



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

June 2, 2010

To: Madison County Commissioners, PO Box 278, Virginia City MT 59759
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
Katie Svoboda, ksvoboda@mt.gov
Campbell, Craig, ccampbell@mt.gov
John Heckler, 1025 N Tucana Lane, Gilbert AZ 26234-4004
Dokson and Gale Arvanites, 1930 Edgewood Drive, S. Pasadena CA 91030-3918
Martin Middleton Ansley Qualif, 1030 Pine Hill Road, McLean VA 22101
Thomas and Colleen Miller, PO Box 949, Riverside CA 92500-0949
Austin and Marjorie Prindle, 2546 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94596-6609
Thomas and Mary Griffin, 1251 Calle Las Casas, Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2316
Ann Laszlo, 3 Locust Lane, Glen Head, NY
John and Isabelle Aalto, 10227 Song Sparrow Lane, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129-6222
Wells Morris Jr., 122 Varney Road, Ennis MT 59729-9609
Susan Butler Voorhees, 503 Hilcrest Drive, Durango CO 81301-6525
Cynthia Flavell, PO Box 933, Ennis MT 59729-0933
Granger Ranches, 3 Locust Lane, Glen Head, NY 11545-2801
James Harrison Life E Saunders, PO Box 73, Ennis MT 59729
Marvin P. Love, PO Box 634, Townsend MT 59644
Reints Ranch LLC, 101 Jeffers Road, Ennis MT 59729
Granger Ranches, 3 Locust Lane, Glen Head NY 11545

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for a walking trail loop at the Ennis Fishing Access Site (FAS) on the Madison River. Madison Byways, a community trail group, proposes to create a walking trail loop through riparian meadows and along the Madison River at the public fishing access site.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. If requested, FWP will schedule and conduct a public meeting on this proposed project. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on July 2, 2010. Comments should be sent to the following:

Jerry Walker
Ennis FAS Comment
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman MT 59718-5496

Electronic comments may be sent to gwalker@mt.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

Gerald Walker
Region Three Parks Manager



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
July 14, 2010

Decision Notice for
**ENNIS FISHING ACCESS SITE
PROPOSED RIVER TRAIL PROJECT
Draft Environmental Assessment**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) in cooperation with Madison Byways, a community Trails group, proposed a project to create a walking trail loop through riparian meadows and along the Madison River within the Ennis Fishing Access Site.

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 Madison Byways and sanctioned by FWP and released for public comment on June 2, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from June 2 through July 2, 2010. The EA was mailed to 35 individuals and groups.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received no public comments on the proposed action.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative B, as described in the Ennis FAS Proposed River Trail Project Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP proposes the following actions (which will be performed by Madison Byways with FWP scrutiny):

- Install a trailhead kiosk.
- Establish a trail on the native soil/vegetation that won't be scoured by water flow during ice gouging events that occur regularly in winter months.
- Mark the route and post interpretive sign numbers that link to information provided by brochures available at the trailhead kiosk.

- Replace the steel post barbed wire fence on the FAS property boundary with a pedestrian entrance of wood posts and rails to facilitate pedestrian traffic and continue to exclude motorized traffic other than authorized private and administrative access.
- The fence west of the lockable gate will be steel post and wire.
- Post a sign along the private land boundary on the south end of the trail loop to prevent trespass onto private land.



Gerald Walker
Regional Parks Manager
