Region Seven
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
352 I-94 Business Loop
Miles City, MT 59301
July 6, 2012
Decision Notice for:

**STIPEK FISHING ACCESS SITE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposes to improve a small portion of the 110-acre Stipek Fishing Access Site (FAS) on the Yellowstone River, which would include rerouting, grading and gravelling of the entrance road, construction of a single-lane boat ramp, gravel parking area for vehicles with trailers, and sealed vault latrine, and erection of fencing and signs.

**Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess 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 May 23, 2012.
Public comments on the proposed project were taken from May 23, 2012 through June 29, 2012. The EA was mailed to 18 groups and individuals, advertised in local papers and posted on www.fwp.mt.gov.

**Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received three public comments regarding and favoring the proposed action, including rerouting the entrance road.

**Decision**

Based on the Environmental Assessment on which three favorable public comments were received and FWP's evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with FWP's preferred alternative B and implement the proposed action which states FWP will provide a boat ramp to the Yellowstone River at Stipek FAS. This boat ramp is in close proximity to several publically owned islands and mainland tracts. Rerouting the current access road will be recommended and evaluated, and the parking area graded and graveled to provide better access in all weather conditions. Fencing and signing will delineate parking, public routes and lands, thus, limiting vehicular impacts to the surrounding habitat. A sealed vault latrine will be installed, which will help alleviate health concerns from increased human activity.

Brad J. Schmitz
Regional Fish & Wildlife Supervisor