



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

January 21, 2011

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. 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, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Dillon Tribune, 22 S. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725
Helen Sorel, 4900 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Kim & Nate Finch, 4700 Bannack Road, Dillon, MT 59725
Cindy Staszak, BLM, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101
Bannack Association, P O Box 1426, Dillon MT 59725
Dave L Prewett, PM 3-7-77 and PGM of Montana, 5905 Thorpe Rd, Belgrade MT 59714-8910
Beaverhead County Commissioners, 2 South Pacific St. STE #4, Dillon MT 59725
Larry Lakner, Beaverhead County Flood Plain Administrator, 2 South Pacific St. STE #4, Dillon MT 59725

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for the proposed Multi-Use/All Purpose Shelter within Bannack State Park, near Dillon, Montana. Two public comments were received during the 30-day comment period ending January 18, 2011.

The first comment received was not in relation to the shelter project, but the elk capture/test/slaughter program and the second comment received strongly favors the shelter project and commented that they would like to rent the structure once it is completed.

It is my decision to proceed with the preferred alternative by going forward with building a multi-use/all weather shelter in the Group Use Area at Bannack State Park. The shelter will be approximately 40' x 60' and will be able to accommodate up to 100 visitors. No changes to the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
c/o Bannack Multi-Use All Purpose Shelter EA Comments
4200 Bannack Road
Dillon MT 59725
Or e-mailed to: dalec@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Jerry Walker
Region Three Parks Manager
Attachment

BANNACK STATE PARK
MULTI-USE/ALL WEATHER SHELTER
DECISION NOTICE

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

January 21, 2011

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to build a multi-use/all weather shelter in the Group Use Area at Bannack State Park. The shelter will be built on a raised earthen pad to mitigate issues with building in a floodplain, and it will be approximately 40'x 60' and will be able to accommodate up to 100 visitors. The building is specifically designed to blend into the park's historic setting, extend the season of use for special events, and it is believed that the facility will attract large user groups who in turn create collateral spending in the local communities.

Public Comment:

Public notification of the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating this proposed action was published in the Helena Independent Record, the Butte Montana Standard and the Dillon Tribune newspapers and on the FWP website. In addition, neighbors to Bannack State Park and other known interested individuals, agencies and organizations were sent copies of the EA.

Two public comments were received concerning this draft EA during the comment period running from December 17, 2010 through January 18, 2011.

The first comment received was not in relation to the shelter project, but the elk capture/test/slaughter program and the second comment received strongly favors the shelter project and commented that they would like to rent the structure once it is completed.

Decision:

Based on analyses in the Draft EA, and comments on the proposed action, my decision is to adopt the preferred alternative. That alternative calls for FWP to build a multi-use/all weather shelter in the Group Use Area at Bannack State Park. The shelter will be built on a raised earthen pad to mitigate issues with building in a floodplain, and it will be approximately 40' x 60' and will be able to accommodate up to 100 visitors.

The completed environmental assessment is an appropriate level of analysis to identify and address all significant issues associated with this project. For this reason, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

There are no modifications to the Draft Environmental Assessment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with the Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

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 Dale Carlson, Bannack State Park Manager at 406-834-3413.

The Final EA and the Decision Notice for this project is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Three Headquarters, 1400 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718, or online at: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

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

Jerry Walker
Region Three Parks Manager