



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: October 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Temporary Full Closure of Kona Bridge Fishing Access Site

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: Kona Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) is located on the Clark Fork River at the southwest corner of the Kona Ranch Road bridge in Missoula County and serves as a popular day-use site for boating, angling, and river-based recreation. The property is owned by Missoula County, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks manages the site for public recreation under an agreement that assigns FWP responsibility for caretaker services, day-to-day oversight, weed management, vault toilet maintenance, enforcement, and establishing hours of operation.

FWP is proposing a streambank stabilization project at this site including reshaping and rebuilding the bank, building a rock stair to the river, adding safety posts and fencing to guide foot traffic, and cleaning up and re-vegetating the site when the work is done. This project will address streambank erosion and instability near the existing boat ramp, lower parking area, and public foot-traffic routes to the river due to ongoing river fluctuation, site use, and infrastructure constraints.

A temporary and full closure of the FAS is necessary to allow the work to occur safely and efficiently. The temporary closure would begin in fall or early winter 2026 and would remain in effect until construction is complete and the site is safe for public use. FWP will manage the county-owned property as a closed site for the duration of active construction in coordination with Missoula County.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The department will solicit public comment for a four-week period prior to the October commission meeting. Public comments will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the October commission meeting.

Alternatives & Analysis:

- A. No action. The Kona Bridge FAS would remain open during construction, increasing risks to public safety.
- B. Adopt a temporary full closure during construction. This would allow the contractor to complete streambank stabilization work efficiently while protecting public safety. The improvements would support long-term site stability and recreation access.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the commission adopt a temporary full closure of the Kona Bridge FAS from fall or early winter 2026 until construction is complete and the site is safe for public use (Alternative B). This would protect public safety, allow efficient construction, and support long-term site stability and recreation access.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the temporary full closure of the Kona Bridge FAS from fall or early winter 2026 until construction is complete and the site is safe for public use.