



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

March 29, 2007

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
Gallatin County Commissioners, Courthouse-311 West Main, Bozeman, MT 59715
Montana Department of Transportation, Attention: Ross Gammon, 907 North Rouse, Bozeman MT 59715
Sherman Webb, PO Box 370, Manhattan, MT 59741-0370
Ted Vermillion, 2845 Amsterdam Rd., Belgrade, MT 59714
Peter Rothing, 3108 Linney Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718
Gail & Mike Torgerson, 2660 Amsterdam Rd., Belgrade, MT 59714

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the Decision Notice for the Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) Development Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to build an access road, a parking lot and a trail; and to install a latrine.

Based on the EA, public comment, and the need for parking facilities at Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site, it is my decision to proceed with the development 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 Erwin 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

**ERWIN BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE
INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
March 2007**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to develop the Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) located on the West Gallatin River southwest of Belgrade, Montana, on Amsterdam Road. The proposed project would build a short section of access road; construct a ten-car parking lot around a cul-de-sac with a center island; install a latrine, barrier rocks and signing; and construct a five-foot wide trail to the river if funding allows. This proposed project is being prompted by a pending (Spring 2007) Montana Department of Transportation project on Amsterdam Road which will install guardrail and a new approach to the Erwin Bridge site. The new approach will safely allow the public to enter the site and provide the means to build a connecting access road and parking lot off of Amsterdam Road.

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 February 16, 2007.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through March 16, 2007). The EA was mailed to 27 individuals and groups; legal notices were printed in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, and the *Helena Independent Record*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov//publicnotices/>

Summary of Public Comment

There were no comments received on the proposed project.

Final Environmental Assessment for the Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site Development 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 access, parking and other facilities at Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site, it is my decision to proceed with the development 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.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
