

From: [lunargreenlunargreen](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support the Walk-Wade regulation and rest-rotation rules
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 7:05:57 PM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. It is dishonest to claim there is no public support for these when overwhelming support was demonstrated just last year.

We are blessed with the Madison River. This resource has been particularly strained recently and needs a break from the pressures of commercial fishing. Montanan's have worked to protect the Madison and Montana taxpayers have funded the efforts. The interest of all Montanan's deserve to be protected rather than a few with unfair influence.

Jeff Giles

From: [Chuck Otto](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rules
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 5:15:03 PM

I just wanted to voice my support for keeping the walk/wade and rest rotation rules for the Madison River. The river is a great resource but it need a little rest to keep it from being loved to death. Please listen and keep the resource in mind. Thank you.

Chuck Otto, Anaconda Montana.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Gorder](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments Opposing Repeal of New Administrative Rules on the Madison
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 4:43:21 PM
Attachments: [HHA -- MadisonRecRulesCommentLetter \(12-17-21\).pdf](#)

Comments attached.

Thank you,

From: [Marcus Strange](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MWF Madison Comments
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 12:14:33 PM
Attachments: [Madison Rec Rule Comment Letter to Commission 12_17_2021.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,

Attached is the MWF comment letter on the Madison rec rule. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers!



Marcus Strange (He/Him)
Director of State Policy and Government
Relations
Montana Wildlife Federation

☎ (406) 4580227 | (406) 9162585
✉ mstrange@mtwf.org
🌐 www.montanawildlife.org
[montanawildlife.org]
📍 PO Box 1175, Helena, MT, 59624

[Become a Wildlife Advocate](#)
[montanawildlife.org]

I gratefully acknowledge I live, work, hunt, fish, and grow in the homeland of the Niitsípiis-stahkoií and Salish Kootenai. Visit <https://native-land.ca/> [native-land.ca] to learn more about the Indigenous land where you live.

From: [Adam Ferguson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Repeal of Walk Wade Rules
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 12:08:30 PM

I am writing to express my opposition to the repeal of the Madison River walk-wade rules and rest rotation rules being considered by the committee. The River has seen an immense increase in fishing pressure due to Covid-19, popularity of the River, shows like Yellowstone, etc. The increase in fisherman over the last two seasons has been incredible and no doubt has added pressure to the fish. Additionally, the recent dam failure undoubtedly stressed fish and will reduce numbers of fish for years to come due to the loss of redds.

I believe it benefits the resource, as well as the public, to limit commercial floats and to limit fishing from boats above Lyon's bridge and below Ennis Fishing Access.

Adam W. Ferguson | Attorney at Law
1886 The Alameda | San Jose, CA 95126
55 West First Street | Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Direct 408.296.3602 | Main 408.296.3700
Fax 408.296.3701 www.ferglawgroup.com [ferglawgroup.com]

From: [John Sullivan](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Support for Current Rec Plan
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 11:24:57 AM

Dear Madison River Commission:

I write this letter to express strong support for the current Madison River Recreation Plan. The current plan was finalized last year with overwhelming public support, including the the Walk-Wade and Rest-rotation elements of the plan. The plan was devised after hours of meetings, discussions and public comments. Myself and 4,500 other members of the public voiced support of that plan.

I strongly oppose any changes to this plan. Please respect previous decisions and the desire of the public. Allow the plan to take effect so can measure the results.

John B. Sullivan III
Missoula, Montana
johnbsullivaniii@gmail.com
406-360-4086

From: [Kirwan Webb](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 11:10:15 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Hello,

Please accept this as public comment against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2019/2020. The survey put out in 2019/2020 regarding the proposed rest rotation and walk and wade sections were approved by the commission after petitions and overwhelming support by the public. I urge you to reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest rotation and walk and wade on the Madison.

I support the walk and wade regulation on the upper river and the rest rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you for your time and listening to a concerned sportsman and consevationist.

B. Kirwan Webb, MD
2735 Floral Blvd
Butte, MT 59701

From: [Mary Sutherland](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment Madison River regulations
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 11:08:00 AM

Hello,

Please accept this as a public comment against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2019/2020. The survey put out in 2019/2020 regarding the proposed rest rotation and walk and wade sections were approved by the commission after petitions and *overwhelming* support by the public. I urge you to reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest rotation and walk and wade on the Madison.

I support the walk and wade regulation on the upper river and the rest rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you,
Mary Sutherland

From: [Erin McCarty](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:53:02 AM

Hello-

I wanted to comment that I support the Walk -Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provides one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the Public to recreate on, free of intense commercial use.

Thank you for your consideration.
Erin McCarty

From: [Don Clark](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Cc: [Don Clark](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARN regulation 12.11.6702
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:35:49 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am emailing you to encourage retention of regulation 12.11.6702 in its entirety and specifically as it applies to the section from Ennis Fishing Access Site to Ennis Reservoir. Walk/wade sections provide safe fishing conditions for fisherman and boats on these sections will make it less safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don and Beverly Clark
Bozeman, Montana

From: [trout wrangler](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Rules Comment
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:29:09 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this as a personal public comment against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2019/2020.

While I don't agree with all of the provisions of the recreation rules, over 60% of the survey responses in 2019/2020 were in support of the proposed rest rotation and walk and wade sections that were approved by the commission. The recent misinformation campaign by the FWP Director's office, which stated there was no public support for the recreation rules is simply false. Furthermore, the current amalgamation of the Madison Working Group was hand selected for a desired outcome. This commission does not have a mandate from the public to repeal these rules, and doing so goes against the spirit of public participation and is cause for deep concern for the future of the public process in Montana.

If this commission wants to revisit amendments to the rules at a later date, they must go through a transparent, and formal MAPA process.

I urge you to reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest rotation and walk and wade on the Madison.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Chris Edgington
630 Barnett Ave.
Dillon, MT. 59725

From: [Mark Mariano](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against the repeal of the Madison River Recreation Rules
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:09:51 AM

Hello,

I'm against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2019/2020. The survey put out in 2019/2020 regarding the proposed rest-rotation and walk and wade sections were approved by the commission after petitions and *overwhelming support by the public*. Please, reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest-rotation and walk and wade on the Madison River.

I support the walk and wade regulation on the upper river and the rest rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you for your time and listening to a concerned sportsman, conservationist, and ecologist.

Sincerely,

Mark Mariano Jr.
105 Obrien Lane
Butte, MT 59701
406-491-5722

From: [Greg Munther](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 8:22:10 AM

Diversity. Diversity. Diversity

The Madison is long enough to accomodate diversity of opportunity/experience. Diversity to walk in and wade without a parade of boats on one section. Diversity to allow Montanans to experience the river a couple of days a week on one section without a parade of guided boats.

Keep the regulations that were thoroughly vetted already.

Greg Munther
1295 Lena Lane
Missoula Montana 59804

From: [Ryan Koch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose repeal
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 5:00:18 AM

I want to be very clear that as a former resident of Montana, and now a non-resident of Montana, that I wholeheartedly oppose a repeal of the rules that allow resting/rotation and walk/wade sections of the Madison.

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you.

Ryan Koch

From: [Eric Larson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:20:42 PM

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan.

Over 7,500 people participated in the last regulatory process and over 5,000 supported walk-wade and rest -rotation.

Your attempt of changing this goes against what Montanans want and does not promote recreation opportunities for Montanans or a quality environment for wildlife.

The commission needs to support recreation opportunities for Montanans and solutions that promote wildlife. The commission should not be solely focused on the interests of guides and outfitters.

From: [Dylan Livingston](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT REPEAL Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation Rules
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 9:39:12 PM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Dylan Livingston

Butte, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clayton Elliott](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on MAR Notice No. 12-553
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 8:35:09 PM
Attachments: [ElliottComments Madison FWCommission.pdf](#)

Please find attached personal comments on the above referenced MAR Notice. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Clayton Elliott

From: [Casey Hackathorn](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 7:43:42 PM

I oppose repeal of the Madison River Recreation Plan that was developed through an inclusive and consensus process.

Casey Hackathorn
Missoula, MT

From: [WALKER JAMES J](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] oppose the repeal
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 5:31:35 PM

I strongly oppose the repeal of the two Madison River commission rules ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706. The upper Madison is complete disaster in the summer, mostly due to the overuse by guides and outfitters. Do NOT cave to the lobbying efforts by commercial river users to kill these rules.

Jim Walker
Ennis

From: [Les Castren](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec Rules
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 1:10:34 PM

Commissioners

I OPPOSE the FWP commissions effort to negate the Madison River Recreation Plan that was negotiated

In good faith (or so sportsmen thought) back in 2020. I DO SUPPORT the Wade -Walk and Rest rotation

Elements of the 2020 plan. This commission needs to respect the plan that was already completed and

Support and vote FOR it.

THANK YOU

LES CASTREN

BUTTE MONTANA

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail[go.microsoft.com]) for Windows

From: [Raymond Gross](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on the Proposed change to the madison river rules
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 9:29:47 AM

Comment on Proposed Rule Change on the Madison River Rules

I oppose the proposed rule change. Again the FWP Department and Commission are catering to outfitters. These rules were overwhelmingly supported by the public. Please don't change them. Do not change the rules: To allow fishing from a boat from Raynolds Pass fishing access site to Lyons Bridge on Saturdays and Sundays from June 15 to Sept. 30 under a trial program. Prohibit outfitters and guides from conducting business between June 15 and Sept. 30 between Lyons Bridge and Palisades day use area on Sundays and from Raynolds Pass FAS to Lyons Bridge on Saturdays.

The rules were devised after hours of meetings, discussions and public comments.

Raymond Gross
Dillon, Montana

From: [William Masella](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec. Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 5:38:44 PM

I understand that the Commission plans to change some of the Madison River Rec. rules adopted this past year. I wholeheartedly support the walk/wade regulation on the upper river. I further support the rest/rotation rules that provides the river to be restored to Native Montana recreationists on Saturday and Sunday when working Montanans can access the river unobstructed by guides and out of state anglers. You should be very concerned about the additional stress on the fishery and not\$\$\$ in the coffers of private enterprise.
DO NOT CHANGE THE RULES !!

RESPECTFULLY,
Bill Masella
220 Balsam Street
Anaconda, MT
59711

From: [Sue Wickliffe](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules on the upper Madison River (GGTU—George Grant Trout Unlimited)
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:39:31 PM
Attachments: [Susan's support of the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the upper Madison River.docx](#)

See attachment

From: pjw77deathtolife@gmail.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules on the upper Madison River (GGTU—George Grant Trout Unlimited)
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:31:20 PM
Attachments: [Support of the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules on upper Madison River.docx](#)

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail[go.microsoft.com]) for Windows

From: [Zach Luebeck](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River repeal
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 3:03:58 PM

Please accept these comments in opposition to the proposed repeal of the walk-wade and restoration rules on the Madison River.

I fully support both rules on the Madison River. Inaction from Montana FWP has led to near complete commercialization of the Madison River in a very intense competitive environment. Therefore, to level the playing field for the traditional sportsmen and recreationist, both the walk-wade and restoration rules are critical.

I am strongly advising the Montana Fish & Game Commission to PLEASE withdraw the proposed repeal of the Madison River rules, and stand with Montana sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Zach Luebeck
17 Queens Court
Butte, MT

From: [Les Castren](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:57:56 PM

Commissioners

It is unfortunate that Skyline Sportsmen's Assoc. and its membership must AGAIN comment and press the FWP commission

To do the right thing. Skyline thought we had a deal on the Madison River rules in 2020 only to have this new commission

repeal the rules for no reason but politics! SO once AGAIN Skyline Sportsmen's Assoc. SUPPORTS the Madison River Recreation plan

and asks this commission NOT to make ANY changes. Skyline SUPPORTS the walk-wade and rest rotation segments of the plan already negotiated.

THANK YOU

LES CASTREN

Skyline Sportsmen's Assoc.

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: luebeckj@gmail.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk wade and rest rotation rules.
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:57:15 PM

Please accept these comments in opposition to the proposed repeal of the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison River.

I fish the Madison river and I would like you to maintain the walk wade and rest rotation rules. Commercial fishing is out of control.

PLEASE withdraw the proposed repeal of the Madison River rules and allow the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison River to go into effect in 2022.

Thank you!

Jill Luebeck
9 Pine Marten Lane
Philipsburg, Montana

From: [roy](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Rules Comment
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:51:15 PM

Commissioners,

Please accept my comments against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2020. The survey put out in 2020 regarding the proposed rest rotation and walk and wade sections were approved by the commission after petitions and overwhelming support by the public. It's my understand that the Commission has intentions of eliminating all the wade/walk section on the Madison your meeting on December 15th. I urge you to reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest rotation and walk and wade on the Madison. I support the walk and wade regulation on the upper Madison and the rest/rotation that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday free from the intense pressure of commercial users.

