



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks **RECEIVED**

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1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE
~~November 21, 2006~~

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
 MT State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
 MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
 James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
 George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
 Jerry DiMarco, PO Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
 Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
 Wayne Hurst, PO Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
 Bill Dana, 3065 E. River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047
 Andy Dana, 1700 W. Koch, Bozeman, MT 59715
 Doris Loomis, 3152 East River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047
 Hilda Harper, PO Box 633, Livingston, MT 59047
 David W. DePuy, DePuy Law Firm, PO Box 487, Livingston, MT 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the Decision Notice for the Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) Parking Improvement Environmental Assessment (EA). Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to increase parking capacity and a vehicle turn around area.

Based on the EA, public comment, and the need for providing expanded parking facilities at Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site, it is my decision to proceed with the improvement project. Both the Decision Notice and the Environmental Assessment are available for review from FWP at the address above or online on FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be directed to Tom Greason, Region 3 FAS Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, c/o Carter's Bridge FAS EA, 1400 S. 19th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59718, (406) 994-6987, or tgreason@mt.gov.

Thank you for your interest.



Patrick Flowers
Region Three Supervisor

Attachment

**CARTER'S BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE
PARKING IMPROVEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
November 2006**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to improve the Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS), located on the Yellowstone River near Livingston, by increasing parking capacity and by creating a more user friendly and safe turn-around for vehicles. Two new parking areas would be created; one with a capacity of seven vehicles, the other for up to six pickup truck/trailer combinations. Additionally, existing parking areas would be improved to better accommodate pickup trucks with trailers, and new barrier rocks would be installed for resource protection.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

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 July 10, 2006.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through August 16, 2006). The EA was mailed to 24 individuals and groups; legal notices were printed in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, the *Livingston Enterprise* and the *Helena Independent Record*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov//publicnotices/>

Summary of Public Comment

One comment was received on the proposal.

- 1) An attorney, representing an adjacent neighbor to the Carter's Bridge property, sent a letter regarding/inquiring about the status of legal access for their client across FWP property. The access issue is a concern because the neighbor has their property for sale, and future legal access to the property is quite important.

Response: Though a legal access issue across FWP properties is out of the scope of the parking improvement EA, it could have related positive effects on similar future development and expansion. As of date, the landowner, attorney and FWP personnel will be meeting on this issue in the near future to discuss options for securing a legal easement across FWP property.

**Final Environmental Assessment for the Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site
Improvements Proposal**

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and the need for providing expanded parking facilities at Carter's Bridge Fishing Access Site, it is my decision to proceed with the improvement project.

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

 11/21/06
Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
