



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718
August 4, 2014

To: FWP Region 3 EA Standard Distribution List
Sean O'Callaghan Mike Harris
Bud and Esther Lilly, 16 W. Birch, Three Forks, MT 59752
Montana Rail Link, Inc, PO Box 16390, Missoula, MT 59808
Mel Weigum, 11220 Front St, Logan, MT 59741
Gallatin County Commissioners, 311 W Main; Room 306, Bozeman, MT 59715
City of Logan, General Delivery, Manhattan, MT 59741-8060
Francis A. Orr, 9910 Circle R Dr, Escondido, CA 92026-5707
Gary Rutledge, 11155 Railroad St, Manhattan, MT 59741-8060
Jonathan Danz & Sandra Weigum, 327 Sirius St, Olympian Village, MO 63020
Richard & Edythe Macrow, 11275 River St, Manhattan, MT 59741-8154
James Groenendal, 11090 Front St, Manhattan, MT 59741-8037
Craig Susag & Shana Chauhi Susag, PO Box 276, Manhattan, MT 59741-0276
Glen Jorgenson, 5520 Frontage Rd, Manhattan, MT 59741-8048
Erwin Entzel, PO Box 306, Three Forks, MT 59752-0306
Northern Pacific RY Co, Property Tax Dept, 2650 Lou Menk Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830
Brent Schmoll, 51 Whisper Ln, Bozeman, MT 59718-7137
John Zuelke, 101 Carpenter Rd, Three Forks, MT 59752-9730
Gail Bagaoisan, 4560 Parent St, Missoula, MT 59808-1470
Bonita May Goforth, 11133 Railroad St, Manhattan, MT 59741-8060
Merv Gunderson, 407 Helen Dr, Belgrade, MT 59714-3112

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the revised Logan Fishing Access Site Proposed Development Draft Environmental Assessment. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed developing a fishing access site (FAS) along the Gallatin River, in the town of Logan. Five (5) public comments were received during the comment period that began July 1, 2014 and ended August 1, 2014.

The EA and Decision Notice may be obtained from FWP at the address provided above, or viewed on FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov>.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, Alternative B, as described in the Revised Logan Fishing Access Site Proposed Development Draft Environmental Assessment, and develop an FAS in order to provide public access to this stretch of the Gallatin River.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks
c/o Ray Heagney
1400 S 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mailed to: rheagney@mt.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Flowers', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

August 4, 2014
Decision Notice for:

Revised Logan Fishing Access Site Proposed Development Draft Environmental Assessment

Proposed Action

FWP proposes to revise the site development plan for the Logan Fishing Access Site (FAS) by removing from consideration the originally proposed construction of a concrete boat ramp. Additionally, FWP is proposing to accept the donation of an additional 1-acre parcel that would be added to the existing 1.5-acre site.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant 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 July 1, 2014.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from July 1, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The EA Notice was mailed to 93 groups and individuals.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received five (5) comments regarding the proposed action; four (4) comments supported the proposal, one (1) comment posing two questions.

Comments supporting the proposed project: four (4) total.

Examples of Comment Statements Supporting the Proposal

- "Just want to send my support for the Logan FAS. The lower Gallatin is a lovely stretch of river and this site will enhance its usability for anglers, floaters, birdwatchers, etc.

I have no problems with the walk-in launch. Not everyplace has to be drift-boat and trailer accessible with concrete ramps. As you know, there is a walk-in FAS on the Madison and it's kind of nice not to have people tearing around on ATVs and vehicles when you stop at that FAS on your way down the river.

I know my old friend Bud Lilly has been working hard to get this site in and will toss in my support for his efforts."

- "I just finished reading the REVISED Environmental Assessment to the Logan Fishing Access Site Development Plan. On the whole I think it is a good beginning. The improvements in the plan will provide the public with reasonable access to the river and also be an asset for all the different river users as well as the town of Logan. As the donor of the property, it is satisfying to see concrete plans for a FAS after three and a half years."
- "I supported the first proposal for this site, and support this Revised Site Development also. I understand why the boat ramp has been withdrawn, and think it's best at this time. I would also like to THANK the American Legion for it's donation of the additional land. This will make a great FAS."
- "I am very much in favor of the proposal for Logan FAS. Logan to Headwaters is a great float for scenery, birds, fishing and enjoying the great Montana outdoors. Access and parking at Logan is long overdue."
- "Is any of this property ever underwater?
Why is there more trailer parking than single vehicle parking?"

FWP Response: All comments are duly noted. In response to the question of flooding potential, the site does lie within the floodplain. Flooding may occur during the winter month when ice jams form forcing water out of the channel. However, this is an infrequent occurrence.

FWP anticipates that with the new FAS a greater number of tow and trailer units will utilize the site. With the additional property acquisition, additional parking can be developed as needed in the future.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to withdraw from consideration at this time the construction of a boat ramp at this site and proceed with the construction of an access road, parking area to accommodate ten vehicles and the installation of a concrete vault latrine. This proposed action would provide usable public access to this stretch of the Gallatin River.

Also as part of this action, FWP would acquire the 1-acre parcel owned by the American Legion to provide additional open space adjacent to the existing FAS property.

Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Jeff Hagener, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Ray Heagney, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.



Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
