

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



1400 South 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

June 18, 1996

MT State Library
1515 E. Sixth Ave.
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620

Dear MT State Library:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks would like to invite you to an open house concerning a proposal to privatize certain aspects of the operation and maintenance of the Bozeman Region fishing access site program. Additional information about the proposal can be found on the enclosed Fact Sheet.

Two open houses will be conducted to collect public comments and reactions to the proposal at the following dates and locations:

Butte
Wednesday, June 26, 1996
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
War Bonnet Inn
2100 Cornell, Butte

Bozeman
Thursday, June 27, 1996
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman

Written comments to the proposal can be sent to the address listed on the fact sheet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

Colleen

Bozeman Area Region Fishing Access Site
Privatization Plan
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

June, 1996

FACT SHEET

FWP has prepared a proposal to privatize certain aspects of the operation and maintenance of the Bozeman Region fishing access site program. Law enforcement, capital development, lease management, certain major maintenance functions, and miscellaneous management functions are not included as a part of this proposal.

The proposal encompasses seventy six (76) Fishing Access Sites (FASs) distributed along seven major river drainages as follows:

<u>DRAINAGE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SITES</u>
Beaverhead	7
Big Hole	12
Gallatin	8
Jefferson	10
Madison	14
Missouri	6
Yellowstone	<u>19</u>
TOTAL	76

The purpose of the proposal is to provide certain aspects of operations and maintenance of the designated Southwest Montana FASs at a cost equal to or less than that which is currently being expended by FWP while providing for equal or greater site maintenance quality and public service in a healthful and safe setting and in an environmentally sensitive manner. The contract monitoring scheme includes provisions for customer satisfaction surveys to gauge quality of services to the public. Until bids are received from the private sector we are unable to estimate cost savings or additional costs. We would re-consider this proposal if the bids come in at much higher levels than what we currently spend.

The operation and maintenance of 76 FASs is currently managed by the Bozeman office of FWP. FWP hires caretakers from communities which are centrally located to a series of FASs. Currently these employees reside in Emigrant, Ennis, Dillon, Three Forks, Helena, Harrison, Bozeman and Melrose. These individuals are assigned daily cleaning and light maintenance and fee collection of the FASs in their area. Typically the caretakers provide a pickup truck to haul garbage and supplies. The state pays mileage on these personal vehicles. The state provides lawn mowers, weed trimmers, cleaning supplies, painting supplies and consumable supplies.

Cyclic, technical or heavy maintenance for all 76 sites is currently done by a crew of maintenance workers stationed in Bozeman or is contracted using private vendors. The FWP crew is equipped with a large grounds mower, generators, portable welder, power hand tools, airless paint sprayer and a self contained maintenance vehicle with trailer.

Toilet pumping is handled via contract with local vendors. Solid refuse is either hauled to a central county collection site or is hauled to a landfill by the caretakers. Well maintenance is either done by the maintenance crew or via contract with a well drilling firm.

FWP will solicit proposals from interested private contractors through a formal Requests for Proposals (RFP) format. The estimated advertising of this RFP will begin August 1, 1996. Award may be made to the responsible potential contractor whose proposal is the most advantageous to the State, taking into consideration all evaluation factors, no later than January 1, 1997. A concession agreement will be executed and the contractor will commence on March 15, 1997. The initial contract with the contractor will expire on September 30, 1997. At the discretion of FWP, the contract may be extended for an additional four (4) years, expiring on September 30, 2001.

The type of maintenance covered in the privatization proposal includes Caretaker Services such as toilet cleaning, deodorizing and vault pumping; garbage and litter pick up and removal from garbage cans as well as scattered litter from the entire site; lawn and trail weed and grass mowing and weed trimming. Maintenance Services include building maintenance such as repair to shelters and toilet structures, painting of buildings and picnic tables, repair of minor vandalism; water testing of drinking water wells; fence repair; vehicle barrier repair and replacement and general repair and cleaning of site facilities.

Duties which are outside the scope of this privatization proposal include: road maintenance, control of noxious weeds, and one time repairs or maintenance activities which have a value over \$1,000.

The RFP is for maintenance of 76 FASs divided into three (3) geographic zones: Zone 1 - Big Hole and Beaverhead drainages; Zone 2 - Missouri, Madison, Gallatin and Jefferson drainages, and Zone 3 - Yellowstone drainage. All firms must bid on each of the three zones as well as provide a price for providing service for all zones. The proposal requires the contractor to charge camping fees at 6 sites where FWP is currently collecting camping fees and allows the successful contractor to charge camping and group use fees at certain other FASs if approved by FWP. The contractor will propose the rates to be charged for camping and group use, but these rates must be approved by the FWP Commission before implementation.

Acceptance of a private sector bid to provide maintenance services at affected FAS will necessitate the termination of seven (7) current FWP seasonal employees. The RFP and contract are structured to encourage the successful bidder to offer employment to qualified former employees.

Further information on this proposal can be obtained from:

Jerry Walker
Regional Park Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-4042

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Thursday, June 27, 1996
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman

Written comments will be accepted through July 31, 1996. Please send comments to:

Steve Lewis
Regional Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