Thank you for your time,
Roy Morris

Roy Morris
2901 Quincy
Butte, MT
406-491-4255
roy@montana.com

From: [CASEY JOHNSTON](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River ARM
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 10:10:23 AM

All, as a Montana native and fisherman, I oppose the repeals of the Madison river ARMs that were drafted as an attempt to protect the fisheries and opportunities for enjoyment of the Madison River! I recently volunteered to help save fish stranded by the Hebgen dam issues. This river is a Montana treasure and these ARMs help to protect the resource and opportunities! Please institute the rules as written!!

Casey Johnston
96 Pumphouse Road
Divide, Montana 59727

From: drmauldin@windstream.net
To: FWP.Madison.River.COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Support Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 5:11:37 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a frequent fly fishing visitor to the West. I spent an average of \$4000 to \$7000 each visit. If the over crowding on your rivers persists, the reason for my visits end. I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules passed last year by your committee. To change them is tantamount to killing the golden goose in your state.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Mauldin

John Mauldin, Ph.D.

Phone: 706-402-3525 Fax: 706-579-2247

This is a confidential email. If it was sent to the wrong person, please delete and notify the sender.

From: [Mike Krzan](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 9:57:17 PM

I support GGTU Butte Chapter's comments there was comments 2020 and I thought this issue was resolved.
I do not agree with the new Madison committee
Mike Krzan

Sent from my iPad

From: sluebeck@gmail.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River repeal
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:40:20 PM

Please accept these comments in opposition to the proposed repeal of the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison River.

I fully support both the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison River. FWP inaction on the Madison River has led to intense commercialization of the river and an intense competitive environment. In order to restore some balance on the Madison for the unguided Montana resident, both the walk-wade and restoration rules are critical.

The commission's justification for the proposed repeal is "no public support" for either rule. The "diplomatic" way to describe this claim is the claim is simply false. There has been overwhelming support for both walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison. During the 2019 survey of Madison river users, over 4,000 survey respondents supported walk-wade and rest-rotation. During the fall 2020 comment period, once again the public demonstrated overwhelming support for walk-wade and rest-rotation. The commission needs to review the 2019 and 2020 public input process, and then they would not be pushing the absurd claim of no public support for the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules.

Please withdraw the proposed repeal of the Madison River rules, and allow the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Madison River to go into effect in 2022.

Sincerely,

Steve Luebeck
9 Pine Marten Lane
Philipsburg, MT

From: [Forrest Jay](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Rules Comment
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 6:51:28 PM

Hello,

Please accept this as public comment against repealing the Madison River recreation rules approved in 2020. The survey put out in 2020 regarding the proposed rest rotation and walk and wade sections were approved by the commission after petitions and overwhelming support by the public. I urge you to reconsider your recommendation to repeal those rules and refer to previous comments in support of rest rotation and walk and wade on the Madison.

I support the walk and wade regulation on the upper river and the rest rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you for your time and listening to a concerned sportsman, conservationist, and guide.

Thanks,

Forrest Jay
70 Lime Kiln Rd.
Butte, MT 59701
406-565-1623

From: [Mary Hamming](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 5:26:37 PM

I am writing to voice my support of the Walk- Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules. Providing one short section of the river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to use for recreation makes sense. Keeping this section free of heavy commercial use will enhance the public's enjoyment of the river. Giving designated areas of the river a break from commercial fishing will be beneficial.

Mary Hamming

From: [marty petritz](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River comment
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:48:33 PM

FWP commission,

I am opposed to the repeal of ARM 12-11-6702 (Walk Wade Sections of the Madison River) and 12-11-6706 (Rest/Rotation of Madison River Commercial Use). I strongly support both the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation for commercial use rules on the Madison River. I supported the walk/wade and rest/rotation in the beginning of this process two years ago along with the majority of the public who commented. I have lost all trust in this FWP commission after the passage of HB637 , and this repeal. It seems that public comment isn't importance to any of you even when the public is the majority. Please do not repeal!

Thank you
Martin F Petritz
2920 bayard av
Butte, MT 59701
4064907611

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Carl Hamming](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the Existing Madison River Rec Rules
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:35:56 PM

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am vehemently opposed to removing or altering any of the adopted Madison River Rec. rules.

I believe preserving a walk-wade section offers an excellent opportunity for those not able to float and provides access for the rest. It has also been an established benefit and tool to require rest & rotation sections that promote fishery health and visitor experience (guided or non-guided).

The Madison is a special place and many people care deeply about it. Hence why so many surveys were submitted and comments received through this multi-year rule implementation process. The public has spoken and they overwhelmingly demanded recreation rules and limitations on the river. After the recent dam malfunction, these coming years are going to be even more fragile and more critical to fishery health and sustainability of our beloved Madison.

It's obvious that the rules won't fix everything and be perfect from the onset, but let the rules take effect, collect data, make adjustments, and strike a balance that enables all river users to enjoy Montana's gem - afterall it is a public resource, for the public, held in the public trust.

Carl Hamming
Anaconda, MT

From: [Ed Dobb](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:26:36 PM

Commission:

Please make NO changes to the current access rules regarding the Madison River.

Thank You

Edgar Dobb

2415 Locust st

Butte Mt

From: [Anna Nugent](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support the Walk-Wade regulation and rest-rotation rules
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:10:08 PM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. It is dishonest to claim there is no public support for these when overwhelming support was demonstrated just last year.

We are blessed with the Madison River. This resource has been particularly strained recently and needs a break from the pressures of commercial fishing. Montanan's have worked to protect the Madison and Montana taxpayers have funded the efforts. The interest of all Montanan's deserve to be protected rather than a few with unfair influence.

Anna Nugent

From: [Tony Schoonen](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal to repeal Madison River Recreation Rules
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10:43:36 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am not in favor of repealing or changing the existing Madison River Recreation Rules. These rules were developed by a diverse group of folks over an extended period of time and were well thought out taking into consideration the Madison River is a public resource. While I understand the commercial aspects of river use and folks need to run their businesses, given the river is a public resource the public should have an opportunity to enjoy their resource free of commercial use and the existing rest rotation rules provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday. I don't believe that is asking too much.

I also support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Tony A. Schoonen

From: [Penny MABIE](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10:22:46 AM

Dear Commission members,

I'm writing to express my support, as a member of the public, for leaving the current regulations intact on the Madison River.

Specifically, I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of the river on Saturday and Sunday for the public, such as myself, to fish and recreate on free of the intense commercial use that occurs.

Please leave things as they are. These regulations have well served the public who wish to recreate peacefully on and in the river and should be maintained.

Penny Mabie
Pmabie01@gmail.com

From: [David Duffy](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk wade rules on the Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 9:50:12 AM

I support the walk wade rules on the upper Madison River. And in addition I support the rest rotation to make a short section of the River free from intense commercial use.

Montana has the finest trout fishing in the world and can keep it this way with these rules.

I urge you to not make any changes to these rules.

David Duffy
2922 Mammoth Drive
Butte, MT 59701

From: [Tony Bynum](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:21:04 AM

Hello, I'm a voting resident and for as long as I have been able, I have purchased hunting and fishing licenses here in Montana. Flyfishing, hunting, and the outdoors have been my life's work for 50 years. One of my first memories of flyfishing was on the Madison, back in 1982. My dad took me there because it was where he formed his early memories of flyfishing as well.

I believe the current plan is sufficient to maintain the health and quality of the river and all of its users. Please DO NOT change the walk and wade and the rest rotation rules.

For a change, use the rules our grandfathers taught us, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Tony Bynum

--

[Tony Bynum Photography \[tonybynum.com\]](#)- Outdoor Imagery - Real, Relevant, Right

Instagram: [@huntphotos \[instagram.com\]](#)

Twitter: @tonybynum

Office: 406.226.9151

Cell: 406.450.8187

[\[tonybynum.com\]](#)



Virus-free. [www.avast.com \[avast.com\]](#)

[\[avast.com\]](#)

From: mtrobin@charter.net
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support the Walk-Wade regulation on the Madison
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:31:08 AM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you

Robin McKernan

1614 W Park Ave

Anaconda, MT 59711

406-559-6262

From: [Forrest Jay](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Cc: president@ggtu.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] GGTU Comment on proposed repeal of Madison Rules
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 7:52:07 AM
Attachments: [GGTU Comment - proposed repeal of Madison rules 2022.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Please see the attached comments on the Commission's proposed repeal of the Madison rules adopted in 2020. A hard copy is being mailed today.

Thanks,

Forrest Jay

GGTU President

From: [Robert Wood](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Comment
Date: Sunday, December 12, 2021 10:16:32 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm a Montana Sportsman. I totally support the Walk-Wade and Rest-rotation elements of the plan.

There's enough time for those that use this river commercially that's left over. Not all of our resources need to be utilized by the commercial interests this much.

Robert Wood
Hamilton, Mt

From: [RALPH RIPLEY](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Rules
Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021 9:43:20 PM

I support the walk-wade regulation for the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation on one short section of the river on Saturday and Sunday free of intense commercial use.

Ralph Ripley

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ryan Mugan](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Comment
Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021 10:53:12 AM

Hello -

I am an avid fisherman in Washington State. I am emailing you to communicate that I strongly oppose changes to the Madison River Recreation plan.

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

I am very much a DIY fly fisherman and changes like the ones being proposed very much dissuade me from traveling to these rivers. Please keep the Madison River a viable resource to the general public and not just those that can afford commercial trips.

Thank you,
Ryan Mugan

From: [Steve Wellington](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Madison River
Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021 7:12:08 AM

As taxpayers and recreators in this great state, my family and I support the walk-wade regulation on the upper madison river and the restoration rules that provide one section of river on saturday and sunday for the public to recreate on, free of commercial use. Thank you for submitting my comments, God Bless,

Steve Wellington

From: [Jen Johnson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Madison River walk-wade and rest rotation rule public comment
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 11:28:44 PM

Dear FWP,

I'm a lifelong resident of Montana and have relied on FWP commitment to serving Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm and push out the recreational user. Commercial use of State and Federal resources is a privilege and should not interfere with the ability of the public to use or access those resources. Montanans made it clear that we support walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. We did not change our mind about this, rather commercial interests are now attempting to disenfranchise the average user in the name of internal profits. Please dont allow that to happen.

Thank you,

Jennifer Johnson
Bozeman, MT

From: [Patrick Doyle](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FWP - Don't commercialize the Madison!
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 6:02:52 PM

I am against any change to the current Madison River Recreation Plan in regards to the walk-wade regulations and the rest-rotation days Sat/Sun. Additional Commercialization is not what is needed on a river that is already well past its limits. Stop thinking about the money and start thinking about sustainability if you want to change anything.

From: [Ryan Williams](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#); madisonriver@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support walk wade
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 5:52:23 PM

I am a resident of Montana and have relied on FWP commitment to serving Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm the recreational user. Commercial activity of public resources is a privilege and should not detract from the average user of national resources.

Reflect of what who your commission serves and what we lose by amping commercial activities on public national resources.

From: [David Ballman](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Plan
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 2:57:26 PM

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks:

I am submitting these comments on the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan (the Plan) that are an outgrowth of the Fish and Wildlife Commission's rulemaking process to revise the Plan.

The proposed changes would be a major setback for the public's use and enjoyment of the Madison River. The proposed rulemaking would in effect repeal existing rules that give the general public the ability to enjoy and recreate on the upper Madison free of the intense commercial pressure that exists and continues to grow. Overuse by commercial interests is destroying this resource that we all say we value. Visitors will eventually stop paying to fish a river as hopelessly crowded as this once great trout stream is becoming and the entire local economy—not just the outfitters—will suffer.

I fully support the existing walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The public supported these rules overwhelmingly in 2020. For the Commission to set aside these strongly and publicly supported rules would be ill considered and a clear affront to the general public. Surely, the general public deserves the opportunity to enjoy the public resource the Madison River represents for a couple of days a week, free from the intense commercial guiding pressure that exists and is growing on the Madison. Adding additional stretches of the river included in the rest-rotation is what should be studied!

Dave Ballman

Lewistown, MT

From: [Patrick Mcelhanev](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rec use rules
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 1:15:26 PM

Are you out of your everloving minds?

The economic benefit of the minimally restrictive rules has paid great benefits to the community, both thru increased resident use and attractiveness as a visitor destination. And we visitors spend a bunch of money when we visit fishing destinations.

Think before you act.

Patrick mcelhanev
A visitor from Jacksonville,Florida

From: [Cameron Thomson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 11:41:20 AM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly. I hear Idaho and Canada has good fishing

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

regards,
Cameron Thomson

From: [Mikal Harpster](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Walk-Wade
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 10:16:33 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Without this the Madison River will never catch a break.....

Mikal Harpster

From: [Chad Williams](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:06:47 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-qxfqmdew.png](#)

To Whom it may concern,

I support the walk wade decision that was made regarding the upper section of the Madison river along with the rest-rotation on Saturday and Sunday. The Madison River deserves our love and respect. The last thing we want to do is love the river to death! Keep it spectacular for our grandchildren!

