



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Seven
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
352 I-94 Business Loop
Miles City, MT 59301
May 28, 2013

Decision Notice for:

AMELIA ISLAND FISHING ACCESS SITE PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Action

In 2008, 4.8 acres of land along the Yellowstone River near Hysham was donated to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for the purpose of providing additional public access to the Yellowstone River and developing a fishing access site (FAS). FWP proposes to acquire a permanent right-of-way easement on 1.8 acres of accreted land located between the FAS and the Yellowstone River from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). FWP also proposes to develop the Amelia Island FAS and the accreted land adjacent to the FAS. Proposed developments include a designated parking area, a singlewide concrete boat ramp; a concrete vault latrine, informational signs, additional fencing, and improvements to the access road.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on March 25, 2013. Public comments on the proposed project were taken from March 25, 2013 through April 26, 2013. The EA was mailed to 19 groups and individuals, advertised in local papers and posted on www.fwp.mt.gov.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received seven public comments regarding and favoring the proposed action. An additional letter was received by Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) advising that the total disturbance of the Amelia Island project may require a Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Permit. This permit will be secured prior to commencement of construction.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment on which seven favorable public comments were received and FWP's evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with FWP's preferred alternative B and implement the proposed action which states FWP will provide a boat ramp to the Yellowstone River at Amelia Island FAS. The current access road and parking area will be graded and graveled to provide better access in all weather conditions. Fencing and signing will

delineate parking, public routes and lands, thus, limiting vehicular impacts to the surrounding habitat. A sealed vault latrine will be installed, which will help alleviate health concerns from increased human activity.

Implementation of alternative B is contingent on acquiring a permanent right-of-way easement on 1.8 acres of accreted land located between the FAS and the Yellowstone River from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Schmitz", written over a horizontal line.

Brad J. Schmitz
Regional Fish & Wildlife Supervisor