From: Lewis Kono
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Long WayAway Comment
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 9:17:00 AM

All,
Please, please don't morph into a clone of Wa State. This state fish and wildlife organization has made it so complicated to fish that fisherman have gone one of two ways. Frustrated outlaw rebels that do what they want, which is usually what happens with too many rules. Just scroll thru Wa regs. Packed to the brim with wonderful/colorful charts and graphs. Protectors and lovers of lard-butt salmon filled seals. Terns migrate here by the thousands, to eat smolt by the millions. Yet WDFW asks for (token) comments, like you are, on how solve the poor fish returns. They refuse to label the obvious…..except, however, the farce of warming ocean waters. I tell you, if any of these psycho-game biologists come to Mt looking for work. Tell them to go back to dreamland, where they came.

The other half just plain quit fishing. And we all know where that will go, the end of MFW empire. And even less people out in the field. More rules also require more bureaucrats, or rats of some sort. Think long and hard about fishing restraints. Especially the ones that smell like nitpicking. Those little nits (to you) will be big nits to your paying fisherman. Out of state, high-rollin, guide leechers won't care, cause guides are paid to know the rules. BUT, will that be enough revenue to fund you in the future when our kids are no longer exposed to this fun family sport.

Lew Kono
10903 Corey Lane
Poulsbo, Wa
iPhone

From: Richard Priebe
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Our natural resources
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 9:55:10 AM

Protect cold clean water resources now! Yes people care and are paying attention!

From:	Jack Jr
To:	FWP Madison River COM; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; CommissionerRegion2@mtfwp.org; CommissionerRegion3@mtfwp.org ; KC Walsh; ommissionerRegion5@mtfwp.org ; CommissionerRegion6@mtfwp.org; CommissionerRegion7@mtfwp.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Moving forward in the Big picture
Date:	Monday, December 13, 2021 7:55:50 AM
Attachments:	Dec 12 MTFWP Commission Letter.docx

From: Rick Parke
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River rules
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:19:56 AM

Dear Commission
Would like to see a walk/wade rule imposed on all commercial operations outside of the general fishing season. Would also like to see some sections of the river partially closed to commercial operations, during peak use, If congestion and overuse are an issue. Montana residents come 1st,PERIOD!! FWP needs to dig out their mission statement. A quality recreational experience should be at the top of the priority list.
There are several SW Montana rivers and streams that are in need of better residential recreational regulations!
Thanks,
Rick

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android [aka.ms]

From: Chuck Scott
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment Madison River regulations
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 3:44:02 PM

Greetings:
I am in favor of repealing the rule allowing fishing from boats in the walk- wade sections of the river. I have noticed much more usage in these sections in the past few years including a dramatic use of boats for " transportation ". I cannot understand the argument that to reduce congestion in the float section of the river we need to increase congestion in the walk-wade section.
The repeal of the rest rotation regulation sounds like a compromise with the outfitters association to have them support the repeal of the walk wade regulation. The cynic in me suggests a scenario in which the Fish and Game board votes to repeal the rest rotation regulation and votes to keep the walk-wade regulation thereby giving "Foam" everything they have asked for during the the last several years of negotiated rule discussions and making future efforts a waste of time.
Kind Regards
Chuck Scott

Sent from my iPad

From: xenubarb
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Laws
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:25:47 AM

Are you seriously considering blocking shore anglers from fishing in favor of commercialism?

Bad decision, horrible law. I can't believe anyone would think this is a good idea. Not everyone can afford a boat or a fishing guide.

You should reconsider this, as we the people are getting fed up with this crass elitism. History has taught us that this sort of thing never ends well.

I'll be staying in California next summer instead of making a trek to fish other waters. Our fish are better anyway, we have tuna.

--
barb

"Four wheels good, two wheels better!"

From: Kimball Leighton
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ARM
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 7:45:09 AM

Many thanks to the volunteer members of the Madison River Work Group. You are 'fiddling while Rome is burning,' in my opinion. For a variety of political, economic and environmental reasons, Montana's great trout rivers are approaching the brink of collapse. It's tragic that we all, as stewards of the state's coldwater fisheries, are debating access issues while seemingly turning a blind eye to the larger issue -- dewatering by agriculture.

Kimball Leighton
Livingston, MT

From: David Lloyd
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Rec Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:27:43 AM

Don’t restrict walk wade access on the Madison in favor of commercial outfits. Equal access to public resources should be maintained.

From: William McMahan
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 6:00:08 AM

Good morning from North Carolina.