Chad Williams, OUT-OUT-LIC-40997
Head Guide/Shop Manager - Total Outfitters
chad@total-outfitters.com
www.total-outfitters.com [total-outfitters.com]
Cell: 406-381-0603
Fly Shop: 16366 Old US HWY 93 South, Lolo, MT. 59847



From: [Mack Martin](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River walk-wade regulation
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:06:39 AM

Gentlemen:

I am the past chairman of the Georgia TU Council of Georgia, past president of the Upper Chattahoochee TU chapter and past National Leadership Council leader for Georgia. Moreover, in that capacity I have been fortunate enough to fish the Madison River a number of times. I have witnessed the heavy fishing on the River and it appears the heavy traffic of anglers continues.

In that regard I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Please consider the future of this River by leaving current regulations unchanged.

M. A. (Mack) Martin
Manager & IFF master casting instructor
Atlanta Fly Fishing School
Atlanta, GA

From: [Robin MCKERNAN](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river recreation rules
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:03:28 AM

My name is David McKernan I would urge the commission to leave in place the rules that were adopted just one short year ago. I would also like to remind the commission that these rules were adopted with overwhelming public support (remember the survey). I especially like the walk wade option that was adopted since not all anglers have a boat. The rest rotation on 2 short sections of river give the public a chance to recreate without competing with commercial interests. In closing please reconsider your decision to repeal these rules. Thank you David McKernan --

Robin McKernan

Please note new email address: robinmckernan17@gmail.com

From: [Lisa Manley](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regulations
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 8:03:47 AM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

I don't want this rule to change.

Thank you,
Lisa Manley
Bozeman, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jim Wallace](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison regulations
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 7:59:26 AM

FWP,

Writing to state my opposition to possible deregulation of the rules that were decided upon last year. These regulations have not even been implemented and now there are proposals to eliminate them. Let's see how they might work before getting rid of them. The Madison River deserves better.

Jim Wallace
Sheridan, Montana
Sent from my iPad

From: [Kevin Williams](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river walk wade section
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 7:09:01 AM

Dear Madison river commission

I have been traveling to Montana for 18 years to fly fish. The Madison river is one of the main reasons why I come to Montana. The vast majority of the time I fish the Madison is in the walkway section which I prefer due to the lack of commercial boat traffic. If anything the walkway section should be expanded rather than eliminated. If the same is true of the rest and rotation periods.

To be clear I am against the elimination of the walk and weighed area and the area and the rest rotate regulation. I will not continue to come to the Madison if I have to fight commercial boat traffic in the entire river.

Thank you,

J. Kevin Williams, Esq. 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 930
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
202-296-3320
(f) 202-659-3768

Sent from my mobile device.

Get [BlueMail for Android \[bluemail.me\]](#)

From: [Mike](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 6:27:42 AM

I am submitting these comments on the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan.

The proposed changes would be a major setback for the public's use and enjoyment of the Madison River. The proposed rulemaking would in effect repeal existing rules that give the general public the ability to enjoy and recreate on the upper Madison free of the intense commercial pressure that exists and continues to grow.

I fully support the existing walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mike Getman
Lewistown, MT

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: [Mary Turney](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE Don't change the rules!
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 5:54:36 AM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Mary Turney
WY Co-Program Coordinator
Casting for Recovery
"To Fish is To Hope"
732 740-1569

[\[nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#)

From: [Kevin Jacobsen](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Plan
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 3:13:39 PM

I am a lifelong Montanan that uses the Madison River for recreation, such as fishing, hunting, floating, sightseeing, and relaxation. The commercial pressure has statistically increased over the years that I have recreated on or near the river. I support the walk-wade regulation and rest-rotation rules and feel this great state should continue to support programs that offer opportunities for the public to access portions of this river free of commercial pressure.

Thank you,
Kevin Jacobsen
Bozeman

From: [garrett.ouldhouse](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison Wade/walk and River rest/rotation Rules
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:07:30 PM

Dear Commissioners; The Anaconda Sportsmen's Club is opposed to the repeal of the upper Madison River wade/walk and rest and Rotation rules. They were put in place last year to give the general public opportunity to recreate on the upper Madison void of the constant pressure from the Outfitter guides and their clients. We also believe if the Madison's Working Group's intention to rescind these rules were better known there would have been plenty of Public interest: after all the river is a public resource. Again we urge a no vote for repealing these rules. Thanks for your time! Gary Ouldhouse President Anaconda Sportsmen's Club

From: [Scott Jensen](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:01:49 PM

As a resident of Montana and a former licensed fishing guide on the Madison River I am in favor of keeping both ARM 12.11.6702 (Walk/Wade sections) and ARM 12.11.6706 (Rest/Rotation). This river is frequented more and more by out-of-state fishermen, deteriorating the enjoyment of the river by Montana residents. While I understand the revenue guide service fees bring into the state, there needs to be a balance. The river can only sustain so much pressure. Keeping both of these common sense administrative rules puts some balance into the resource.

Please do not repeal these two ARM's.

Thank you!

-Scott Jensen
Belgrade, MT

From: [Richard Baccus](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River proposed rule changes
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 11:32:17 AM

I was excited to see the proposed rule changes and am really discouraged to see them lost because of the efforts of commercial interests. Having a protected portion of the Madison to fish or locals and visitors alike is precious and to destroy that is a crime. Also Managing the Madison more like the Big Hole and Beaverhead from commercial use would go a long way to saving the true Montana experience. Please keep the proposed rules in place for our children's and grandchildren's future

Thank you, Richard Baccus

Richard Baccus

579 9523

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: [Al Luebeck](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#); [Al Luebeck](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Repeal of Madison River Rules
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 9:47:04 AM

I strongly oppose repeal of the Walk/Wade Sections and Rest/Rotation from commercial use rules of sections of the Madison River which the Montana FWP Commission is proposing. This proposal is a travesty and is an indication of the disrespect and contempt that new FWP commissioners have for the rank and file sportsmen of Montana. In 2020 hundreds of sportsmen expressed their support for these same rules during a FWP Commission comment period and the previous commission adopted them. Now this Commission is endorsing the Madison River Work Group recommendation to repeal the rules because there is "lack of support for the rules." There is very strong public support for the rules. The Madison River Work Group is stacked with outfitters and outfitter sympathisers and it is no surprise the Work Group would recommend repeal of the rules. The original proposal to adopt these rules came from Sportsmen's groups in the Butte-Anaconda area, yet not one of several sportsmen from this area who applied for appointment to this work group were appointed.

This Madison River proposal fits the anti sportsman pattern which this commission seems to be adopting: strongly pro outfitter and strongly supporting privateization of our wildlife-public lands resources!

Al Luebeck
2710 Amherst Ave.
Butte, MT 59701

From: [John Palmer](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Repeal of walk/wade and rest rotate
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 9:05:49 AM

Dear Committee members, I will keep this short. I find the potential repeal to be a step backwards. It seems like overcrowding issues keep getting acknowledged then pushed down the road in search of a perfect solution. There is no solution that is perfect, the time for a plan was years ago, how much longer will it be with repeal. I'm no expert but it seems the rest, rotate, walk wade have worked on other rivers. Why not go ahead with the agreed upon plan and possibly modify later? I believe one board member wants to register every river user, I'm not sure what that plan entails but it seems incredibly complicated and time consuming. I think the correct choice is the one agreed upon I am not sure of the motivation behind the repeal but it seems like a giant step backwards with the lack of any viable time sensitive substitute. Thanks. John Palmer.

From: [Chris McCarthy](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Actions
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 7:23:43 AM

Attn: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners

I'm a resident of Belgrade, MT. and frequent floater and angler. I'm asking you to not repeal the current WALK-WADE and the REST-ROTATION rules on the upper Madison River.

Having these rules in place helps spread out the commercial users versus the local DIY floaters and anglers and minimize conflict. It also provides short sections of river for working families, such as mine, to float the Madison on the weekends without bumping into the ever growing number of commercial users.

I think you'll find that the work group's rationale for the recommended repeal, which they state as a lack of support for either rule, is not the case. The commission is tasked with managing these resources for all of Montana, not just the commercial outfitters, who make up a large portion of this work group.

Please don't repeal the current WALK-WADE and the REST-ROTATION rules on the upper Madison River.

Sincerely,
Chris McCarthy
1407 Powers Blvd.
Belgrade, MT.

From: [Justin Tumberg](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:43:22 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in to voice my opposition to any changes to the Madison River Recreation plan. As an avid angler who has fished multiple states across the west, I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. I hope to visit and be able to fish this stretch in the future. Should the proposed changes be made it will greatly reduce my interest in visiting this area and I will be forced to spend my money to travel to a separate location.

Thank you,
Justin Tumberg

From: [Mark Thompson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote No
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:37:08 PM

I am requesting the commission follows the desires of the nearly 7500 survey respondents from 2020 and DO NOT eliminate the walk/wade sections of the Madison. I also want you to consider leaving the rest rotation alone. Too many people have been involved for too long with the latest approved regulations for this young commission to dismantle it.

Mark Thompson
Butte, MT

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

From: [Brett Snyder](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation - for the Public!
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:43:39 PM

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I have done every summer for 28 years while visiting my native MT family. Allowing frequent, simple public access is the future of our Public Lands and you are responsible to be the stewards.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Sincerely,
Brett Snyder

From: [Joe DeFrancisco](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the Tules!
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:21:06 PM

Folks,

Although I live in the Northeast there is that annual trip that I look forward to every year and fishing the Madison is my favorites part.

There has been some small improvement, but much more needs to be done to bring it back to its original fishing experience. The darn river has been so overrun with guide boats it was very difficult to have some peace while wade fishing.

The sad part is that I believe this pressure has been bad for the experience. So, let's do what we can, or you can, to keep the current rules in place rather than returning to the crowded times of the past.

Trusting you will do the right thing, thank you for your help.

Regards, Joe DeFrancisco

From: [Marita Valencia](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:38:27 PM

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks:

I am submitting these comments on the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan (the Plan) that are an outgrowth of the Fish and Wildlife Commission's rulemaking process to revise the Plan.

The proposed changes would be a major setback for the public's use and enjoyment of the Madison River. The proposed rulemaking would in effect repeal existing rules that give the general public the ability to enjoy and recreate on the upper Madison free of the intense commercial pressure that exists and continues to grow. Overuse by commercial interests is destroying this resource that we all say we value. Visitors will eventually stop paying to fish a river as hopelessly crowded as this once great trout stream is becoming and the entire local economy—not just the outfitters—will suffer

I fully support the existing walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The public supported these rules overwhelmingly in 2020. For the Commission to set aside these strongly and publicly supported rules would be ill considered and a clear affront to the general public. Surely, the general public deserves the opportunity to enjoy the public resource the Madison River represents for a couple of days a week, free from the intense commercial guiding pressure that exists and is growing on the Madison.

Maria T. Valencia
2498 Castle Butte Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

From: [Troy Baccus](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Email in support of Upper Madison Regulations
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:32:52 PM

Hi,

I am writing in support of the previously proposed regulations on the Upper Madison River. Specifically, I support the walk-wade regulation as well as the rest-rotation regulation which reduces commercial fishing pressure in certain sections on Saturdays and Sundays.

I believe that protection measures that reduce fishing pressure will not only help keep the river healthy in the near term but it will also increase it's long-term value of the area to guides and landowners.

Please reach out with any questions.

Best,
Troy Baccus

(406) 600-9171
TroyBaccus@gmail.com

From: [jacob.schmitt](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposition to proposed changes
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 3:57:22 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan and strongly advocate for the retention of the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper Madison river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one section of the river on Saturday and Sunday free of intense commercial use.

Everyone in my family floats, fishes and our home waters are the Missouri and the Little Blackfoot. However, we make occasional outings to the Madison and have been repelled at the density of commercial floats that thoughtlessly invade our wading spots. The small effort in the current recreation plan do help. Please retain the current plan.

--

thank you
Jacob Schmitt

From: [Maria Evener](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison Regulations
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 1:44:29 PM

For God sakes, can you not see the absolute cluster eff on the river each summer? Keep the walk-Wade and rest-rotation regulations on the Madison River. We've got rest-rotation on the Big Hole. Works great. Greed is not good.

Maria Evener

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad \[overview.mail.yahoo.com\]](#)

From: [Kyle Vanderstoep](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changes to the Madison river Recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 1:19:02 PM

Hello,

I just heard that FWP is planning on changing the Madison River Recreation Plan, including removing the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-Rotation rules. As a resident of Montana, the ability to recreate on the Madison river is a treasure, and I strongly oppose both of those proposed changes. The current administration's goal of limiting and reducing the quality of public access to provide special access for commercial groups is incredibly troubling, and I will certainly join any effort to prevent these changes from taking effect. These rules help ensure an already busy river from not being overwhelmed by commercial use.

