



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings MT 59105

22 December, 2016

## DECISION NOTICE

TO: Environmental Quality Council\*  
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality\*  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks\*  
    Director's Office  
    Parks Division  
    Fisheries Division  
    Wildlife Division  
    Comm Ed Division  
    Lands Section  
    Design & Construction  
    Legal Unit  
    Regional Supervisors  
Tim Baker, Governor's Office\*  
Dave Parker, Communications Director, Governor's Office\*  
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office\*  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council\*  
Montana Wildlife Federation\*  
Montana State Library\*  
George Ochenski  
Bob Gibson\*  
Brett French\*  
Montana Environmental Information Center\*  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation\*  
FWP Commissioner Matt Tourtlotte\*  
Montana Parks Association/Our Montana (land acquisition projects)  
Matt Wolcott, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office\*  
Sweet Grass County Commissioners\*  
Other Local Interested People or Groups\*  
\* (Sent electronically)

Dear Interested Party:

The Department prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) outlining proposed construction and improvements at the Big Rock Fishing Access Site (FAS.) Big Rock FAS is located on the Boulder River approximately 5 miles upstream of the mouth of the Boulder River near Big Timber, in Sweet Grass County, Montana.

Proposed improvements outlined in this EA include: 1) development of two new parking areas to accommodate approximately three truck/trailer vehicles and four single vehicles; 2) reclamation of the existing loop road adjacent to the riverbank; 3) construction of a new loop road over 120' from the riverbank; 4) development of five designated campsites; 5) graveling the pioneered river access for hand launching boats and rafts; 6) reconditioning the existing camp loop road and access road; 7) installation of barrier rock to control vehicle movement; and 8) installation of informational and directional signs.

The draft EA was noticed and circulated for public comment from August 25 to September 30, 2016 to interested agencies, groups, and persons. The draft EA was also posted on the FWP website. One public comment was received in favor of the project. FWP was also contacted by a neighboring landowner concerning an issue with a gate on the FAS. We met with him on-site and agreed to address his concerns during the construction process.

After reviewing the proposal and corresponding comments, it is my decision to approve the planned improvements at Big Rock FAS as proposed. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, you may contact me at [bbeck@mt.gov](mailto:bbeck@mt.gov) or 406-247-2951.



Barb S. Beck  
Regional Supervisor, Region 5