



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500
Fax 406-542-5529

September 8, 2017

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission is proposing administrative rules restricting recreational and commercial use of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River and the Upper Bitterroot River. The proposed rules are intended to address concerns about congestion on the river and social conflicts between river users. The proposed rules are based on the recommendations of a citizen advisory council in accordance with the River Recreation Management Rules.

Enclosed you will find for your review:

- The Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed ARM changes.
- A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating impacts of the proposed rules.

Public Hearings--to explain the proposed rules and Draft EA, answer questions, and take public comment--will be held:

- **October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **FWP Region 2 Headquarters** (3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT).
- **October 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office** (1801 North First Street, **Hamilton**, MT).
- **October 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **FWP Butte Area Resource Office** (1820 Meadowlark Lane, **Butte**, MT).

The proposed rules and draft EA can be found on FWP's website <http://fwp.mt.gov> under "News," then "Recent Public Notices." The proposed rules and draft EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; or by emailing shrose@mt.gov.

Comments may be made from the notice on FWP's website or in writing to:

Bitterroot River Recreation
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

OR

Emailed to: shrose@mt.gov

Comments must be received by FWP no later than October 13, 2017. All comments will be considered for both the environmental assessment and rule proposal notice when making a final decision. Persons do not need to send separate comments for the environmental assessment and rule proposal notice.

For specific questions on the proposed rules and Draft EA, please contact Chrissy Oschell, FWP Region 2 River Recreation Manager (3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804); phone 406-542-5562 or email coschell@mt.gov.

The Commission will review public comment and make a final decision on the proposed rule language at its regularly scheduled meeting, December 7-8, 2017, in Helena. As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I plan to issue a Decision Notice on the Draft EA in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Commission's final decision on the rule proposal.

Sincerely,



Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr