



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref: JS083-05  
September 20, 2005

**RECEIVED**

SEP 22 2005

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

TO: Governor's Office, Attn: Mike Volesky, PO Box 200801, Helena, 59620-0801  
Les Evarts, CSKT, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
\*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
\*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Lands, Fisheries, & Parks  
\*Mt Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Helena 59620  
\*Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800  
DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601  
\*DNRC, Bob Sandman  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624  
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624  
Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman, 59715  
Sanders County Commissioners, PO Box 519, Thoompson Falls, 59873  
Sen. Jim Elliott, 100 Trout Creek Road, Trout Creek, 59874-9609  
Rep. Paul Clark, 20 Fox Lane, Trout Creek, 59874-9510

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region One, has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the purpose of purchasing property for a fishing access site on the Lower Flathead River in Sanders County using funds from the Fishing Access Acquisition Fund. Due to the high demand for access to that reach of river, the lack of significant environmental impacts, and the supporting public comment, it is recommended that the proposed project be implemented.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft EA becomes the final EA. A copy of the record of decision is enclosed for your information.

Please direct your questions or comments to R-1 Fisheries Manager Jim Vashro, FWP, 490 N Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 751-4550, or e-mail to [jvashro@mt.gov](mailto:jvashro@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Jim Satterfield  
Regional Supervisor

/ni

Enclosure

c: Interested Parties

\*E-mailed



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

**Record of Decision  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Lower Flathead River Fishing Access Acquisition  
Environmental Assessment**

September 20, 2005

**Project Proposal:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase a 2.08-acre site on the lower Flathead River, 3.9 miles upstream from the mouth on the Clark Fork River. The site has been used in the past for fishing for smallmouth bass and northern pike, as well as hunting access on the north side of the Flathead River. The site changed ownership and was closed to public access several years ago. FWP searched for an alternative access site unsuccessfully. Recently the site went up for sale, and FWP proposed to purchase the parcel.

**Environmental Impacts and Public Involvement:**

A draft environmental assessment (EA) was prepared and released for a 30-day public comment from July 20 through August 19, 2005. The EA was advertised through a media release and on the FWP web site. There were seven comments from the public, all in favor of the acquisition. FWP received a letter from the Montana Historical Society stating there were no known archaeological sites within the project area. The EA did identify a limited site distance on Highway 200 on the east end of the parcel. FWP staff met on-site with Doug Moeller, Montana Department of Transportation, Missoula Maintenance Chief, who stated there were several potential approaches off Highway 200 to the site with some site design and vegetative management. Mr. Moeller requested a site design and application pursuant to acquiring an approach permit.

**Decision:**

This acquisition would reopen a fishing access that previously existed. This represents a benefit to the public that fishes and hunts on the lower Flathead River. Due to the high demand for access to that reach of river, the lack of significant environmental impacts, and the supporting public comment, I recommend that FWP acquire the access on the lower Flathead River at the mouth of Robertson Creek at river mile 3.9.

In accordance with FWP policy, an appeal may be made by any person who has either commented in writing to the department on the proposed project, or who has registered or commented orally at a public meeting held by the department on the proposed project, or who can provide new evidence that would

otherwise change the proposed plan. An appeal must be submitted to the Director of FWP in writing and must be postmarked or received within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision making process, and how the department can provide relief. DNRC has no recognized formal appeal process. The appeal should be mailed to: Director, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

  
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Jim Satterfield, Regional Supervisor

9 / 20 / 05  
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Date