

Glenda Wiles

From: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 9:29 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Rose, Sharon
Subject: Stevensville Bridge FAS Acquisition & Development--Draft EA

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) seeks public review and comment on its proposal to accept the donation from a private landowner, of approximately 7 acres along the Bitterroot River near Stevensville in Ravalli County. FWP proposes to acquire this land with the intention of providing additional public access to the river and developing the Stevensville Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS). Proposed developments at the FAS would include: designated parking areas, gravel access road, primitive camping area, concrete vault latrine, boundary and interior fencing, bicycle/pedestrian and ADA trail connections, and informational signs. The site has been used locally for river access without facilities, and the existing area where boaters have traditionally launched would continue to serve as the designated launch at the FAS. In addition to improving recreational opportunities along the Bitterroot River, development of the site would provide opportunity to restore the riparian area by revegetating portions of the streambank denuded by past heavy recreational use.

The draft EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning June 7).

The direct webpage for this proposal is: http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/acquisitionsTradesAndLeases/pn_0217.html

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or directed to Sharon Rose at the mail or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than July 6, 2018.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), FWP Region 2 plans to issue the **Decision Notice** for this EA very soon after the end of the public comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition and development proposals, and FWP expects to ask the Commission to render its decision at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 9th in Helena.

Thank you.

Sharon Rose
Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: (406) 542-5540
shrose@mt.gov
[Montana FWP](#)

June 8, 2018

Send comments to:

Legislative Services Division

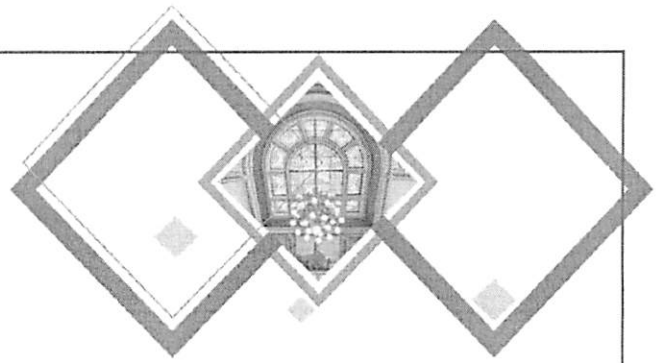
attn: Hope Stockwell

PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620

or

hstockwell@mt.gov

(include 'AIS funding proposal' in the subject line)



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Environmental Quality Council welcomes public comment on the following proposal through **Monday, July 9**.

The EQC proposes a new funding structure for Montana's AIS programs as noted in the chart below. Currently, hydroelectric fees provide \$3.7 million in annual funding and the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass purchased by anglers generates about \$3 million per year. The EQC instead proposes using a combination of general fund, gas taxes generated by motorboat use, and angler and watercraft fees to provide future funding. Hydroelectric fees would not be collected.

Funding Sources Proposed by EQC, May 2018	Annual estimated revenue
Anglers/Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass* (Resident=\$4, Nonresident=\$7.50)	\$2,079,120
Resident motorized watercraft fee (\$25/year)	\$1,734,250
General Fund, statutory appropriation	\$1,160,000
Nonmotorized watercraft fee (Resident=\$10, Nonresident=\$10)	\$640,350
Motorized watercraft-generated gas tax	\$500,000
Nonresident motorized watercraft fee (\$60/year)	\$386,280
Commercial watercraft fee (\$100/year)	TBD
Total estimated annual revenue	\$6,500,000

*Current Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass fees = \$2/resident and \$15/nonresident

The EQC will review comments received at its July 25-26 meeting in Helena as it considers whether to move this concept forward for consideration by the full legislature in 2019.