Please remove both these proposed changes from the Madison River Recreation Plan

Thank you,
-Kyle Vanderstoep
Bozeman, MT

From: [Bob Hohn](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk/wade
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 12:29:11 PM

I am in firm support of maintaining no fishing from boats from Reynolds to Lyons. I also support the Saturday/Sunday restrictions on outfitters. This gives wade fisherman some relief from the flotilla of boats that pressure downstream

Montana non guide residents only should be considered for exemption, since they have to endure the constant commercial pressure on this fine river.

Bob Hohn
Bellefonte, PA

From: [Joe Mierzwinski](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 12:25:14 PM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

From: [Kieran Saba](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:46:52 AM

I a Montana resident support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Please do not make any changes to the existing Madison rule. Please keep it the SAME!!!!

From: richday@bresnan.net
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:38:58 AM

I am writing to express my strong support for NOT CHANGING the current Madison River Recreation Rules adopted just a year ago.

I do support the walk-wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that allow the general public to recreate on sections of the Madison River free from intense commercial use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Day
Butte, MT

From: [Sarah Elkins](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan comment: Encourage retention of current plan.
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:34:53 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan and strongly advocate for the retention of the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper Madison river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one section of the river on Saturday and Sunday free of intense commercial use.

Everyone in my family floats, fishes and our home waters are the Missouri and the Little Blackfoot. However, we make occasional outings to the Madison and have been repelled at the density of commercial floats that thoughtlessly invade our wading spots. The small efforts to reduce the congestion in the current recreation plan are helpful. Please retain the current plan.

As a small business owner, I know the significant impact of our recreation and public lands opportunities on our local economies. When we release regulations for these precious resources, we risk critical impacts on the health and stability of that economic advantage. The current rules are an important component of protection and sustainability of our recreation and tourist economy.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Sarah Elkins
Chief Storymaker, Elkins Consulting Inc.
Author & Podcast Host: Your Stories Don't Define You, How You Tell Them Will
406-431-0355

From: [Ryan D. McCarty](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for Proposed Repeal of Madison Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:34:33 AM

I am writing for the purpose of providing public comment on the proposed repeal of the Madison Recreation Plan.

I support the Walk Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

As a tax-paying Montana resident since 2006 I am extremely disappointed in the proposed repeal. I have seen the user days on the Upper Madison River increase exponentially since I first fished the Madison in the late 80s. However, it has only been in the last few years that the river has begun to feel overcrowded, especially in the summer.

I have provided public comment previously on the Madison Recreation Plan when given the opportunity, and find it disingenuous for the Commission to now claim that the reason for the proposed repeal is lack of public support. The primary user group that opposed the rest-rotation and walk wades rules are the commercial outfitters. I am confident the general recreating public that does not have a commercial interest supported the rules that are now subject to repeal.

The loud voices from commercial interests should not be given more weight than the general public. I fish the Upper Madison on a regular basis year round and the guide traffic far outnumber recreational traffic, especially in the summer. I think the user day analysis generated by FWP showing the opposite was extremely flawed data.

I urge the Commission and the rule-making committed to not repeal the Plan. The public has spoken and it was clear the first time that it supported the rule. Special interests, i.e. commercial users, should not be allowed to unilaterally dictate how the river is regulated to their benefit.

Ryan McCarty

From: [Andy Coradeschi](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose any changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:22:22 AM

I mean, what the heck are they thinking?

--

Andy Coradeschi

From: [Bob Schmitt](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:16:26 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan and strongly advocate for the retention of the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper Madison river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one section of the river on Saturday and Sunday free of intense commercial use.

Everyone in my family floats, fishes and our home waters are the Missouri and the Little Blackfoot. However, we make occasional outings to the Madison and have been repelled at the density of commercial floats that thoughtlessly invade our wading spots. The small effort in the current recreation plan do help. Please retain the current plan.

Best regards,

Bob Schmitt
432 Harrison Ave
Helena MT 59601
ALS 07091958-9

From: [Derek Weitzel](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:13:06 AM

Hello,

I would like to comment on the Madison River recreation plan's proposed changes. I support the walk-wade regulation on the upper Madison and the rest-rotation rules that prohibit commercial use on the weekends. There are so many people and boats on the river all the time, it needs to be protected.

Thanks

Derek Weitzel

From: [Paul Siddoway](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Repeal of Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 11:03:59 AM

I support the new Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and rest-rotation that was voted on back in December 2020 and is supposed to start 1/2022. There was plenty of support for this when the rules were voted on and no good reason to repeal this rule change. Best Regards, Paul Siddoway,MD

From: [Gordon Brand](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject. Madison Recreation regulation.
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:21:37 AM

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

I support the Walk-Wade regulations on the upper Madison River upper rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of the river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate free from intense commercial use.

Sincerely

Gordon Brand

From: [Corey Mihailovich](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison recreation rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:20:22 AM

I am writing to pledge my support to the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

It was a great victory to see common sense prevail with the initiation of these rules and now to see them back on the chopping block just 1 year later is disheartening to say the least.

Let's keep Montana for Montanan's - please do not make any changes to the Madison recreation rules.

Thank you,

Dr Corey Mihailovich

From: [Michael Caterer](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to changes in Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 9:52:21 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to express my very strong desire for no changes to the Madison River Recreation plan - specifically the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules. It's inconceivable to me that the FWP would be considering changes after thousands of people expressed support for these rules when implemented just last year. These rules apply to a very small section of the river and provide relief for the public from the intense commercial activity that is clearly having an enormous impact on this important public resource.

Please understand that these rules have very strong public support and need to be preserved.
Thank you.

Michael Caterer

From: [Steve Wellman](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-Wade
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 9:17:07 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am in full support of the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that GGTU successfully petitioned last year.
Please do not repeal this measure.

Thank you

Steve Wellman
Butte, MT

From: [Brian Hale](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan- DO NOT CHANGE
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:55:19 AM

We do not want any changes to the Madison river recreation plan, we support the rest-rotation rules and want to keep commercial use out whenever possible to let the wildlife and habitat have its “days off”

Do not take back what so many fought to get.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [richard.wright](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk- Wade & Rest rotation on the Madison River
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:35:04 AM

I am a resident of Montana and have relied on FWP commitment to serving Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm the recreational user. Commercial activity of public resources is a privilege and should not detract from the average user of national resources.

Reflect of what who your commission serves and what we loose by amping commercial activities on public national resources.

Rick Wright
Belgrade MT

From: [Mike adams](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Madison
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:16:38 AM

Hello,

I copied the paragraph below, but it encapsulated my support stance. Please consider it.

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Thanks,

Mike

From: [Alexander Levene](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan Proposed Repeal
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:08:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Alexander Levene, alevene@gotodsi.com

Disability Specialists - *FSI member benefits enrollment center*

Toll Free: 888-279-8348 ext: 2017

Direct Line: 406-522-3306

Fax: 503-217-5287

[Click Here \[nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#) to upload secure files

To schedule a phone call <https://calendly.com/alexlevene> [\[calendly.com\]](#)



DISABILITY SPECIALISTS

From: [dan_willig](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison Walk Wade preservation
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:07:28 AM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Restoration rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

From: [Danelle Fogarty](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison recreation rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:39:32 AM

Please keep the newly minted Madison recreation rules intact. Industrial use of public land (and water) is a privilege, treat it with respect. Respect the RIGHTS of Montana citizens by allowing those CITIZENS to fish without the INDUSTRY intimidating them or crowding them out. I am such a citizen. I first cast a fly on the Madison in the early sixties and continued to fish that fine stream until about 7 or 8 years ago when I felt crowded out (and intimidated) by the parade of guides in drift boats...

Sincerely,

Cary B Gubler , a proud native Montanan

Sent from my iPad

From: [Justin Metcalf](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:34:25 AM

As a business owner that has created over 20 full-time jobs in Montana, and spent over \$60M on Montana affordable housing projects in the recent few years, I'd like you to know we keep our head office in Montana because of the outdoor resources. We could make more money if we moved them to Seattle, but we elect to stay here for over 25-years now because of the wonderful recreation our state has to offer. As dedicated fishermen and outdoorsmen, we all take our kids on Montana rivers all season and have experienced first-hand the dramatic increase in fishing pressure and boat traffic over the past 3-years. I simply can't fathom how the State could consider removing the walk-wade only section on the upper Madison, or eliminate the rest-rotation rules that are currently in place?

Please reconsider this. It's going against existing policies that are proven to both improve fisheries and reduce tensions between commercial guides and the public.

Sincerely,

Justin Metcalf

Wishcamper Development Partners

cell: 406.550.1244

Conference: 605-313-4154 / 640274#

wishcamperpartners.com [wishcamperpartners.com]

From: [Zane Koss](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO CHANGES to Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:25:31 AM

Hello,

I am not a Montanan, but I am a fly fisher planning to visit your great state, who has enjoyed many visits to Montana in the past -- I even bought my wedding band in Kalispell many years ago.

I oppose the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Management Plan -- that is, I oppose the proposal to eliminate the current walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Upper Madison. Maintaining these regulations means a less crowded river, with more democratic access, and better fishing opportunities. To repeal these rules would fundamentally damage this fishery. If these changes occurred, I would likely change my plans and choose to visit a neighboring state instead.

Please keep the current protections in place -- or better yet, increase them!

Best wishes,
Zane Koss.
244 Greene St.
New York, NY
10003

From: [David Howe](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River rule changes.
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:05:31 AM

To who it may concern,

I'm tired of the land grab of our natural resources. I am 100% opposed to any rule changes as far as the walk Wade or rest rotation in the Madison river on any stretch of it. Keep it the way it is now. Do not change any rule. This will have an effect on how we vote in the upcoming elections. We live here, we recreate here and we vote here. Thank you.

D Howe

Sent from my iPhone

From: [YES Compost LLC](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support Madison River Walk-wade and Rest Period
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:04:12 AM

Hello,

I live in Bozeman and recently heard about the effort to overturn the legislation that allows for walk-wade on the Madison as well as the weekend rest period. I STRONGLY disagree with this, and hope that you will see the benefits of these programs. The walk-wade is a way to allow local sportspeople to enjoy the river without the cost of a guide. The rest period is much needed given the extreme crowding of guided trips that the river already faces. Please protect our river and preserve it for local enjoyment/recreation by continuing to allow walk-wade as well as providing the much needed rest periods.

Thank you for your consideration and action to make this happen.
-Karl

--



KARL JOHNSON | OWNER-OPERATOR

[\(406\) 219-7011](tel:(406)219-7011) | [\[yescompost.com\]](mailto:yescompost.com)yescompost.com [\[yescompost.com\]](mailto:yescompost.com)

[215 ARDEN DRIVE, BELGRADE, MT 59714](http://215ARDENDRIVE.BELGRADE.MT.59714)

[\[maps.google.com\]](https://maps.google.com)

From: [Rhys Panero](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:28:57 AM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

-Rhys Panero

From: [Hayden Jordan](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] To whom it may concern
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:17:11 AM

My name is Hayden Jordan and I live in Tennessee and am an avid fly fishermen. There's been talk about wanting to repeal the walk-wade regulation that was made last year, along with the rest-rotation rules that were set in place. Please understand if you appeal those, myself and thousands and thousands of other tax paying travelers will definitely not come to your area to fish and spend our money. Tourism is a huge industry, you know that, and you know your state holds some amazing resources that cause that tourism. Please leave the Madison alone.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [keith gullo](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river recreation plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:05:29 AM

To whom it may concern:

Just a quick note to voice my support for the walk-wade regulations and the rest-rotation rule on the upper Madison river. I believe this plan received overwhelming support last year. Please don't allow commercial interests to overturn what the majority of fisherman want.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mike OConnor](#)
To: [FWP Madison River.COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Madison river
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:05:23 AM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

From: [Pier LaFarge](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Walk-wade on upper and rest rotation to keep open Sat/Sun
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 5:53:24 AM

These features are critical to keep the Madison open to individual fishermen and women. These policies are the only thing standing in the way of losing access to the Madison except through expensive guiding services. Our rivers are a public resource and should never be inaccessible to public access except by a wealthy few.

Sincerely,

Pier LaFarge

From: [Ken Nichols](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:49:45 AM

I have become aware of the potential for rescinding of the rules adopted last year after tons of input and discussion. The Madison has nearly been “loved to death” and the commercial guide business was literally out of control. Please prioritize the health of the resource! There is only one Madison and protecting it for the future is far more important than short term revenue.

Ken Nichols

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patrick Stevens](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:07:39 AM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Regards,

Patrick B. Stevens
Concerned Angler

--

Regards,

Patrick B. Stevens
(205) 354-3848

From: [Bruno Reyes](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-Wade Regulation
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:02:39 AM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

From: [D.Dodge](#)
To: [FWP Madison River.COM](#)
Cc: [Dave Dodge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Change in Madison River rules
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 3:34:03 AM

There is no reason to change the rules on ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706 for the Madison River. This is just another way that Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is trying to restrict the public from using our rivers and public land. We pay for this access through our licenses and taxes and fees. Making changes without notifying each and every individual that has a license should be against the law. Your sneaky ways need to stop. I completely disagree with FWP or anyone making any changes to these rules.

