendations. The FWP Commission is the final decision-maker and shall consider the recommendations of the MCAC, the best available information, the environmental analysis, and input from the public and staff.