



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref:DV277-00  
October 18, 2000

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Director's Office, Legal Unit, Fisheries, Parks, Lands, Design & Construction, & P-R, D-J, PO Box 200701, Helena, 59620  
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201  
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624  
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, 59624  
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103  
Montana River Action Network, PO Box 8298, Bozeman, 59773-8298  
Rep. Bob Lawson, PO Box 686, Whitefish, 59937  
Sen. Bob Depratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937  
Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901  
Flathead County Library, Whitefish Branch, 9 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, 59937  
Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S. Main, Kalispell, 59901  
Jim Mann, Daily Inter Lake, PO Box 7610, Kalispell, 59904  
Flathead Wildlife, Inc., PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59901

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for **Beaver Lake** for the purpose of constructing a concrete boat ramp. A copy of the Decision Document and Finding of No Significant Impact is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Dan Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli  
Enclosure

c: Fern Nelson, 511 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, 59937  
Cornice Trust, PO Box 10292, Kalispell, 59901  
Shawn Cowan, 4124 Highway 40 W, Columbia Falls, 59912  
Jacque & Willo Harris, PO Box 295, Whitefish, 59937  
Rev. Scott Thomas Peer Trust, PO Box 1086, Whitefish, 59937  
Karen & Edward Sundberg, 1425 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Great Falls, 59405  
Jerrold & Marlene Barnes, 210 Armory Road, Whitefish, 59937

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- c: Harriet & Gerald Quinn, 245 Twin Lakes Road, Whitefish, 59937
- Elmer & Loretta Fauske, PO Box 1874, Whitefish, 59937
- Peter Fauske, 3952 Hwy 40 W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
- Dennis & Ginger Thiessen, 365 Blanchard Lake Road, Whitefish, 59937
- June Munki, 241 West Third Street, Whitefish, 59937
- Eric Schenk & Steve Howe, 401 Haskell Basin Road, Whitefish, 59937
- Kenneth & Mary Pannell, 57 Trails End Road, Eureka, 59917
- Phillip Hambley, 89 Riverview Close SE, Calgary, Alberta T2C4C5 Canada
- Dennis & Susan Breed, 1744 Mambrino Hwy, Granbury, TX 76048
- Jack Fabjanski, 383 Mt. Apex Green SE, Calgary, Alberta T2Z3B8 Canada
- Leona & Vicki Hileman, 1026 East Second Street, Whitefish, 59937
- Ronald & Jeffery Burns, 1432 Sorensen Road, Helena, 59601

Decision Notice  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Beaver Lake Ramp

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Region One  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed project is to construct a concrete boat ramp from the end of the present turnaround at the Beaver Lake Fishing Access Site. The site is currently designed for carry-in boats only, which limits use in general and especially for older or handicapped individuals. Public use declined significantly when the only ramp available to the public closed, and many users have complained about the inability to back their boats down to the water. They have requested that FWP develop a boat ramp. When the site was designed, a boat ramp was included in the design for development in the future.

Concerns expressed during the Assessment process include:

1. The need for a restroom: A porta-potty will be provided during the summer season. Because of the distance from town, FWP has found this to be more economical than a vault toilet.
2. Weekly trash cleanup: Currently the site is cleaned every two weeks. This schedule will continue unless use increases to the point additional time is needed.
3. More Enforcement: With the addition of the ramp, Enforcement will have more opportunity to be present at this lake.
4. Fires, camping, and discharging of firearms: These activities are currently, and will continue to be, disallowed. Signing regarding this and other regulations will be posted as part of this project and will be enforced during routine patrols.
5. Loon nesting: Informational signing regarding loon nesting requirements will be posted as part of this project. In addition, buoys have been and will continue to be placed around the loon nest in the spring. If use impacts the success of the loon nest, progressively stricter regulations will be put in place until the nest is again successful.
6. Personal watercraft: It was requested that personal watercraft be banned from the lake. While this is not in the purview of FWP, new boating regulations concerning no-wake areas for a distance of 200 feet from shore should help reduce the impacts of these and other high-speed boats, and protect swimmers. Current regulations already restrict boat use from 5 a.m. – 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. daily.
7. Parking: Parking capacity will be monitored. If the site will not hold the increased traffic, site designs will be made to accommodate the increased use within the overall capacity of the site. All site improvements will be coordinated with the land manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

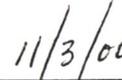
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, I find Alternative B, construction of a boat ramp, to be the preferred alternative. Since Beaver Lake is accessible to boaters from private lots, it seems reasonable to allow the same type of use from recreationists that do not own lake lots. Additionally, as other lakes in the area have boat access restricted, the need for access to Beaver will become even more important. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, Kalispell, Montana. Please direct requests and questions to:



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Dan Vincent, Regional Supervisor  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406 752-5501)



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Date