



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** April 1, 2021

**Agenda Item:** Madison River Recreation Workgroup Selection Process

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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**Background:** Madison River Recreation rules were approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in November 2020 and were adopted as ARM rules (12.11.6701-6715) by the Secretary of State in December 2020. The rules included the establishment of an advisory workgroup, which will consist of 12 members who are appointed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission for three-year terms. The charge of the workgroup is to develop recommendations to the commission regarding: 1) the allocation of commercial-use trips to outfitters; 2) a process to permit new outfitters on the Madison River; 3) rule language to address all recreational use on the Madison River, including the walk/wade and rest/rotation sections; and 4) consequences of permit violations.

The workgroup shall consist of: 1) three commercial outfitters with a current Madison River Special Recreation Use permit; 2) three non-commercial Madison River users; 3) two individuals with a Madison Valley business interest not connected to commercial outfitting; 4) one individual trained in natural resource management and not currently working for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; 5) one Fish and Wildlife Commissioner; 6) one Bureau of Land Management representative; 7) one at-large member whose selected qualities are largely outside the descriptions of other work Group members.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** FWP will issue a press release seeking applications for the workgroup emphasizing a need for persons desiring to work in a collaborative fashion. A public application process will extend from April 2 to 23. The department will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to the commission who will make appointments to the workgroup at the May meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The commission could delay the process of appointing workgroup members for the purpose of either developing a different application process or to allow more time for applications to be submitted.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission endorse the department to accept and review applications for the Madison River Recreation Workgroup and provide workgroup recommendations to the commission.