

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

In the matter of the adoption of an)	NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
emergency rule closing the Alder)	EMERGENCY RULE
Bridge Fishing Access Site on the)	
Ruby River in Madison County)	

TO: All Concerned Persons

1. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (department) has determined the following reasons justify the adoption of an emergency rule closing the Alder Bridge Fishing Access Site:

(a) The Ruby River is in flood stage and has caused water to channel and flood the Alder Bridge Fishing Access Site.

(b) The combination of dangerous conditions includes water covered accessways and flooding, ultimately rendering unsafe conditions for pedestrian and vehicle travel.

(c) Persons recreating at the Alder Bridge Fishing Access Site would be at risk of unsafe accessways, injury, or drowning.

(d) Therefore, as this situation constitutes an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare, and this threat cannot be averted or remedied by any other administrative act, the department adopts the following emergency rule. The emergency rule will be sent as a press release to newspapers throughout the state. Also, signs informing the public of the closure will be posted at access points. The rule will be sent to interested parties and published as an emergency rule in Issue No. 12 of the 2023 Montana Administrative Register.

2. The department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the rulemaking process and need an alternative accessible format of the notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the department no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2023, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Regina Reynolds, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701; telephone 406-444-9785; or e-mail regina.reynolds@mt.gov.

3. The emergency rule is effective June 1, 2023, when this rule notice is filed with the Secretary of State.

4. The text of the emergency rule provides as follows:

RULE 1 ALDER BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE EMERGENCY CLOSURE

(1) Alder Bridge Fishing Access Site is located along the Ruby River in Madison County.

(2) Alder Bridge Fishing Access Site is closed to all public occupation and recreation as signed.

(3) This rule will remain in effect until the department determines that the site is again safe for public occupancy. This will depend on the extent and the duration of the Ruby River flooding into the fishing access site. Signs closing the fishing access site will be removed when the rule is no longer effective.

AUTH: 2-4-303, 87-1-202, MCA
IMP: 2-4-303, 87-1-202, MCA

5. The rationale for the emergency rule is set forth in paragraph 1.

6. Concerned persons are encouraged to submit their comments to the department. Please submit comments along with names and addresses to: Regina Reynolds, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT, 59602-0701; e-mail regina.reynolds@mt.gov. Any comments must be received no later than July 25, 2023.

7. The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notice of rulemaking actions proposed by the department or commission. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make written request that includes the name and mailing address of the person to receive the notice and specifies the subject or subjects about which the person wishes to receive notice. Such written request may be mailed or delivered to Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Legal Unit, P.O. Box 200701, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-0701, faxed to the office at (406) 444-7456, or may be made by completing the request form at any rules hearing held by the department.

8. The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, do not apply.

9. The special notice requirements of 2-4-303, MCA have been met. All committee members and staff of the Environmental Quality Council, with addresses provided on the Montana Legislature's website (leg.mt.gov), were contacted by e-mail on June 1, 2023.

/s/ Dustin Temple
Dustin Temple
Acting Director
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

/s/ Alexander Scolavino
Alexander Scolavino
Rule Reviewer

Certified to the Secretary of State June 1, 2023.