



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 9, 2010

To: Beaverhead County Commissioners

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

Swenson Ronald B, PO Box 7080, Santa Cruz Ca 950617080

Blacktail Meadows Inc, PO Box 121, Dillon Mt 597250121

Rehm Willard A, 965 E Parkview Ct, Dillon Mt 597253255

Southwestern Montana Family YMCA, 75 Swenson Way, Dillon Mt 597252424

Morstein/Boka Enterprises LLC, PO Box 1334, Dillon Mt 597251334

Elliot Wallace E, 1300 Mt Highway 91 N, Dillon Mt 597259515

Levon D Brillhart, 228 W Morse Street, Dillon MT 59725

Mary and Coy Beardon, 526 N Walnut, Dillon MT 59725

Keri Wash (e-mail)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the Blacktail Meadows FAS Proposed Cattail Mitigation Draft Environmental Assessment. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to remove an overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the kids fishing pond at Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) near Dillon. Three public comments were received during the comment period that began January 6, 2010 and ended February 5, 2010.

The EA and Decision Notice may be obtained from FWP at the address provided above, or viewed on FWP's Internet website:

<http://www.fwp.mt.gov>.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the preferred alternative and remove some of the overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the youth fishing pond.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks

C/O Todd Garrett

1400 S 19th Avenue

Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mailed to: tgarett@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Gerald Walker

Regional Parks Manager



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
February 9, 2010
Decision Notice for

Blacktail Meadows FAS Proposed Cattail Mitigation Draft Environmental Assessment

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to remove an overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the kids fishing pond at Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) near Dillon. The removal of cattails would provide easier access for children, since it has become difficult to cast beyond the overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the pond.

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 January 6, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from January 6 through February 5, 2010. The EA was mailed to 24 groups and individuals.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received three public comment letters for the proposed action. One comment supported the project, one comment opposed the project, and one comment suggested building a dock as a substitute for cattail removal.

Comment Supportive of the Project

“...we would like to see the cattails removed from the kid’s fish pond.”

This comment mentioned that the pond is for children and that the cattails can make it difficult or impossible for youth to fish.

FWP Response: Duly noted.

Comment Opposed to the Project

“There is nothing wrong with the fishing pond in Dillon – there is plenty of room for kids to fish.”

FWP Response: The pond was created for youth anglers, and the overgrowth of cattails makes it difficult, or impossible, for youth to fish from the bank. FWP intends to maintain the site as a youth fishing pond, which requires cattail mitigation.

Additional Comment

We received a comment asking, “Would it be feasible to build a dock several feet into the water in order for the kids to gain easier access to the water?”

FWP Response: Cattail removal will result in more accessible angling space than a dock that could be installed. Once the project is completed, the bank will allow for multiple youth of various ages to safely fish simultaneously.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative B, as described in the Blacktail Meadows FAS Proposed Cattail Mitigation Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP will remove some of the overgrowth of cattails along the bank at Blacktail Meadows FAS to improve angling for youth, which the pond was created to serve.

Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Joe Maurier, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Todd Garrett, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.



Gerald Walker
Regional Parks Manager
