



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
February 9, 2010

To: Park 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  
Park County Commissioners, City/County Complex, 414 East Callender Street, Livingston, MT 59047  
Richard D. & Gay W. Juhnke, 19 W Grannis Rd, Livingston, MT 59047  
Dan R. Dinsdale, 458 Us Hwy 89 N, Livingston, MT 59047  
Brad Palmer, 8 Bighorn Drive, Livingston, MT 59047  
Wayne & Sterling Bowman, 106 South Yellowstone St, Livingston, MT 59074  
Mildred Palmer, 345 US Highway 89 N, Livingston, MT 59047-9326  
Katie Svoboda, [ksvoboda@mt.gov](mailto:ksvoboda@mt.gov)  
Campbell, Craig, [ccampbell@mt.gov](mailto:ccampbell@mt.gov)  
Larry Copenhaver, [lcopenhaver@mtwf.org](mailto:lcopenhaver@mtwf.org)  
Ralph Bukoskey, [REBukoskey@pplweb.com](mailto:REBukoskey@pplweb.com)  
Justin Dalby, [bowbuck1995@hotmail.com](mailto:bowbuck1995@hotmail.com)  
Kerry Fee, [kerry86303@yahoo.com](mailto:kerry86303@yahoo.com)  
Chris Fleck, [chris.fleck@mcffonline.org](mailto:chris.fleck@mcffonline.org)  
Hayes Goosey, [hgoosey@wispwest.net](mailto:hgoosey@wispwest.net)  
Tom Madden, [tom@remax-experts-billing.net](mailto:tom@remax-experts-billing.net)  
Bert Otis, [otisranch@wispwest.net](mailto:otisranch@wispwest.net)  
William R. Mealer, [doctormealer@msn.com](mailto:doctormealer@msn.com)  
John Tokarski, [wiscoy@msn.com](mailto:wiscoy@msn.com)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the Grannis FAS Proposed Perpetual Easement and Development Draft Environmental Assessment. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to obtain a perpetual easement on an approximately one-acre parcel of State School Trust Land near the Shields River from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for the Grannis Fishing Access Site (FAS). Eleven public comments were received during the comment period that began November 16, 2009 and ended December 16, 2009.

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 obtain a perpetual easement from Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
C/O Todd Garrett  
1400 S 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mailed to: [tgarrett@mt.gov](mailto:tgarrett@mt.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gerald Walker  
Regional Parks Manager



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

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

## **Grannis FAS Proposed Perpetual Easement and Development Draft Environmental Assessment**

### **Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to obtain a perpetual easement on an approximately one-acre parcel of State School Trust Land near the Shields River from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for the Grannis Fishing Access Site (FAS).

### **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 November 16, 2009.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from November 16 through December 16, 2009. The EA was mailed to 27 groups and individuals.

### **Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received ten comment letters and one verbal comment for the proposed action. The eleven comments received supported the proposal.

### **Examples of statements from public comments**

“I am in strong favor of the proposed site, great idea!”

“On behalf of Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana’s oldest and largest organization of hunters, anglers, and recreationists comprised of 23 affiliated sportsmen’s clubs and more than 7500 members, we offer support for the proposed acquisition of the Grannis FAS. We are pleased to see the progress in achieving public recreational access to this public water.”

“This access site is long overdue. When you have a public river and public land along the river with county or state access, the site should be improved and provide access for ALL Montanan's to our natural resources.”

**FWP Response:** Duly noted.

## **Decision**

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative C, as described in the Grannis FAS Proposed Perpetual Easement and Development Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP will obtain a perpetual easement for the approximate one-acre parcel of land to establish a designated parking area that would provide continued public access to this stretch of the Shields River.

## **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.



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Gerald Walker  
Regional Parks Manager

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