



1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496

August 31, 2021

To whom it may concern,

This Decision Notice has been prepared to construct a new comfort station septic drain field in the campground at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park. The new proposed septic drain field will replace the current smaller, outdated drain field and is designed to accommodate increased visitor use and to be of sufficient size to serve an updated comfort station in the future. It will better serve visitors in the campground, group events area, and the Cave Gulch Trails system. It will not only immediately improve the visitor experience but could also allow potential campground expansion and result in increased park revenue as a Montana tourist destination.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on June 28, 2021.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through July 28, 2021). The EA notice was mailed to adjacent landowners; Two public legal notices were printed in each of these papers; *The Whitehall Ledger*, *Montana Standard*, and *Bozeman Chronicle*, *Helena Independent Record* and the *Boulder Monitor*. A draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notice>. One written comment was received via email during the comment period, and it was supportive of the project.

Based on the Environmental Assessment and the need to upgrade our existing facilities at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park I believe we should proceed with the septic system improvement project for the campground.

I find there to be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka  
Region 3 Supervisor