



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June24, 2021

Agenda Item: Madison River Recreation Workgroup Selection

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: Madison River Recreation rules were approved by the commission in November 2020 and were adopted as ARM (12.11.6701-6715) by the Secretary of State in December 2020. The rules included the establishment of an advisory workgroup, which will consist of 12 commission appointed members for three-year terms. The charge of the workgroup is to develop recommendations to the commission regarding: 1) the allocation of commercial-use trips to outfitters; 2) a process to permit new outfitters on the Madison River; 3) rule language to address all recreational use on the Madison River, including the walk/wade and rest/rotation sections; and 4) consequences of permit violations.

The workgroup shall consist of: 1) three commercial outfitters with a current Madison River Special Recreation Use permit; 2) three non-commercial Madison River users; 3) two individuals with a Madison Valley business interest not connected to commercial outfitting; 4) one individual trained in natural resource management and not currently working for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; 5) one Fish and Wildlife Commissioner; 6) one Bureau of Land Management representative; 7) one at-large member whose selected qualities are largely outside the descriptions of other work Group members.

Public Involvement Process & Results: A press release seeking applications for the workgroup was released and workgroup applications were received April 2 to 23. Thirty applications were received. The commission requested additional applications due to a low number of applicants for the business category during the first round. In the second round 7 additional applications were received.

Alternatives and Analysis: The commission could choose workgroup members from the 37 applications received or the commission could delay action and request additional applicants.