

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:02:06 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:12:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:47
IP Address: 209.180.189.196

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Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Walsh Amendment #7 with Department Response

I am in opposition of the proposed amendment. I like to both fly fish and spin fish the Madison and like having the opportunity to keep trout from certain sections if I so choose.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 11:40:45 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 3:35:09 PM
Time Spent: 03:54:23
IP Address: 74.244.109.180

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Q1

Contact information

Name:	Michael Bias
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State/Province:	MT
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Q2

Please comment on Walsh Amendment #7 with Department Response

Re: FOAM Comments: Amendment No. 6 to the 2027-2028 Fishing Regulation Proposals

Dear Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

On behalf of the board of directors and over 1,100 professionally-licensed guide and outfitter members of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM), I am writing to provide our comments on Amendment No. 6 to the 2027-2028 Fishing Regulation Proposals. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

We have concerns regarding the amendment process that the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has recently adopted. We believe the recently adopted amendment process stemmed from long arduous commission meetings on hunting regulations setting with the intent to reduce in-meeting conflict and expedite season setting during a commission meeting. We also believe the intent of the amendment process was to allow the public more ample opportunity to review, process, and assess how an amendment would affect themselves of their stakeholders. We commend the Commission on their intent to better inform the public of the changes to regulations or policy they would like to see implemented. Many of the amendments proposed by Commissioners allowed for such public engagement and ample time and opportunity for the public to make informed decisions on how they would comment on such amendments. However, Amendment No. 6 – being posted the day prior to the meeting – does not allow for the public the opportunity or time to adequately assess how this amendment would affect themselves of their stakeholders.

The Amendment No. 6 rationale correctly points out that during the last biennial regulations, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission voted to implement barbless single hook regulation for the section between Varney Bridge and Ennis Lake. This coincided with the implementation of the Montana State University (MSU) studies to look at Montana southwest trout populations across 5 rivers to assess scientifically recruitment dynamics, fish health, adult survivorship and population dynamics, and river recreation. The Varney to Ennis Lake section of the Madison was selected to assess effects of barbless, catch-and-release angling on the Madison River. This was the agreement to the public by the commission prior to adopting any widespread sweeping regulation changes. These studies are not completed.

We simply urge the Commission to hold off on any broad regulation changes affecting the entire Madison River until the results from these MSU studies could be properly analyzed and assessed as to how proposed changes can be or should be implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Bias, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 3:27:25 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 3:51:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:42
IP Address: 72.175.129.150

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Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Walsh Amendment #7 with Department Response

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA), I would like to urge a rejection of this amendment and support for the Department's response in keeping current regulations on the Madison River. MOGA is not against the use of barbless hooks. However, the Department response to this amendment illuminates the fact that preliminary results from the current barbless section of the Madison and voluminous evidence from scientific literature point to the fact that barbless hooks have a negligible impact on catch and release mortality. Until there is concrete evidence that barbless hooks produce decreased incidences of catch and release mortality and hook scarring, MOGA feels that these regulations are better left to individual angler preferences instead of governmental mandates. If concrete evidence from the current barbless section of the Madison is produced, then MOGA would support barbless regulations for the entire Madison.

MOGA also rejects the nature of this amendment as it was introduced at the last minute without adequate scoping for such a monumental change that will impact so many anglers. An amendment like this should be subject to robust scoping efforts and allow our organization and all other organizations and individuals to analyze the ramifications of this potential change. Because of the last-minute nature of this amendment, many questions remain, such as whether these regulations also apply to Hebgen Lake, Quake Lake, and Ennis Reservoir. This is simply too hasty of a decision and undermines the public trust and confidence in the FWP Commission process. Please follow the recommendation of the Department to continue with the current regulations in place for the Madison. Thank you for your time.

Scott Vollmer
MOGA President Elect

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 3:54:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 3:59:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:24
IP Address: 47.28.221.1

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Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Walsh Amendment #7 with Department Response

It seems very disingenuous that this proposal comes up literally a few hours prior to an end in comment possibility.

To the point:

If you are going to limit number of hooks on the mdsion then "dropper" hooks should also be not allowed.

It is inappropriate to regulate to the mouth of the Jefferson. Up sutra of greycliff FAS and Ennis resevoi8ir there are thousands of commercial trips per year. But downstream of there from grey cliff to the Jeff. there a hundred's if that! I am against limiting take. and these proposal.s

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments