



Fish Creek Collaborative and Trails Planning Effort

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is seeking individuals to serve on the Fish Creek Collaborative (FCC).

Background

The Fish Creek Recreation Strategy (Strategy), finalized in September 2024, seeks to improve recreational opportunities while ensuring conservation-minded practices within the watershed. The Strategy aims to balance diverse recreational activities with the protection of wildlife habitats and the achievement of conservation goals. A key component of the Strategy is the development of a proposed Trails Site Plan, which will establish a multi-use trail network for both motorized and non-motorized users.

Purpose

A Trails Plan for the Fish Creek Complex would:

- Explore the development of purpose-built hiking, biking, and single-track trails.
- Identify motorized opportunities on existing road systems, including: all existing open roads, Hay Creek Loop, Bear Point Loop, Williams Pass Loop, and Nemote Loop (seasonal use to USFS).
- Explore redevelopment of connector routes to create new seasonal loops or out and back destination-based opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized users.

The Fish Creek Collaborative (FCC) will bring together stakeholders and user groups interested in trail-based recreation within the Fish Creek Complex. The FCC will foster transparent discussions on how best to establish a multi-use trail system that provides a quality experience for a wide variety of users while promoting environmental sustainability and conservation of natural resources within the watershed.

Role of the Fish Creek Collaborative (FCC)

The Fish Creek Collaborative (FCC) will provide recommendations to the Department regarding the development, renovation, maintenance, management, usage, and promotion of recreational trails in an environmentally responsible manner across county, state, federal, and private lands. The FCC will support the development of the Fish Creek Trails Plan by participating in collaborative dialogue and helping to build community consensus around trail system opportunities within the Fish Creek Complex. Members will assist in identifying opportunities and constraints based on on-the-ground conditions and user experiences.

It is important to note that the FCC is advisory in nature and does not hold decision-making authority. Rather, the Collaborative is intended to foster transparent discussions and provide informed recommendations to FWP and the State of Montana regarding trail planning efforts in the Fish Creek Complex. More information about Fish Creek and the trails planning effort can be found at: <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/fish-creek>.

Member Expectations

FCC members are expected to actively participate in site visits and workshops that will occur during the summer and fall of 2025. While occasional virtual updates may be offered, the Collaborative is fundamentally a locally driven effort, and most meetings will be held in or near the Fish Creek area—primarily in Superior, Missoula, or at Fish Creek itself. Members are encouraged to work collaboratively and respectfully to provide informed, consensus-

based recommendations to FWP. Active, in-person participation is strongly encouraged to foster relationship-building, grounded decision-making, and familiarity with the landscape. Individuals with strong ties to the region and the ability to attend local meetings will be best positioned to contribute meaningfully to the group's work. If improved technology is needed for virtual participation, members may travel to one of FWP's offices to access necessary equipment. Mileage and lodging costs associated with travel to meeting locations will be reimbursed by FWP if necessary. A meeting facilitator will assist the Collaborative by maintaining objectivity, promoting productivity, and guiding discussions. Additionally, FWP will be working with a contractor during the summer of 2025 to gather on-the-ground information to support the trails planning effort.

Applications must be received no later May 28, 2025. Appointments to the advisory committees will be made as soon as possible after the application deadline. If you have questions, please review the attached FAQ or, contact:

Cody Kenyon, Fish Creek Recreation Manager

Phone: 406-542-5533

Email: ckenyon@mt.gov



Fish Creek Collaborative Application to Serve

Applications must be received no later than May 28, 2025

Submit via Mail or Email to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attn: Cody Kenyon

3201 Spurgin Rd

Missoula, MT 59804

Email: ckenyon@mt.gov

Name:

Phone Number:

Physical Address:

Email Address:

Are you a Montana resident?

Yes No

Are you affiliated with any trail organization(s)? If yes, which one(s)?

Will you be serving as a representative for an organization on the collaborative?

Yes No

If yes, which organization?

Please address each of the following questions. If additional room to respond is needed, please attach a separate document as needed.

1. Describe your interest in recreational trails in the Fish Creek area.

(Please include any on-the-ground knowledge you have of the Fish Creek Complex.)

2. Why do you want to serve as a member of this collaborative group?

3. Describe your experience working collaboratively with groups and individuals to reach solutions on recreational trail initiatives or related efforts.

Fish Creek Collaborative – Applicant FAQ

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Fish Creek Collaborative!

Below are answers to common questions about the Collaborative and application process.

What is the Fish Creek Collaborative (FCC)?

The FCC is an advisory group made up of volunteers representing a variety of recreational interests. It will provide Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) with recommendations on the development, renovation, maintenance, management, and use of trail systems within the Fish Creek Complex. The FCC is advisory only and does not have decision-making authority.

What is the purpose of the Fish Creek Trails Planning Effort?

The Fish Creek Trails Plan will guide the development of a multi-use trail network that balances recreational access with conservation goals. It will explore opportunities for hiking, biking, single-track trails, and motorized routes (including Off-Highway Vehicles), while promoting environmental stewardship.

What will I be expected to do as an FCC member?

- Attend site visits and workshops during summer and fall 2025.
- Participate in collaborative discussions and decision-making exercises.
- Provide informed input based on your recreation experience and knowledge of the Fish Creek area.
- Attend meetings (either in-person or virtually).

Will I be paid for participating?

No. This is a volunteer position. However, mileage and lodging expenses related to travel for meetings or site visits may be reimbursed by FWP if necessary.

What is the time commitment?

Members should expect to attend approximately 2–6 sessions between July and November 2025. Sessions will range from a few hours to a full day. Meetings may occur during daytime or evening hours and will be scheduled in consideration of members' availability.

Will meetings be held in person or online?

Meetings will be held in person whenever possible, especially for site visits and collaborative discussions. Some meetings may be virtual. If needed, members may join virtual meetings from an FWP regional office.

What happens if I can't attend every session?

Consistent participation is strongly encouraged. If you must miss a session, please notify the planning team in advance.

Do I need special expertise or professional experience to apply?

No. We welcome individuals with a genuine interest in recreational trails and the Fish Creek Complex, as well as a willingness to collaborate with others. Both on-the-ground knowledge and general recreation experience are valuable.

Do I have to represent an organization?

No. You can apply as an individual or as a representative of an organization. If applying on behalf of an organization, please identify it on your application.

What types of recreation groups or interests are you hoping to include?

We seek a diversity of perspectives, including but not limited to hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, OHV users, conservation advocates, and local residents. You do not need to belong to a formal group.

Can I participate if I don't live near Fish Creek?

Yes. Applicants from outside the immediate area are welcome, especially those who regularly recreate in the Fish Creek Complex or represent broader recreational interests. However, we hope for strong representation from the greater Fish Creek area.

What criteria will be used to select members?

Selections will aim to balance geographic representation, recreational interests, and the ability to work constructively in a collaborative setting.

How many members will be selected?

We aim to appoint 10 FCC members.

Will participation in the FCC influence future use of the area?

Yes. While the FCC is advisory and has no decision-making authority, its input will directly inform the Fish Creek Trails Plan, which may guide future management decisions by FWP.

What happens after the planning effort ends?

The FCC's appointment will likely conclude in late 2025 when the planning process ends. However, FWP encourages FCC members to consider establishing an ongoing presence to help implement the approved Trails Plan.

When are applications due?

Applications must be received by May 28, 2025.

How do I apply?

Submit your completed application via email or mail to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attn: Cody Kenyon, Fish Creek Recreation Manager
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804

Email: ckenyon@mt.gov

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Cody Kenyon

Phone: 406-542-5533

Email: ckenyon@mt.gov