



2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings MT 59105

21 January, 2016

## DECISION NOTICE

TO: Environmental Quality Council\*  
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality\*  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks\*  
    Director's Office  
    Parks Division  
    Fisheries Division  
    Wildlife Division  
    Comm Ed Division  
    Lands Section  
    Design & Construction  
    Legal Unit  
    Regional Supervisors  
Tim Baker, Governor's Office\*  
Dave Parker, Communications Director, Governor's Office\*  
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office\*  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council\*  
Montana Wildlife Federation\*  
Montana State Library\*  
George Ochenski  
Bob Gibson\*  
Brett French\*  
Montana Environmental Information Center\*  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation\*  
FWP Commissioner Matt Tourtlotte\*  
Montana Parks Association/Our Montana (land acquisition projects)  
Matt Wolcott, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office\*  
Sweet Grass County Commissioners\*  
Shawn Titeca, Landowner  
Other Local Interested People or Groups\*  
\* (Sent electronically)

Dear Interested Party:

The Department prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) outlining proposed construction and improvements at the Boulder Forks Fishing Access Site (FAS.) The project is located at the confluence of the West Boulder and Boulder Rivers on Highway

298, 16 miles southwest of Big Timber in Sweet Grass County, Montana.

In an effort to reduce conflicts with the neighboring landowner, enhance recreational opportunities, and reduce resource degradation, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is proposing to improve the parking and boat launching facilities at Boulder Forks FAS.

Proposed improvements include; extending the existing access road, developing a new gravel boat ramp on the Boulder River, developing a new designated parking area, improving the existing parking area, and installing fencing around the existing pioneered boat launch. The EA also analyzed camping area improvements which the Department intends to construct as funding becomes available.

The draft EA was noticed and circulated for public comment from November 25 to December 30, 2015 to interested agencies, groups, and persons. The draft EA was also posted on the FWP website. As the result of a request, the public comment period was extended until January 20, 2016. Six public comments were received. Four of the comments supported the proposed improvements, one comment expressed concern about using funds to encourage floating at this site when takeout access is limited downstream, and one commenter felt the FAS should be closed to boat use. Two of the comments also suggested additional signage to help reduce landowner conflicts. Additional signage is part of this proposed project.

After reviewing the proposal and corresponding comments, it is my decision to approve the planned improvements at Boulder Forks FAS as proposed. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, you may contact me at [bbeck@mt.gov](mailto:bbeck@mt.gov) or 247-2951.



Barb S. Beck  
Regional Supervisor, Region 5