

Record of Decision  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Sportsmans Bridge FAS Enhancement  
Environmental Assessment

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 1  
490 North Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

July 28, 2006

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to enhance Sportsmans Bridge FAS. The proposed action is to increase the parking lot from 13 single vehicle undefined spaces to 25 vehicle/trailer and 8 single vehicle defined spaces.

Sportsmans Bridge FAS has become a popular location during spring, summer, and fall for anglers and duck hunters due to the site's close proximity to Flathead Lake. In 2000, a deep-water concrete boat ramp was constructed at the site to increase accessibility to the river year-round. At that time, parking was not increased at the site to accommodate vehicle and trailer units. Annual site visitation increased by 25% between 2003 and 2005. Most usage occurs between March and October. Current parking is undefined. Vehicles with trailers are often parked across several parking stalls in order to fit, which then eliminates the opportunity for others to park. Vehicles are often backed into stalls, with the trailers parking in the grass behind the parking slot, causing damage. When the lot is full, people often park on the grass, in adjacent wetlands, and along the entrance road. The purpose of this project is to accommodate current use by increasing the number of parking units and by extending current parking stalls to accommodate vehicle and trailer units.

Public Comment:

The public was notified via legal notices in the Daily Inter Lake and having the draft EA posted on the FWP web site. No public comment was received.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment (EA), I find Alternative B, to enhance Sportsmans Bridge FAS by increasing parking capacity from 13 unmarked single parking spaces to 25 vehicle/trailer and 8 single defined parking spaces, to be the preferred alternative. 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 may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 North Meridian, Kalispell, Montana 59901. Please direct requests and questions to:

Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
490 North Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
mawatkins@mt.gov

In accordance with FWP policy, an appeal may be made by any person who has either commented in writing to the department on the proposed project, or who has registered or commented orally at a public meeting held by the department on the proposed project, or who can provide new evidence that would otherwise change the proposed plan. An appeal must be submitted to the Director of FWP in writing and must be postmarked or received within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and how the department can provide relief. The appeal should be mailed to: Director, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

---

James R. Satterfield, Jr., Ph.D.  
Regional Supervisor

---

Date