Seriously disgusted montanan

Dave Dodge

From: [David Brown](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:38:21 PM

Hello,

I am writing to urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission not to make changes to the current recreation plan on the upper Madison. I support the walk-wade rules and the rest-rotation rules and want to see MT continue to care about montanans.

Best,

DB

From: [Erich Stolz](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river recreation
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:28:52 PM

I would like to share my displeasure in any changes to the Madison River Recreation plan. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!

Montana is truly the last best place, because every other place has commercialized itself and sold its soul for a few dollars.

I support the walk-wade regulation on the upper river! As well as the Saturday and Sunday rest-rotation rules! So does my community in Big Sky!

Regards,

Erich Stolz

From: [Rae](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please stop the over-commercialization of the Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:53:36 PM

Really? Do we want it to become Disneyland? It's already overrun as it is.

By preserving the walk/wade and rest rotation sections of the rules, we can ensure the river stays a viable source of public recreation for years to come. Commercial activity of public resources should not detract from the average user of national resources.

Thank you,

Rae

www.raegraphics.com [raegraphics.com]

From: [Spencer Lawley](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Respect the existing recreation plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:45:46 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support upholding the existing Madison river recreation plan. Specifically, keeping access and opportunity available to the public is foundational to Montana and our history of clean waters freely enjoyed by all. In 2020 there was resounding public support for the current plan, and it should remain that way.

Thank you,
Spencer Lawley

From: cdavis121395@gmail.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.Madison.River.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hey Scumbags
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:39:14 PM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Sincerely,

A Public Land Owner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Dunn](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Madison Public Use
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:32:13 PM

I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan. As a native Montanan, many of my fondest memories have been fishing the various rivers that encompass this part of southwest Montana, whether they be the upper or lower Madison, the Gallatin, the Yellowstone or any of the small creeks and tributaries. I am in opposition to repealing current walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the upper Madison. Given how the population of the area has been growing for the past decade or so, our local rivers are overcrowded enough. Why should residents who want to go fish get crowded out even more by guides and commercial outfits? Do you actually want to preserve public access to our resources as you claim? To me, it would appear not. Please reconsider this course of action.

Joe Dunn

From: [Evan Jones](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Madison River Use Changes
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:14:45 PM

To whom it may concern,

I understand that the level of public support for the current use scheme of the upper Madison River has recently come into question. Just writing to assure you there are many fly anglers from around the world who do indeed support both the walk/wade regulation and the prohibition of commercial guiding on weekends in certain areas. You might not hear from us all the time (in fact, you've never heard from me before) but we are engaged and we care about Montana's aquatic resources and we are watching how they are managed. Please keep rules in place that benefit the many over the few.

Regards,
Evan

From: [Kyle Branch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:01:18 PM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Thank you,
Kyle Branch

From: [Ron Hays](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Regulations
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:56:31 PM

Commissioners,

My wife and I are residents of Minnesota, but we do almost all our fly fishing in Montana. I started fly fishing in Montana in 1957 on the Milk River. For over 35 years, our home river was the Big Hole, but we also fished the Madison and other rivers.

I have been a life time member and supporter of the Big Hole River Foundation since its formation by George Grant in 1988.

We believe that southwestern Montana has the best fly fishing in the lower 48, even with increased fishing pressure and warming climate change. We principally walk-wade fish; in some past years up to 90 days.

Although getting older, I hope to fish in Montana for many more years.

We support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper Madison River and the rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

I think the current regulations are better for supporting the trout in the Madison River, reducing commercial fishing pressure, and providing a better fishing experience for walk-wade fishermen like myself and my wife.

Thank you

Ronald M. Hays
4914 Shady Oak Road
Minnetonka, MN 55343

From: sessions66@gmail.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Regulations
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:44:05 PM

I don't understand why something that was changed last year with quite a lot of support and something that was very fair for all parties is now being manipulated to serve a few and hurt the majority of people who support the industry. Please DO NOT make any changes to the current regulations, otherwise you are going against the wishes of the majority who did in fact vote this in only a year ago. This does not make any sense.

Dale S. Sessions

From: [Elijah LaTray](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation Regulations
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:42:42 PM

I support the current Madison River recreation plan, and strongly oppose any changes to it. I also support the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation regulations.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[overview.mail.yahoo.com\]](#)

From: [Richard Spott](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Comments
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:42:29 PM

I have lived in MT 33 years and do not want the current Madison River Plan change. Commercialization of the river is out of control.

Thanks

Richard Spott
3200 Shooting Star Ln
Bozeman MT 59715

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Will](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:35:46 PM

I support walk wade and recreate the Madison frequently. Do not alter the plan as it stands, do not give commercial prioritization to public lands and waters.

Will

From: [JJ Adams](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect the Madison Fishery
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:31:05 PM

I am writing in support of the walk-wade regulation on the upper Madison and the rest rotation rules that help protect this important fishery. The river has far too much commercial pressure on the fishery and the commission should be looking at ways to lessen fishing pressure rather than increase it, especially in light of the recent NWE dam failure and catastrophe.

Joseph J Adams
Butte, Montana

From: [Devin Carter](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:28:22 PM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

Thanks,
Devin Carter

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From: [Jocelyn Kent](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to changes to the Madison River Recreation plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:13:51 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jocelyn Kent, I live at 145 T Bird lane Bozeman, MT, and I am opposed to the proposed changes to the madison river recreation plan. Specifically, I want to see the walk-wade rules and the rest rotation stay in place. I support both of these measures, and believe they should stay in place.

I was born and raised in the Gallatin Valley and have many memories fly fishing with my family on the Madison river, upper and lower. This is a beloved and precious place and should be protected from over use. Smart measures to help alleviate pressure from increased usage as our state grows are essential to maintaining our rivers for the many future generations after we are gone.

We must protect our natural resources, for once they are squandered, they are lost to us forever.

Thank you,
Jocelyn Kent

From: [Thomas Bogle](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-Wade Support
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:13:31 PM

Hi,

I am a Montana resident and regular visitor of the upper Madison river. I rely on FWP commitment to serve Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not push out the recreational user.

Recreational users are the backbone to this great State and the conservation of its natural resources. I kindly ask you reflect on who this serves and what is lost by amping commercial activities on public national resources.

Sincerely,
Thomas Bogle

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nick Strauch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-wade
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:12:57 PM

I am a resident of Montana and have relied on FWP commitment to serving Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm the recreational user. Commercial activity of public resources is a privilege and should not detract from the average user of national resources.

-A concerned citizen

From: [David Montague](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support walk-wade and rest-rotation on the Madison
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:07:52 PM

Hello,

It has come to my attention that the Fish and Wildlife Commission has begun efforts to repeal parts of the Madison River Recreation plan.

I am a Bozeman resident and want to make known my support for the walk-wade and rest-rotation regulations that apply at their respective times and places on the river.

Please continue to protect our public resources from over-commercialization. We're counting on you!

Best regards,
David Montague

From: [Sam Evans](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-wade and rest rotation support
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:06:35 PM

I'm writing to express my support of the walk-wade regulation and the rest rotation regulation. I grew up in the Gallatin valley enjoying everything the Madison has to offer. I've collected trash from the banks and islands and current for 20+years. I expect our government officials to protect the Madison as I have over the years, and I will not stand by and watch it sold off to commercial interests.

Sam Evans
Bozeman local, and current registered voter

From: [Robert Scheiderman](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:03:14 PM

Hello,

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose any change to the Madison River Recreation plan. I strongly support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. Should these proposed changes be made effective I be will invariably dissuaded from recreating in Montana in the future; something I had (up until now) gladly traveled & spent my money to do regularly.

I sincerely hope that this message helps in your decision making regarding the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan and that any and all choices made are in the best interest of the future of Montana's recreational fishing on the Madison River.

From: [Anya Leyhe](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:01:14 PM

Dear FWP,

I am a Montana resident and have relied on FWP's commitment to serving Montanan's by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk, wade, and rest rotation for the Madison River. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm the recreational user. I hope our comments are heard and the current regulations do not change.

Thank you for your consideration,
Anya Leyhe

From: [Jade Metzler](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:45:45 PM

Hello,

I am voicing my support for the walk-wade and upper Madison rest rotation on the weekends as outlined in the Madison River Recreation Plan. Public resources are a privilege and should be able to be accessed by all socioeconomic statuses. These rules ensure that the river and its resources do not become overwhelmed by privilege and commercial interests.

Your commission serves all people who enjoy these resources and has an obligation to protect resources stressors of commercial activities.

The Madison River Recreation Plan and specifically the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules had overwhelming public support in 2020.

Thank you,
Jade Metzler

From: [rita berry](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:31:56 PM

Good evening,
I'm writing to ask you to support and uphold the Madison River Recreation Plan and the rest periods on the Madison River.

This Plan was well thought out, publicly supported and absolutely necessary.

Gianforte's Plan to privatize our public lands and resources is vile and will be incredibly detrimental to our community.

Thank you,
Rita Berry
Gallatin valley resident

From: [Kurt Reinschmidt](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose changes to Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:26:14 PM

Hello,

I am not a Montana resident, but I love to fly fish in Montana and visit at least once a year purely to fish.

I heard that there are changes proposed to the Madison River Recreation Plan and I would like to make my opposition to those changes known. Specifically, I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the rest-rotation rules that provide a section of river free from commercial pressure on weekends. If this proposal passes, and these changes happen, I will be much less likely to make my Montana trip center on the Madison. Instead, I will go fishing elsewhere, that has less pressure.

I hope that you listen to the public and do not go through with this proposal.

Thank you,

Kurt Reinschmidt

From: jbrmcquire@verizon.net
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:12:34 PM

Changing the rules from 2020 make it less likely that I will travel from Pa to spend a week to 10 days on the Madison. Stop bending to corporate pressure and allow the public to enjoy the River.

From: [Eric Butler](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Oppose Changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:09:37 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I vehemently oppose changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan that would result in the loss of walk-wade and weekend boat usage for non-commercial purposes.

Regards,
EB

--

Eric L. Butler | Managing Principal
Albatross Real Estate
eric@albatrossre.com | 719.352.9871

From: [Ross Downer](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:59:42 PM

I am writing to inform you that I oppose any changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan and fully support it in its current state including the Walk-Wade regulation on the Upper Madison and the Rest-Rotation rules that limit commercial use (for a short amount of time on weekends).

The Madison River exists as an amazing piece of this landscape, where nature can go on as it always has (despite the degradation and damage the recent dam failure has caused) and is meant to be enjoyed by all, not exploited by the few. It belongs to every single citizen of this country and those residents who live and vote in Montana have just as much a right to have an enjoyable time on this magnificent river as anyone.

From: americanzero641@yahoo.com
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed changes
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:59:00 PM

I am vehemently against changing the rules in regard to rest-rotation and walk-wade section of the Madison. The ability to access and fish such an iconic river without commercial pressure is vital to folks like myself, who should have the same right to the river as the rich folks who can afford a guide. I am a disabled veteran living on a fixed income. I can't afford to pay a guide, and I know I'm not the only one. Reverting to pro-commercial legislation makes me less likely to come back to Montana to fish. I have made it a point over the past 4 years to come out at least once a year, but with everything that has happened in the past year, future trips are getting harder to plan. If Fishing the Madison means wading and catching hate from the guides running float trips, why would I want to travel 2620 miles to do it? I could stay a lot closer to home, you know? I love fishing in Montana, but proposed changes this show a shifting in priorities, with commercialization being the top one. I implore the commission to sustain the current regulations, and give the Everyman the same chance to enjoy the river as the guys with deep pockets.

Tom Collins
US Army, Retired

From: stevewickliffe@charter.net
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.MadisonRiver.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Recently Adopted Madison Recreation Rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:22:34 PM

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission Members,

I grew up fishing the Madison river and grew to love not only the River but the solitude that it provided a young person in the late 60's and early 70's. Living in Anaconda for 20 of the past 25 years I still enjoyed making a few trips each summer to fish my favorite River and some of those favorite places my Dad use to take me to all those years ago. Over the last few years I have just given up on those regular excursions to the Madison because of the intensive use and overcrowded situation on the river.

I believe the Walk-Wade and the Rest-Rotation rules put in place just a short time ago on Saturdays and Sundays is one solution that will likely help this situation, and strongly encourage you not to repeal these rules. I believe you will find that the overall satisfaction of all who recreate on the River will increase substantially, because of the overall experience they have.

