

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
SUMMER 2017 FUNDING CYCLE
Decision Notice and Response to Public Comment**

Prepared by
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
August 15, 2017

Proposal and Final Action

Members of the Future Fisheries Review Panel submitted funding recommendations for 8 proposed projects from the Summer 2017 funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission (Commission) for final approval. The Future Fisheries Review Panel is an independent board appointed by the governor (87-1-273, MCA). As a final action, the Commission adopted all the funding recommendations, as submitted by the Future Fisheries Review Panel, at their public meeting held in Helena on August 10, 2017.

The FFIP was established in 1995 to establish and implement a statewide voluntary program that promotes fishery habitats and spawning areas for the rivers, streams, and lakes of Montana's fisheries in order to enhance future fisheries through natural reproduction (87-1-272, MCA).

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

MEPA requires Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to assess the potential consequences of the proposed action for the human and natural environment. Environmental Assessments (EA's) were prepared and released by FWP on July 7, 2017 for seven individual proposed projects associated with the Summer 2017 Future Fisheries funding cycle. The 30-day public comment period ended August 6, 2017. These proposed projects included:

1. Blackfoot River fish screen (020-2017)
2. Deer Creek road decommissioning (021-2017)
3. Dry Creek channel restoration (022-2017)
4. Horse Creek grazing management and stream restoration (023-2017)
5. LaValle Creek fish passage (025-2017)
6. Little Warm reservoir dam repair (026-2017)
7. Rattlesnake Creek Cobban fish screen (028-2017)

The remaining one project funded by Commission approval fell under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

1. Turkey Creek fish passage (029-2017)

Summary of Public Comment

No comments were received for any of the projects assessed under MEPA.

Decision Notice

The public comment period closed on the seven projects (above) and there were no comments. Based on the EAs' disclosures and analyses of potential impacts, FWP concludes that the proposed actions will not result in any significant impacts. For these three projects, FWP will adopt the draft EA as the final EA and proceed with the projects as planned. Copies of the final EA's are available upon request.

Thank you for your interest,



Eileen Ryce
Fish Division Administrator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks