# Decision Notice

# Missouri Headwaters State Park
## Campground Road Improvement Project

Missouri Headwaters State Park

1585 Trident Road

Three Forks, MT 59752

(406) 285-3610

August 7, 2012

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to initiate a campground road improvement project within Missouri Headwaters State Park, which would include adding additional gravel and grading of the interior campground roads, spurs and day use areas at Ling Rock and the parking area located at the boat launch on the Missouri River. There are 17 campsites within the park, many will have additional gravel added to re-direct water runoff and provide a more solid and stable pad for RVs and other vehicles.

**Alternative A: No Action**

No action would leave the roads, parking areas and camp pads at Missouri Headwaters State Park in their current state. Numerous parking pads in the campground are not level or slope in the wrong direction creating drainage issues. Two of the 17 campsites have no gravel on their parking pads, which creates a maintenance issue for parks staff, who are continually filling in and smoothing out rutted areas. During rain events there is danger large vehicles could get stuck. By not adding the additional barrier (landscaping) rocks, some park areas are vulnerable to resource damage from vehicles parking and traveling across them.

At the Ling Rock day use area, puddles will continue to accumulate water on the roadway and parking area after rain events. This will undermine the existing gravel surface, creating ruts in the road surface.

By not adding new gravel to the parking area at the boat launch area, users of this area will continue to park on an uneven and rough parking area.

**Alternative B: Preferred Alternative**

This alternative will allow Montana State Parks to maintain, and protect park resources and provide visitors with more pleasing parking areas and access roads. Drainage deficiencies will be addressed eliminating pot holes and sink holes. Staff and equipment time will be better utilized maintaining other park facilities instead of constantly repairing rutted roads and parking pads. Additional barrier rocks will help protect park resources from unauthorized off road vehicle use.

Visitors using boat ramp facilities will have a better facility to launch and park their vehicles and trailers insuring a more pleasant experience.

Disabled accessible camping and parking areas will give better access for people with disabilities and as well those using wheel chairs.

## PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project was made available for public review and comment from July 5, 2012 through July 31, 2012. Legal notices were published in the Bozeman Chronicle, and the Three Forks Herald newspapers. FWP distributed 79 copies of the EA, and mailed out notices to nearby landowners. The EA was available for public review on FWP's website (http://fwp.mt.gov/), under "Recent Public Notices" beginning July 5. A statewide news release was also sent out and posted on FWP's website on July 3.

FWP received two comments; neither comment was in support or opposition of the proposed project. These two comments were inquiries as to the flood plain status of the proposed project. When informed the project was in a flood plain and that the Gallatin County Flood Plain manager had been consulted by a FWP engineer and concluded there were no ill effects from this project, and ruled no flood plain construction permit would be required, the two inquirers were satisfied there would be no ill effects from this project.

### DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), along with the public comments and the applicable laws, regulations and policies, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action in preferred alternative B.

I have determined that the decision to proceed with the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. By notification of this Decision notice, the Draft EA is hereby made the final EA. The draft EA with the Decision Notice may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the address on page 1. This EA is still available for review on FWP's web site (http://fwp.mt.gov/), under "Recent Public Notices"

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 be postmarked or received within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previous 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 6th Avenue, P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701.

If you have any questions regarding this environmental assessment decision notice, please contact Dave Andrus, Missouri Headwaters State Park manager, at 406-285-3610 or at daveandrus@mt.gov.

Gerald Walker

August, 7th 2012

**Gerald Walker** **Date**

**R-3 Regional Park Manager**