Best Regards,

Steve Wickliffe
Anaconda, MT

From: [Ben Campbell](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Madison
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:56:41 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am a life long resident of Montana and have relied on FWP commitment to serving Montanans by protecting recreational access to resources. I would like to voice my support for walk-wade and rest rotation for the Madison. These rules help ensure that commercial activity does not overwhelm the recreational user. Commercial activity of public resources is a privilege and should not detract from the average user of national resources.

Reflect of what who your commission serves and what we loose by amping commercial activities on public national resources.

—

Ben Campbell
406.317.3576

From: [Geri Driscoll](#)
To: [FWP Madison River.COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-wade regulations
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:55:16 PM

I support the walk-wade regulations on the Madison River, particularly the rest-rotation rules that provide the public with reasonable fishing opportunities on a short section of river on Saturdays and Sundays. I have lived in Southwest Montana my entire life and want to preserve traditional recreation, including fishing, that is important to regular Montanans with regular income and means.

Geralyn Driscoll
Butte, Montana

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jay Slocum](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No changes to rec rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:40:44 PM

Don't change the rules Montana's public deserves better rec opportunities without commercial use.

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From: [Munday, Pat](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison R Recreation Rules: DO NOT CHANGE
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:19:14 PM

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,

Just a year ago, I was one of many Montana anglers who successfully petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt recreation rules on the upper Madison to give the general public some relief from the intense commercial use on the river. As someone who fishes with my two “little brothers” (one of whom is just starting out as an outdoorsman), with Montana friends, and with family and friends who visit from out-of-state, I deeply appreciate the quality experience that the Madison River rules protect,

These rules, now in place over a year, appear to have been very successful. They were modeled after the Big Hole River Rest/Rotation Recreation Rules, which have been in place many years now and have proved enormously successful. Montana anglers, outfitters and guides, and non-resident anglers all benefit from stable rules that prevent crowding, protect the resource, and maintain a quality experience.

As newly appointed Commission members, I understand how you want to represent your own interests and bring about changes. Your proposal to repeal the Madison River rules, however, is a mistake. Please don't do it. For me, for my grandchildren, and for this whole new generation of Montana anglers it is important that we maintain a quality experience. Please don't sell us out: make no changes to the Madison River recreation rules.

Best wishes,

Pat Munday

723 W Daly St
Walkerville MT 59701

From: [Eric Smith](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not repeal ARM rules on Madison River
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:58:58 PM

Please do not repeal the two ARM rules for the Madison River. I am 65 and have been a Montana resident for most of my years. I fished the Madison with my Dad as a kid, and have fished it for decades since he died in 1974. He called it the "Too Big Hearted River" based on the Ernest Hemingway short story "The Big Two Hearted River." The river symbolizes **hope, life, and the comforting permanence of nature that the protagonist turns to in order to soothe his restless mind.**

I quit fishing the Madison several years ago because of the crowded, competitive atmosphere brought on by the guides and other dollar-driven businesses and people who benefit monetarily from use of the resource. The rules you put into place at least address the issue and give me some notion that I can go back and fish the Madison again on a few occasional days in peace. Why would you repeal these rules without trying them out first? Please don't give into the lobbying efforts of those who make their living off that beautiful river.

Is nothing sacred? Doesn't the Madison deserve a break?

Thank you,
Eric Smith

From: [Up Sky Ranch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk Wade Regulation
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:54:44 PM

We are against any changes to Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Restoration rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. A agency does not have the authority to make or change laws. Covering your action by calling them the agency rules is bullshit People in agencies were not elected and therefore cannot make laws or change them elected representatives only have that option.

Cindy Betka

--

The United States was suppose to have a LIMITED government because the Founders knew government powers attracts demagogues (Biden) and despots (Harris & Pelosi) as surely as horse manure attracts flies

From: [CRB Art Studios](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk Wade regulation
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:54:09 PM

We are against any changes to Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. A agency does not have the authority to make or change laws. Covering your action by calling them the agency rules is bullshit People in agencies were not elected and therefore cannot make laws or change them elected representatives only have that option.

John C Betka

--

'The issue is now clear. It is between light & darkness and everyone must choose his side.' GK Chesterton (on his death bed)

My life is but a breath.
Job 7:7

From: [Paul Vang](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:38:03 PM

Thank you to the Commission for accepting comment on proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan.

I am particularly concerned with a proposal to repeal walk and wade rules on the upper Madison River, and rest-rotation rules.

I am under the understanding that the Commission plans to repeal those rules on the basis that there is no public support for walk and wade rules or rest-rotation rules.

Just a year ago, thousands of people commented on the Madison River Recreation Plan and in support of those very rules.

When I fish the Madison River it is almost always as a walk & wade angler. I do some floating but I think wading in the river and getting to know the river's structure in a small area is an enjoyable way to fish.

I will give credit to most commercial users, the guides and outfitters, for being reasonably courteous to wade anglers. It is, nonetheless, aggravating to look upstream and see dozens of boats, one after the other, working that shoreline water. It's pretty clear that if we wade anglers often are frustrated by poor angling success, there's a good chance that the fish are spooked away because a fleet of boats has already worked that same stretch of water.

If we look at the river and don't see many wade anglers, it is wrong to say that they don't exist. More likely, they have given up trying to find some quiet water to enjoy the solitude of the magnificent river and its environment.

The Madison River is a great asset for the people of Montana and for the people of the United States, in that much the shoreline is publicly accessible. For this reason, I would suggest that we need to manage the river so that people who choose not to hire a guide or can't afford to hire a guide can still find a stretch of river where they can find a degree of solitude and a chance to fool a trout without having to worry about being run over by a hundred or more boats in an afternoon of fishing.

It's good for the river. It's good for the fish. It's good for the angling public and their families who need a quality outdoor experience, whether they are local residents or visitors from around the United States or around the world.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Vang
2828 Goodwin Street
Butte MT 59701

pffvang@me.com

From: [Jessica Kingsley](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation plan--oppose any changes
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:12:17 PM

I am writing to you to express my full support of the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

I urge you to make no changes to the current Madison River Recreation plan.

Thank you,

Jessica



Jessica Kingsley

Director of Sales, Disability Specialists

Direct: 406.522.3304

Office: 888.279.8348 ext. 2020

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From: [Mason Paul](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Madison River Recreation Plan Proposed Repeal - unsecure
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:11:35 PM

Hi,

Not sure why you have turned away from science based decisions. It's very scary.

I would like to state specifically that I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use. This is very much needed!!!! For us residents who live here, we are getting pushed out of our own rivers do the increase in commercial outfitting. It's getting out hand. The quality of fishing and enjoying the Madson River has suffered with the dramatic increase in guided trips. It's a zoo at every fishing access site on with guide boats everywhere.

Please do not repeal the Madison River Recreation Act!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cheers,

Mason



Mason C. Paul

Insurance Advisor, Disability Specialists

Direct: 406-522-3310

Cell: 406-240-6991

Office: 888-279-8348 ext. 2019

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From: [Mitch Hockett](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Walk-Wade and Rest-rotation rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:36:29 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a Belgrade, MT resident who loves to fish the Madison river recreationally with my family & friends (most of the time unsuccessfully) from my raft. Specifically, I am only able to fish on the weekends due to my job and my family's school schedule.

Recently, the Fish and Wildlife Commission initiated a rulemaking process to repeal central elements of the Madison River Recreation plan. The proposed changes have the effect of repealing rules that give the general public the ability to recreate on the upper Madison River free of the intense commercial pressure, especially during key summer recreating months.

Specifically, the Commission is proposing to repeal the walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The Commission's stated logic is that the walk-wade and rest-rotation regulation have no public support, despite the fact that the public demonstrated overwhelming public support just one year ago. Thousands of people commented in support of these rules during 2020.

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

It's only fair that on the weekends, families like mine are able to have a fair shake at catching fish who are targeted heavily by professional guides and their clients all week long. Teaching kids to fly fish and row the raft while uptight fishing guides are under pressure to make sure their clients are successful doesn't make for an enjoyable experience for the average joe local family like mine, nor for the guides.

This is common sense rule making. **Please listen to the OVERWHELMING majority who support this reform.**

Sincerely,

A Belgrade family, trying to have a good time with family & friends on the weekends.

Thank you,
Mitchell Hockett
952-913-2347

From: stegrout@charter.net
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARM 12.11.6702/6
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:21:49 PM

Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

I am disturbed by the working group's October recommendation to repeal ARM 12.11.6702 and ARM 12.11.6706. I urge you NOT to repeal these items at your December meeting.

These are supposed to be TRIAL resolutions—so TRY them first! If they don't work to the fish and wildlife's benefit, then repeal them after the trial period. And if and when that decision is made, let's have it made based on some real data. The only evidence I have seen for the recommended repeal is that "there is no support for the rules." That's an introductory statement, but not a reason. WHY is there no support? And by WHOM? I would guess that there's not much support among guides and outfitters, but there's certainly support among those Montanans not paying premium dollars for guided fishing!

Maybe there's more to it. If so, I will listen attentively. But to simply repeal the rules based upon this recommendation lacks transparency at best. So, do your jobs: protect the resource, and don't pre-empt the trial at doing so.

Steve Grout
2916 2nd Ave North
Great Falls MT 59401

From: [Cannon Milligan](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Walk-Wade and Rest-rotation rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:12:36 PM

I am a Belgrade, MT resident who loves to fish the Madison river recreationally with my family (most of the time unsuccessfully) from my fishing raft. Specifically, I am only able to fish on the weekends due to my job and my family's school schedule.

Recently, the Fish and Wildlife Commission initiated a rulemaking process to repeal central elements of the Madison River Recreation plan. The proposed changes have the effect of repealing rules that give the general public the ability to recreate on the upper Madison River free of the intense commercial pressure.

Specifically, the Commission is proposing to repeal the walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The Commission's stated logic is that the walk-wade and rest-rotation regulation have no public support, despite that the public demonstrated overwhelming public support just one year ago. Thousands of people commented in support of these rules during 2020.

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

It's only fair that on the weekends, family's like mine are able to have a fair shake at catching fish who are targeted heavily by professional guides and their clients all week long. Teaching kids to fly fish and row the raft while uptight fishing guides are under pressure to make sure their clients are successfully doesn't make for an enjoyable experience for the average joe local family like me, nor the for the guides. This is common sense rule making. Please listen to the OVERWHELMING majority who support this reform.

Sincerely,

A local family man trying to have a good time with his family on the weekends.

-Cannon Milligan

202 E Rosebud Ave
Belgrade, MT 59714

From: [Jennifer Boyer](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Uphold the rules
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:55:47 PM

Dear Commission,

Management is an on-going and adaptive process but please do not throw the baby out with the bathwater. There are very good elements of the plan that should be tried and tested and studied before enacting changes.

Please continue to support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper river and the Rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

Thank you -

Jennifer Boyer
(she/her/hers)
boyerfarm51@gmail.com
www.farm51.farm [[farm51.farm](#)]
406-539-3006

From: [Richard Morrison](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:38:57 PM

I am writing in opposition of the repealing of the rules enacted by the Madison River Recreation Plan. The rules that are currently in place are supported by The George Grant Chapter of TU, Skyline Sportsman and the Anaconda Sportsmen's Association. I also believe that there is broad support among the the recreating population for these current rules.

Specifically, I support the walk-wade regulation on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of the river on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use.

I sincerely hope that the FWP retain the current rules.

Richard Morrison
4557 Equestrian Ln
Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [Mike England](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] wade-only rule
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:53:07 AM

Please do not repeal the weekend ban on boats in the wade-only section of the upper Madison River. Many, many local anglers choose to wade-fish, due to financial restrictions or simply for the experience. Fighting a flotilla of guide boats, every day, all summer long, on every stretch of water, ruins that experience and degrades the fishing in general for wade anglers. I wade those waters myself often, as do many of my friends, co-workers, and acquaintances. It's a wonderful respite from the circus that the Madison River has become, and from the guides who increasingly think they own the river. We live here, we fish for recreation and solitude, not for monetary gain, and we deserve one small stretch of water to have for ourselves, if only on the weekends. Please don't take it away from us.

--

Mike England
Editor | Outside Media Group
313 W. Mendenhall, #8
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-582-8068
[Website \[outsidebozeman.com\]](http://outsidebozeman.com) | [Digital Edition \[digital.outsidebozeman.com\]](http://digital.outsidebozeman.com)

From: [Rob Kayser](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing the repeal of 12.07.6702 and 12.07.6706
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:47:47 AM

Good morning,

It has recently come to my attention The committee has proposed repealing two regulations on the Madison River, specifically the "walk/wade" regulation on the upper river (12.07.6702), and the "rest rotation" rule that provides a small section of river free of commercial use on Saturday and Sunday (12.07.6706). As a Montana resident, I strongly supported these regulations when they were put in place, and still do, and am appalled the committee is considering repealing something that had such strong support just one year ago.

