



DECISION NOTICE
Selway Fishing Access Site Addendum
FWP-DN-PO-R3-25-034

October 22, 2025

ACTION

Decision Notice (DN). Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) shall prepare a DN for the proposed action. The DN must identify the agency decision, the reasons for the decision, and any special conditions surrounding the decision or its implementation.

With this action, FWP hereby adopts the Draft Environmental Assessment or Draft EA as final, without modification, and approves Alternative 2, the proposed action.

AUTHORITY: MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

According to the applicable requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act or MEPA and its implementing rules and regulations, before a proposed action may be approved, environmental review must be conducted to identify, consider, and disclose any potential impacts of the proposed action on the affected human environment. The level of environmental review will vary with the complexity and seriousness of environmental issues associated with a proposed action. The level of public interest will also vary. The agency is responsible for adjusting public review to match these factors. *Title 75, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA)*.

Based on these factors, FWP determined a checklist EA (Draft EA) constitutes the appropriate level of review for the proposed action. Therefore, to assess and disclose potential impacts of the proposed action, FWP prepared a Draft EA for public review and comment. See *Public Participation Process* below.

Further, FWP must consider any substantive comments received in response to an EA and proceed in accordance with one of the following steps: determine the EA did not adequately reflect the issues raised by the proposed action and issue an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS; determine the EA did not adequately reflect the issues raised by the proposed action and issue a supplemental EA; or determine the Draft EA adequately addressed the issues raised by the proposed action and make a final decision, with appropriate modification resulting from the analysis provided in the Draft EA and the analysis of any substantive public comments received. See *Public Comment and FWP Response* below.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from August 27, 2025, through September 11, 2025. The Draft EA was posted on FWP's Public Notice webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notices> and made available for public review on the Environmental Quality Council or EQC website: <https://leg.mt.gov/mepa/search/>, by individual request, and through notice to identified interested parties. FWP received one public comment during the public comment period.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Selway FAS is a small 0.79-acre day-use site on the northern edge of Dillon, Montana on the Beaverhead River. The existing site is day-use only and has a boat ramp, latrine, picnic tables, and a parking area. Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) owns the Selway FAS parcel, and FWP operates it under a no-cost Recreation Permit. Downstream of Selway FAS and across Laknar Lane is another MDT parcel that the public also uses to access the Beaverhead River, watch birds, and otherwise recreate. This second MDT parcel is undeveloped aside from a foot path and consists mostly of grasses and some trees.

This project is a proposal to include the adjoining 2.5-acre Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) parcel into the existing management agreement and Recreation Permit for the Selway Fishing Access Site (FAS). The addendum to this agreement will add the adjoining 2.5 acres of MDT property east of Laknar Lane and make the Selway FAS a total of 3.29 acres (see Addendum #1 to Permit for Recreation Site). As the public already use both parcels to access the Beaverhead River to fish and recreate, MDT and FWP agreed that it made sense for FWP to manage both parcels. The site will continue to be day-use only from sunrise to sunset, and under the agreement the new parcel would be managed as open space and not be developed.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this addendum is to combine the whole property under a single recreational agreement to provide appropriate management, maintenance, and weed control of the site

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

Alternative 1: No Action

In addition to the proposed action, and as required by MEPA, FWP analyzes the "No-Action" alternative in the EA. Under the No-Action alternative, the proposed action would not occur. Therefore, no additional impacts to the human environment would occur. The No Action alternative forms the baseline from which the potential impacts of the proposed action may be measured.

Under the No Action alternative, FWP and MDT would not adjust the existing recreation permit to include the additional 2.5 acres of adjacent MDT property east of Laknar Lane. That property would continue being managed by MDT.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, FWP and MDT would add the adjoining 2.5-acre parcel to the existing Selway FAS Recreation Permit. While MDT would continue to own the parcel, FWP would manage it and provide regular oversight, including weed control and maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND FWP RESPONSE

One public comment in support of the project was received during the public comment period and is included below.

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks Commission,

I support the Selway Fishing Access Site Addendum. It only makes sense for FWP to manage both parcels, since the sportsmen use both sites.

FWP Response:

We concur that it makes sense for FWP to manage both sites since both parcels are currently used by the public to access the river and other recreation.

DECISION

Based on the environmental review provided in the Draft EA, and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies, FWP determined the proposed action (Alternative 2), will not have significant adverse impacts on the human environment associated with the proposed action and constitutes a reasonable and appropriate strategy to achieve identified objectives. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is unnecessary. FWP hereby adopts the Draft EA as final and approves the Alternative 2, the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Kelly Proffitt

Kelly Proffitt
Region 3 Supervisor