



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** December 27, 2021

**Agenda Item:** Repeal Administrative Rule 12.11.6706 regarding the Rest/Rotation sections of the Madison River

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minute presentation – lengthy public comment portion

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## **Background:**

In September of 2020, the Fish and Wildlife Commission proposed several options for rule language regarding recreational use of the Madison River. In December 2020, the Commission adopted the Madison River Recreation Management administrative rules establishing a Madison River Management Plan that included reporting requirements, walk/wade sections, a cap on commercial use, rest/rotation sections, and the Madison River Work Group. The stated intent of the adopted administrative rules and plan were to replace the regulations currently in place.

Accordingly, the Madison River Work Group was established to review the administrative rules and develop rule recommendations for the Commission's approval. On September 22, the Work Group met and approved recommending to the Commission a repeal ARM 12.11.6706 establishing rest/rotation sections of the river.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results:**

The Commission's proposal to repeal ARM 12.11.6706 was combined with the Commission's proposal to repeal ARM 12.11.6702 regarding the walk/wade sections of the Madison River. Public comment was provided regarding both rules. Almost 350 comments were received on the proposed repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706. Of the almost 350 comments received, over 200 addressed the proposal to repeal the rest/rotation sections of the Madison River. Almost 200 comments opposed repealing the ARM 12.11.6706, and 15 supported it.

## **Alternatives & Analysis:**

The Commission has two options: 1) repeal ARM 12.11.6706 as proposed, with the effect of having no rest/rotation sections on the Madison, or 2) not repeal ARM 12.11.6706 and rest/rotation as described in the ARM would become effective January 1, 2022.

## **Proposed Motion:**

Motion for Option 1: I move the Commission adopt repealing ARM 12.11.6706 as proposed, eliminating rest/rotation of commercial use on the Madison River.

Motion for Option 2: I move the Commission does not adopt the proposed repeal of ARM 12.11.6706, thus keeping rest/rotation of commercial use on the Madison River effective January 1, 2022.