This river exists for ALL users, and it has been overtaken by commercial and drift boat use, making it difficult for those who do not have access to or are unable to use a boat, or those who simply wish to fish non-guided (like the vast majority of residents and many non-residents visiting the area), to enjoy this river.

Keep the walk/Wade and rest/rotation rules. It was an uncommon act of compromise in this modern day that all user groups could live with, without any one being unduly burdened, that had a great level of support. It is your duty to manage the public resources you hold in trust to the benefit of all user groups, not simply those who wish to commercialize those resources. These resources were built to what they are by those who came before you for the benefit of the people. Undoing these rules is undoing the will of the people, and the people will take action if they are not being listened to.

Regards,

Robert Kayser

From: [michael.grisley](mailto:michael.grisley@montana.gov)
To: FWP.Madison.River.COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rule Changes
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:39:36 AM

As a Montana resident and avid fisherman on many of Montana's rivers, I'm writing today to voice my opposition to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's proposed changes to the Madison River Walk-Wade rules and the Rest-Rotation rules.

Having just spent a weekend fishing the beautiful Madison River a few weeks ago, I can firmly say changing the rules will absolutely devastate the river. I currently live in Missoula and have personally seen the Clark Fork, the Blackfoot, and the Bitterroot all become jam packed waterways over the past several years due to any lack of regulation relating to human pressure. Fishermen and women, tubers, rafters, kayakers, and Paddleboarders all deserve to use the river, but it's become clear we need to implement some rules to keep all of Montana's beautiful rivers from being inundated with traffic.

The current rules in place on the Madison were just agreed upon last year by all stakeholders, and have clearly had a positive impact on limiting the pressure to the river and keeping it from being completely overrun and stressed. To add to the problem, we still don't (and won't for some time) know the effects to the river below the recent Northwest Energy dam failure- is now *REALLY* the right time to be considering changes to the current rules?

I fully support the current Wade-Walk and Rest-Rotation rules on the Madison River, and urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission to drop the unnecessary and harmful proposal to change these rules.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Grisley
Missoula Resident

From: [Mike Clark](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Not Repeal ARM 12.11.6702/12.11.6706
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:43:07 AM
Attachments: [image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)

Please,
DO NOT REPEAL ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706. STOP the commercialization of hunting and fishing in MONTANA.



[\[facebook.com\]](#) [\[twitter.com\]](#) [\[youtube.com\]](#) [\[linkedin.com\]](#) [\[instagram.com\]](#)

Mike Clark
Outside Sales
Representative
2805 Lexington Ave.
Butte, MT 59701
mike.clark@BLDR.com
O: 406.494.7600 | C:
406.490.4197 |
[BLDR.com](#) [\[bldr.com\]](#)

OUTPERFORM TODAY. TRANSFORM TOMORROW.

From: [felicia luebeck](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River public Comment 12.11.6702. & 12.11.6706
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 6:28:49 PM

Dear Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission,

It has come to my attention that it is your intention to strip the protections that trout unlimited, skyline sportsman's, and the people of state of Montana have clearly expressed that they wanted.

I do not support the stripping of walk/Wade. I fully support Walk/Wade on the upper Madison river. 12.11.6702

I do not support the stripping of rest/rotation rules. I fully support having and enforcing rest/rotation rules. 12.11.6706

I really appreciate having the opportunity to recreate on that part of the river on weekends without having private guide companies running boats and clients on top of me with no regard for basic politeness, respect, or personal boundaries.

I fully support having Saturday and Sunday free from commercial uses. 12.11.6707

Should you have any question on my very clear stances please do not hesitate to reach out and speak with me.

Sincerely,
Ms. Felicia Marie Luebeck
270 passmore canyon road
Butte my 59701
406-491-6339

From: [marilyn Olson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] River
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:42:14 PM

I support the Walk-Wade regulation on the upper River and the rest-rotation rules that provide one short section of River on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate on free of intense commercial use . Thank you Marilyn Olson
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Scott Reynolds](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk -Wade Rest Rotation Support
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:01:28 PM

Sent from my iPad

Please help save the fishery in the Madison River! Do not repeal the Walk -Wade , Rest - Rotation regulation on the upper River. This provides one short section on Saturday and Sunday for the public to recreate , free from intense commercial pressure.

Thank you,
Scott Reynolds

From: [Michael Arneson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:53:34 PM

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed changes which would repeal the walk-wade and rest-rotation rules on the Upper Madison, and any other changes that would reduce general public access to this public resource.

These rules would unravel decades of painstaking work to create one of the truly remarkable public access success stories. Fisherman travel from around the world to experience this incredible fishery that has amazing wade fishing access. FWP appears to be moving in the direction of increased commercial fishing intensity in response to the efforts of a well funded and organized guide and outfitting industry, at the expense of general public use. Prior discussions to cap commercial use and pressure were unfortunately derailed by their lobbying efforts.

Please protect Montana's legacy of public access and public use in the face of increasing political pressures to privatize and degrade our resources.

Thank you,
Mike Arneson
Big Sky, MT

From: [Billie Reynolds](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison wade-Walk support
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:48:47 PM

I oppose any changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan.

Please DO NOT repeal the walk-wade and rest-rotation on the Madison River. I totally support the wade-walk and rest-rotation, as it gives the general public the ability to recreate on the upper Madison River free from intense commercial pressure.

Thank you,
Billie Reynolds

Sent from my iPad

From: [jori.schrapps](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no not repeal
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:39:57 PM

Please do not repeal the walk-wade and rest-rotation on the Madison River

Sincerely

Jori Schrapps

From: [tyler kump](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison river
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:17:44 PM

Please do not repeal the walk-wade and rest-rotation on the Madison river.

Tyler M Kump

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Greg Munther](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] reg proposed change
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:09:13 PM

I support both the wade/walk designation on the upper river as well as the rotation of saturday/sunday segments to be able to fish without the outfitter intense use of these sections if only on the weekends.

These regulations were implemented after much public involvement and support, especially from Montanans who happen to own this river. These regulations provide some diversity on an intensely used river that can expect to see even more use in the foreseeable future.

Greg Munther
1295 Lena Lane
Missoula, MT 59804

From: [Glenn Elison](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:07:59 PM

I am submitting these comments on the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan (the Plan) that are an outgrowth of the Fish and Wildlife Commission's rulemaking process to revise the Plan.

The proposed changes would be a major setback for the public's use and enjoyment of the Madison River. The proposed rulemaking would in effect repeal existing rules that give the general public the ability to enjoy and recreate on the upper Madison free of the intense commercial pressure that exists and continues to grow.

I fully support the existing walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The public supported these rules overwhelmingly in 2020. For the Commission to set aside these strongly and publicly supported rules would be ill considered and a clear affront to the general public. Surely, the general public deserves the opportunity to enjoy the public resource the Madison River represents for a couple of days a week, free from the intense commercial guiding pressure that exists and is growing on the Madison.

Glenn Elison

From: [Kerra Luebeck](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Walk-wade repeal
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:05:56 PM

Please do not repeal the walk-wade and rest rotation on the Madison river.

Sincerely,
Kerra Luebeck

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Doug and Chris Borland](#)
To: [DWR Fisheries Board 2021](#)
Subject: [EFTFW/SL Upper Meadows](#)
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 3:41:33 PM

This picture illustrates the feelings of thousands of river usersplease continue the walk-wade and rest-rotation restrictions that are supported by myself and so many others. Thank you, Doug Borland

Sent from my iPad



From: [Don Thomas](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River rules
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 2:25:53 PM

As a long-time resident Montana angler, I strongly oppose rules that would eliminate current walk and wade and rest/rotation regulations on the upper Madison. Overuse by commercial interests is killing the goose that's laying the golden eggs. Visitors will eventually stop paying to fish a river as hopelessly crowded as this once great trout stream is becoming and the entire local economy—not just the outfitters—will suffer. I have already stopped the regular visits I used to make as far back as the 1950s. Don Thomas

Don Thomas
1898 Timberline Road
PO Box 939
Lewistown, MT 59457
www.donthomasbooks.com [donthomasbooks.com]
thomasdon@me.com

From: [Clay Mullins](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO to Repeal of the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 1:14:27 PM

I'd like to comment my support of the Walk-Wade regulation on the Upper Madison and the Rest-Rotation rules that limits areas of commercial use on weekends. Heck, I'd strongly support increased restrictions on the river if it were on the table, not only to guides but to everyone. I believe that if the intense commercial use of our precious natural resources continues and the river is continually exploited for monetary gain of the few, the resource will expire for all. The thing we all love and care for so much will be gone, and never to be seen again as it is now. These are the good old days, and with the increased use and interest towards recreating in these ways and in these places, it seems that we are unlikely to see things get better before they get worse. Please, do not change the Madison rules. We've already taken enough from this earth, lets try to preserve one of the best fisheries we have left.

Clay Mullins
cpmullins25@gmail.com
(406) 922-1494

From: [Mark Luebeck](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Opposition to proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 12:14:00 PM

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition and concern for the proposed changes to the Madison River Recreation plan. Specifically, I adamantly support the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules for the Madison River. These rules allow everyday Montanans to enjoy the Madison River and preserve it as a blue ribbon trout stream. I am personally unaware of any Montanan who does not support these rules. I ask that you please do not repeal these rules.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Luebeck
Angel, Coil & Bartlett
125 W. Mendenhall, Ste. 201
Bozeman, MT 59715
Telephone: 406-586-1926
Facsimile: 406-585-7654

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From: [Adam Fetherston](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation Rules
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 11:33:22 AM

Fish and Wildlife Commission,

As an avid user of the Madison River for recreation, I oppose any changes to the Madison River Recreation plan. I especially support the walk-wade regulation and the rest-rotation rules to keep commercial pressure off of the Upper Madison, as do many of my colleagues and fishing buddies. It would be a mistake to change the plan that garnered tons of public support last year.

Sincerely,
Adam Fetherston

--

afetherston406@gmail.com
(406) 461-2164

From: [Raymond Gross](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Proposed Revision to Madison River Plan
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 11:29:05 AM

To: Montana Fish, wildlife and Parks Commission

I strongly OPPOSE the proposed rule change to repeal the walk-wade rules on the upper Madison River and the rest-rotation rules that close a short section of the upper river to commercial use on Saturdays and Sundays. The Commission's stated logic is that the walk-wade and rest-rotation regulation have no public support. The public demonstrated overwhelming public support just one year ago. Thousands of people commented in support of these rules during 2020. The proposed changes have the effect of repealing rules that give the general public the ability to recreate on the upper Madison River free of the intense commercial pressure. All quality trout fishing rivers in Montana are experiencing intense commercial pressure. It is long overdue that Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks start protecting our fisheries from the extreme commercial pressure and consider the capacity that the fisheries can sustain. The drastic declines in brown trout populations on most rivers in southwest Montana should be a wake up call.

Raymond Gross
Dillon, Montana

From: [DR CHARLES D STOKKE RES](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] repeal of regs on Madison
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 11:00:57 AM

Dear Sir/Madam: I am against the repeal of ARM 12.11.6702, and repeal of ARM 12.11.6706. These are the rest/ rotation regulations and walk wade regulations on the Madison River. As these proposals had overwhelming support at the last public comment I find your reason for repealing these to be disingenuous. These regs begin to address a problem that has garnered national public attention and requires a solution. Your actions reflect a "government of the people" and not "government for the people" attitude.

Please reconsider your position and listen to the Montanans who care about our rivers and not someone's pocketbook.

Charles Stokke
1309 W 4th
Anaconda, Mt. 59711

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: [Tom Welsch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Repeal of Regulation/Rule
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 8:10:05 AM

Madison River Committee-

I write to state that I support the walk-wade regulation and the rest-rotation rules on the upper Madison River as they currently exist, and oppose the proposal that they be repealed. The regulation/rules serve the public by providing one short section of the River each week on which the public can recreate free of the intense commercial use that characterizes the River the rest of the week.

The regulation/rules received overwhelming public support when they were first proposed and adopted. Nothing has changed since then except, apparently, pressure from the commercial interests that seek to continue exploitation of this wonderful public resource for their private benefit. The Committee's role is to protect the River for the benefit of the recreating public, not commercial interests. Stay the course; leave the regulation/rules, as they now stand, in place.

Tom Welsch
Bozeman

From: [Tom Welsch](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Repeal
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 8:03:26 AM

Madison River Committee-

I write to state that I support the walk-wade regulation and the rest-rotation rules on the upper Madison River as they currently exist, and oppose the proposal that they be repealed. The regulation/rules serve the public by providing one short section of the River each week on which the public can recreate free of the intense commercial use that characterizes the River the rest of the week.

The regulation/rules received overwhelming public support when they were first proposed and adopted. Nothing has changed since then except, apparently, pressure from the commercial interests that seek to continue exploitation of this wonderful public resource for their private benefit. The Committee's role is to protect the River for the benefit of the recreating public, not commercial interests. Stay the course; leave the regulation/rules, as they now stand, in place.

