Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Developing Recommendations for Managing Madison River Recreation

Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC) – Meeting #Nine

February 10, 2013

Session Summary

PROCESS OBJECTIVES

Within the Advisory Committee's Charter, develop consensus recommendations around the following 4 tasks:

1. Review and assess river recreation information and existing conditions on the Madison River.
2. Identify and describe desirable or acceptable recreation conditions for the Madison River.
3. Identify and describe conditions that would warrant implementation of various management actions.
4. Develop a list of less to most restrictive management actions.

FEBRUARY 10 SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Add pertinent data and trapline and public sentiments to the conversation related to Madison River Recreation management.
- Move toward completion of draft recommendations for recreation management on the Madison River – concentrating particularly on the notion of "thresholds" and applying them to various stretches of the River.
- Plan for the March 3 MCAC meeting.

COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS

Adding to Data, Information, and Thoughts…

MCAC members and FWP personnel distributed and briefly presented information… ideas… samples related to specific issues and format. Those included the following:

- Characteristics of "Good" Standards & "Thresholds"
- Synopsis of FWP Decisions regarding Blackfoot River Management
- Appendix B – Potential Management Actions (from the Blackfoot River Recreation Management Plan)
- Thoughts about format for issues on River stretches

Working to Complete the Draft Product

General Agreements

- We will address all the identified River stretches in our recommendations – acknowledging the more obvious issues at Lyons Bridge and the heavily used lower portion of the River.
- We will use data collection with specified questions to determine trend and when the first "threshold" is violated.
- We will use the FWP User Satisfaction Survey data to establish a "base"; As e move forward with data collection, we agree that a 20% dissatisfaction level in surveys will be considered the first "threshold".
- We know the trend in user days for the past 10 years.
- We will recommend "to do now's" and justify those based on:
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    - And the fear of "already being where we don't want to be."
- We won't go beyond the first "threshold" in terms of recommending next actions. However, we will provide a list of recommended redistribution and restriction/suppression actions for future consideration.

Specifics

At their February 10 meeting, MCAC members revised, added to, edited, and tentatively agreed on some specific items related to Madison River recreation management. **Their discussion and tentative agreements are reflected in the attached "Collaborative Framework as of February 10, 2013" document.**

Other specifics discussed were:

- The importance of collecting data at all access sites on the River – hopefully with "Iron Rangers" – and acknowledging associated costs.
- The need to "customize" survey questions (and not use leading questions) for data collection from both anglers and other recreational users including:
    - What are you?
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- The importance of being specific about issues and having potential management actions correspond with those issues.
- The need for definitions as part of the document
- The value of "grading" ourselves in the process

Homework

MCAC members are asked:

- To continue discussion with their traplines.
- To read the newest version of the Collaborative Framework – including those areas where there is tentative agreement as well as those areas not yet addressed by the Committee.
- To read any information shared by FWP or other members prior to the March 3 meeting.
- Check your calendar to see if you can be present at the April 11 Commission meeting in Helena.

Where do we go from here?

- The Committee intends to complete its draft product on Sunday, March 3 in Bozeman; FWP Region 3 Headquarters – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
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