



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 31, 2000

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O.200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 West Main, Bozeman, MT 59715
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701
Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., P.O. Box 663, Whitehall, MT 59759
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601
Jack Atcheson, State Land Coalition, 3210 Ottawa St., Butte, MT 59701

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the East Gallatin Recreation Area beach rehabilitation and improvement proposal for your consideration. The decision has been made to proceed with the project as proposed.

The comment period was from September 14, 2000 until 5:00 p.m. October 14, 2000.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor

Gallatin

DECISION NOTICE

EAST GALLATIN RECREATION AREA BEACH REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three
1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 24, 2000

PROPOSAL

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to grant authority to the City of Bozeman and the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club to perform a beach rehabilitation/improvement project at the East Gallatin Recreation Area. This property is owned by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and is leased to the City of Bozeman for management purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

FWP received one e-mail during the comment period, which supported the proposal. However, a question was raised regarding the past records for "species of special concern" for both plant and animals. The EA contained a cover letter from the Montana Natural Heritage Program indicating that records for three plant species (*Mimulus nanus*-Dwarf Purple Monkeyflower, *Sphenopholis intermedia*-Slender Wedgegrass, & *Cyripedium parviflorum*-Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper) and one invertebrate species (*Isocapnia crinita*-Stonefly) were attached. It was discovered that these records were inadvertently not included in the EA. These record sheets will be added to the final version of the EA.

Since the beach area proposed for rehabilitation is previously disturbed ground, it is certain the plant species are not found at this location. The invertebrate listed, is a river dwelling creature and would also not be impacted by this proposal. Consultation with Arnold Dood, Endangered Species Biologist, Pat Byorth, Fisheries Biologist, and Dan Gustafson, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Montana State University confirmed that the plant and invertebrate species listed by the Natural Heritage Program would not be impacted by this project.

DECISION NOTICE

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I have determined that the process has satisfactorily complied with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The proposed action poses no significant impacts to the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Public comments were solicited for 30 days from September 14 through October 14, 2000. Legal Notices regarding the proposed action were printed in area newspapers and listed on the State Electronic Bulletin Board. Approximately 40 copies of the EA were mailed out to FWP's standard distribution list and interested parties.

It is my decision to approve the beach rehabilitation/improvement project as proposed and to grant authority to the City of Bozeman and the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club to perform the work proposed at the East Gallatin Recreation Area. By notice of this decision document, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA with the addition of the four "species of special concern" sheets inadvertently left out of the draft EA.

A tradition of public recreation has developed at this site over many years. The continued joint commitment by FWP, the City of Bozeman and community service organizations will further promote resource protection and ethical public land use at this recreation site.

If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact me at 406-994-4042 or by e-mail at pflowers@montana.edu.

The Final EA may be viewed at or obtained upon request from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at the Region 3 Headquarters, 1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718 (994-4042).



Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor
Bozeman, MT