Tom Welsch

From: [Mark Pearson](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Upper Madison River ARMs
Date: Friday, December 3, 2021 10:46:00 AM

Email to: madisonrivercom@mt.gov

To the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

SUBJECT: Consideration to repeal ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706 for Upper Madison River

I would like to submit the following comments to the proposed repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706. These ARMs pertain to walk and wade from Reynolds FA to Lyons Bridge and rest and rotation on the upper Madison River.

I am not in favor of repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and ARM 12.11.6706. I support keeping and implementing these ARMs. In addition, I have additional comments/opinions on each of these ARMs.

In general, I am not in favor of more fishing opportunities on the upper Madison and believe (and have observed) that there has been a significant increase in people fishing the upper Madison, from both boats and wading along the riverbanks. I have lived in Montana since the 1970s. In 2000 through 2021, I have seen a significant increase in population that has resulted in more pressure on the Montana fishery and a diminished outdoor fishing experience. In the case of the upper Madison, given the increase in the numbers of people fishing and the obvious pressure on the fishery, it makes sense to have "walk and wade" sections and "rest and rotation" zones. I am in favor of giving the fishery "a break" from what has become, the relentless presentation of lures and fly patterns (that are pulled past their noses) and the stress from catch and release and the stress from large shadows of the boats passing over the fish. These two ARMs, while not perfect, would add to the foundations to create a more resilient fishery in the face of a warming climate and more frequent fishing closures, each summer.

Also, what about all the animals that rely on fish for their diet, such as otters, Kingfishers, Osprey, and other raptors? What about nesting birds along the river corridor and other animals with their young in Spring and Summer? The constant presence of boats and people fishing from the bank is likely disruptive to these animals nesting, rearing young, and depending fish or river nutrients to survive.

I am not a fisheries biologist but someone who has fished all my life. In consideration of the increasing numbers of fishing enthusiasts fishing the

upper Madison, it makes sense to me to give sections of the river a break during Spring, Summer, and Fall. Winter is relatively more hostile on the upper Madison and hence less of an impact on the fishery due to fewer people fishing, although this could change due to our warming climate forecast.

Hence, I am in favor of keeping ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706. Please do not repeal ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706.

In regard to ARM 12.11.6702, I would advocate for a modification to this ARM in that there would be no fishing from a boat on Saturdays and Sundays or any day because it preserves a high quality, walk and wade experience. The Madison River is relatively narrow in the reach of Raynolds FA to Lyons Bridge. Thus, in this section, having people fishing from boats pass by people bank fishing is a diminishment of the outdoor fishing experience for both parties.

In regard to ARM 12.11.6706, I would advocate for a modification to this ARM in that there would be resting sections of the upper Madison River to all forms of fishing, to include both guided (commercial or contracted) and private (not contracted) fishing from a boat and from the bank. It is unfair to single out commercial guides/trips and allow people to bank fish in these proposed rest sections. Make it a genuine rest for the fish and other animals in that section of river. My observations indicate that, every year, there are increasing numbers of people who bank fish (walk and wade). And, because of their increasing numbers, there is an ever-increasing potential for impacts to the fishery, other wildlife, and the river corridor.

With regard to the proposed sections to rest and rotate, the following considerations should be made: Establish sections where boats can have a reasonable length of floating, for a quality experience, with reasonable put-in and take-out access. Establish sections based on protection of the more sensitive aspects of the fishery and wildlife resources.

Finally, I am in favor of either a self-reporting system or having personnel in the field (river ambassadors) during Spring, Summer, and Fall who can collect information on the numbers of people fishing, location, fishing by boat or along the bank, reporting their catch and fish size and variety, and report on any other aspects of their fishing experience. Make it easy for people to self-report with an "app". This information will assist in future decisions regarding the upper Madison River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Mark Pearson

2942 Lily Drive

Bozeman, Montana 59718

From: [Steve Woessner](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:31:50 PM

Please keep laws the same. We wade fishermen need space.
Sent from my iPhone

From: joanneoc10
To: [FWP Madison River COM](http://FWP.Madison.River.COM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Comments Submitted to the Governor GOV:0050422
Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021 12:19:12 PM

The attached email contains my comments submitted to Greg Gianforte, Governor of Montana, regarding the public Hearing scheduled on Dec 15, 2021 pertaining to the repeal of the rules regarding rest/rotation and walk/wade on the Madison River. As you can see I have very serious concerns as to how the Commission and work group are conducting themselves by trying to repeal these rules. You should be ashamed of yourselves. You know this has been an on-going problem for years and yet you try to pull this kind of stunt. Shame on you.. J O'Callaghan

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gianforte, Governor" <governor@mt.gov>
Subject: **Comments Submitted to the Governor GOV:0050422**
Date: November 21, 2021 at 10:57:45 AM PST
To: Joanne O'Callaghan <joanneoc10@aol.com>

Dear Joanne :

Thank you for contacting me. My staff and I will review your message, and we will respond as soon as possible. I appreciate you writing to me and please let me know if you have any further questions or comments regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Governor Greg Gianforte

Comments Submitted to the Governor

Prefix:

First Name: Joanne

Middle Name/Initial: S

Last Name: O'Callaghan

Suffix:

[Email: joanneoc10@aol.com](mailto:joanneoc10@aol.com)

Second [Email: joanneoc10@aol.com](mailto:joanneoc10@aol.com)

Address: 725 Hillview Court

City: Vacaville

State: California

Zip Code: 95688

Primary Phone: 707-448-7765

Mobile Phone: 707-718-8422

Business Phone:

Topic: General Comments

Comments: I have serious concerns about the hearing scheduled on 12-15-21 regarding ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6708.. Each of the rules "will be implemented as a trial program on 1-1-22 unless adjusted by the work group". "The Fish and Wildlife Commission will review" each rule in 2023. If these rules are repealed the intent of the rules would be circumvented before they are even implemented. My first concern is that it appears the commission is not functioning in good faith in scheduling this hearing. The work group's rationale for the recommended repeal is "due to lack of support for either rule". How can the Commission propose the repeal based on recommendation that give no valid reason or data to substantiate a repeal. The timing of this hearing is appalling and quite frankly appears to be purposely scheduled at a time when little public impute will be provided since it is scheduled during the Holiday season and only 16 days prior to the implementation of the new rules. Secondly, I have contacted the commission requesting the composition of the work group. As of this date I have had no response. The over crowding of the Madison River has been a long standing problem with heated and hateful responses from many involved. I live in California and have fished the Madison for over 50 years, with guides and from shore, I have seem it impacted over the years with anglers and guides. I find it appalling that the commission has come forward with this public hearing without any valid basis for the repeal. I want to know who is on this working group and what their reasons are for the repeal. Without knowing the membership of the work group, I can only come to one conclusion, that the work group is not representative nor composed of individuals who value the well being of the river and that they have an agenda that benefits a limited faction of those who use the river. I would hope that this matter be investigated and this hearing be postponed Thank you

Would you like to hear from us? Yes

From: [Tom Bowler](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposite to Repeal of the ARM 12.11.6702 AND 12.11.6706
Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021 11:19:13 AM

Hello,

I wish to express my very strong opposition to the repeal of the ARM 12.11.6702 AND 12.11.6706.

I find serious misrepresentations being made that there is no support for these rules and frankly feel both the process of public involvement and management of the resource by FWP are not in line with the state constitution. All actions by the alleged Madison River Advisory Panel, the FWP Commission, and the FWP in this and other Montana wildlife and resource issues blatantly support the commercialization of citizen owned resources and wildlife over the interest of the general public. I have spoken to an overwhelming number of folks who support the rules and statements to the contrary are clear falsehoods. Falsehoods that need to be presented for what they are in a court of law.

The conversion of the Madison watershed from a public fishery to an exclusive business of the outfitting community is but one recent example of the misuse of public property with FWP support. We have allowed the fox to watch the hen house by giving outfitters the oversight authority of their industry — shocking in light of the fact that we recently had to rescind the authority of “youth programs” in the state to oversee themselves after the abuses that came into public view in that industry.

Private entities are being handed exclusive hunting permits as more and more access to hunting opportunities are being taken away from the average citizen in the state. Just as the average citizen is being driven off our rivers by the mart of competitive commerce. License dollars go to enhance and expand recreation opportunities in the state that ever more rapidly are out of the reach of the people who buy those licenses as the revenue builds a magnificent opportunity for the elite. I cannot count the number of places that I used to hunt on public land that have had access cut off, while I recently read of a sportsman in Madison County being given a citation by FWP for accessing public hunting on a public road. How long before we are issued citations for daring to wish to fish and taking away a place for a boat full of swells with our presence.

I have contributed funds to non game wildlife programs in the past, only to find that FWP was clubbing down those very same non game species in eastern Montana to operate an institutionalized bucket biology operation for non native fish species. If I buy a conservation, fishing, hunting, license the dollars are very likely going to bolster a fishery or elk herd that I have no access to but which provide a fabulous experience for some corporate executive or English lord to enjoy on my dime. Then at the bottom line I am told that there is no public support for rules to try and re-even the playing field.

The Madison River Advisory Group appears to be a complete sham. The FWP Commission looks to be bought and paid for by special interests. FWP is no more than an instrument with the previous two entities plucking their strings like a cheap violin.

If these Madison river rules are repealed, I will personally begin putting out feelers to bring

the issue, and others, to court and work to promote a mass action by sportspersons to stop buying licenses.

Tom Bowler
735 W Broadway
Butte 59701

From: [Michael Richter](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] madison rest and rotate
Date: Saturday, November 20, 2021 6:35:47 AM

Please do not repeal these rules. I support them. The public supports them. A lot of collaborative work and time went into creating them. The public users and FWP are being bullied by the outfitting / guiding industry, which apparently has taken over the FWC. FWC is putting outfitter profits ahead of all other users of this river.

Outfitting industry has lied, distorted data, bullied people with opposing views, and ignored the public support of rest and rotate throughout this process. Now they are going to get rewarded for this bad behavior. What a disappointment and dangerous precedent to set for the future!

Mike Richter
Gallatin Gateway

From: [D & C Cleveland](#)
To: [FWP Madison River COM](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] repeal of Madison river rules /rest and rotation and walk/wade
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:05:46 PM

Please do not repeal either of these two rules. Repealing both rules will result in more harm to the Madison River and its ecology. Crowding is rampant on the river and these two rules were designed to limit the crowding and make the recreational use as well as fishing experience more enjoyable. More importantly, these rules were designed to prevent the trout population from crashing to dangerously low levels.

Charlotte Cleveland
308 Slough Creek Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59718



December 10, 2021

Madison River Comments
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Please accept these comments on behalf of the George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited, headquartered in Butte, Montana, a short 80-minute drive to the upper Madison River. Our organization represents over 1,000 conservation-minded members and supporters throughout southwest Montana. Our members are angry that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission is proposing to repeal central elements of the Madison River Recreation Plan.

Specifically, we are opposed to the repeal of ARM 12-11-6702 (Walk Wade Sections of the Madison River) and 12-11-6706 (Rest/Rotation of Madison River Commercial Use). Our organization, and the members we represent, strongly support both the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules on the Madison River. The Commission's statement of rationale for their proposed repeal is "lack of support" for either rule. This claim is a farce. These two rules are an organic testament of public support, rooted in two petitions filed by rank-and-file sportsmen to compel the commission to adopt these two rules. There is no more organic demonstration of support than the grassroots process that led to the Commission's adoption of these two rules in late 2020. The Commission's claim of no public support is simply false.

During 2019 and 2020, the Fish and Wildlife Commission conducted the most exhaustive analysis of public sentiment in FWP history. In addition to two public comment processes and a rulemaking process, FWP also conducted a Madison River survey in which over 7,500 people participated. This survey revealed that over 60% of respondents (over 4,500 people) stated support for the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation proposals on the Madison River; a statement of overwhelming support for the management action later codified as 12-11-6702 and 12-11-6706. What other FWP proposals have ever enjoyed the popular support of over 4,500 respondents? This is the most profound demonstration of public support possible. Given this overwhelming demonstration of public support, how can the Fish and Wildlife Commission seriously claim there is no popular support for the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation?

Likewise, during the rulemaking public comment period in October 2020 that ultimately led to the final adoption of 12-11-6702 and 12-11-6706, the public again demonstrated OVERWHELMING public support for both rules. The new members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission proposing this repeal need to only review the survey and comment records from the 2020 Madison River process to fully appreciate the overwhelming public support for the Walk-Wade and Rest-Rotation rules on the Madison River.

The Commission's proposed repeal of 12-11-6702 and 12-11-6706 is grounded in a false premise. Finalizing the proposed repeal would be a public disservice. Contrary to the Commission's claims, both rules enjoy overwhelming public support. The Commission has an obligation to withdraw the proposed repeal of 12-11-6702 and 12-11-6706.

Sincerely,

Forrest Jay
GGTU President