



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** April 1, 2021

**Agenda Item:** Fishing Access Site Annual Rule

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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**Background:** FWP is recommending the commission adopt a Fishing Access Site (FAS) Annual Rule for 2021. The rule pertains to:

- Fees (camping, group use permits, facility rentals, special recreation permits);
- Stipulations on camping at fishing access sites;
- Group Use Permit requirements (groups of more than 30 people);
- Special Recreation Permit requirements (permit system in place on the Blackfoot and Madison rivers for commercial use, competitive events, organized group activities).

The new rule would replace the current FAS Biennial Rule, which was adopted by the commission in December 2018. The proposed rule contains no changes to the fees, stipulations or regulations governing the activities listed above. It is intended to be in place for only one year, during which time FWP intends to conduct a thorough review of these rules in conjunction with a review of the Public Use Rules (ARM 12.8. 201 et seq) which also pertain to the FAS program. It is hoped this review will result in modernized rules with less need for annual/biennial reauthorization.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The Department released the proposed rule for public comment on February 26 and the comment period extends until March 27. As of March 9, no comments have been received. If any comments are received, the commission will be provided with copies in advance of the April meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The commission could deny the rule and request additional public comment or accept the rule as proposed. The lack of interest in this rule at this point in time suggests that accepting the rule for the short one-year duration is an acceptable and effective way to move forward.

**Proposed Motion:** I move that the commission adopt as final the Fishing Access Site Annual Rule for a one-year period.