I am a trout fisherman in the southeast, and I have traveled all over the southeast for fishing. I spend money at local restaurants and fly shops when I am in a new area.

I was considering visiting my friend in Montana to hunt, fish, and hike. However if the public water of the Madison River is not kept open and accessible then I will visit Wyoming instead. If public land is not available to the public, then expect much of your outdoor tourism to shift to places where it is public.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that you continue to preserve public land.

Mac McMahan

From: Steve Jennings
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Upper River and Weekend Changes
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 12:00:37 PM

As a long time recreational fisherman on the Madison I would like to express my support for walk in only fishing on the Upper Madison River. With the extremely heavy guided float trips on the river this gives a section for anglers to fish without having to cope with large numbers of floating craft. I also support the implementation of rotating closure of sections to guided craft on weekends. I would actually prefer closing a section to guides each day similar to the Big Hole but feel this should be done on weekends at the very least.

Steve Jennings
2617 Drake Lane
Missoula, Mt.

From: David Cleveland
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River recreation
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:50:09 AM

When you put outfitters, guides, and others who make a living on the Madison in charge of coming up with plans that are supposed to improve the recreational enjoyment of the river and safeguard the health of the river, of course they will come up with proposals that give themselves MORE access, MORE launch ramps, the ability to sell their days on the river and other rules that are are to their advantage.

Their organizations — MOGA and FOAM — consistently dispute the facts that scientists and surveys have collected when these facts do not fit with the narratives they wish to believe. Nor are they interested at all in the experiences or opinions of the non-professional resident Montanans who wish to enjoy their own rivers.

I wish to make it clear that I am not anti-guide. I use guides every year — but not during the busy months when the Madison is both crowded and dangerously warm. I think for the most part guides and outfitters are good hard working men and women who do consider themselves "stewards" of the Madison — but not when it comes to putting the interests of the river and ALL its users above their own desire to make a living from a public resource. They should be able to champion their own viewpoints, but they should not be the only viewpoints or even the majority viewpoints on these policy-making commissions.

These commissions need to be far more representative of a wide spectrum of viewpoints. Where are the scientists? Where are the ordinary anglers? Why shouldn't we be listening more to biologists, and less to lobbyists? And why are resident Montana anglers and river users always under-recognized on such commissions and boards? Perhaps we should be considering limiting out-of-state licenses, since it is these licenses that drive a huge amount of both boat and foot traffic on the river.

If we lose this exceptional river, either from a slow decline — say a combination of overuse, high temps and low water — or a sudden crash in fish populations, it won't be because we weren't warned or that we didn't see what was right in front of our eyes. It will be because we ignored what is right in front of our eyes, failed to take any real action, put the foxes in charge of "regulating" the henhouse, and tried to rely on band-aid solutions (river ambassadors? Really?)

David Cleveland
Bozeman

From: john jaacks
To: FWP Madison River COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Madison River Crowding
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:12:08 AM

To Whom It May Concern:
I have been fly fishing since the 60's. It comes to no surprise that this committee eventually came to be. When I started, you were lucky if you find someone who did fly fish, let alone a decent store outside Montana or Colorado.
The eventual increase in people who fly fish has been brought on by the fly fishing Lifers Club - professional guides, endless fly shops, fly fishing drifters and property owners. The day of the person who snuck away to get some fishing in as the mainstream of the sport has been torn down by Robert Redford and the endless number of people who have little insight other than to catch fish.
I have fished this section of the Madion many times of the past decades. I don't bother to go there because somany people and guides congregate to fish it. Frankly, had the earthquake of the 80's just destroyed the dam, this river wouldn't be so popular.
So to the point. I don't envy your job. But the number of guides and boats on this river are ridiculous. The Guide Lifer's Club is out of control. When you allow somany guides who intimately know a river and fish it to get a client a huge fish, that takes from the average joe who proportionally shelled out a much cash for their trip as the expensive organizational trips.. Unfortunately for this river, advertising and it's history have really done a number on it.
The water, while cool from under the dam, is going to get warmer! I have been a geophysicist who has dealt with geofluid dynamics, biospheric pollution.

LET ME MAKE THIS SUGGESTION.
Limit the number of people on the river like the Brits do by beats. ONLY do it by the amount of CFS in the river and the temperature of the water. Lets face it, overpressuring a trout in hot low water is the same as attempting to kill it. Not everyone is going to have a chance to fish this river or surrounding waters if the ambient temperature in that part of Montana continues to climb.
You are going to have to make a hard choice in terms of the water accessibility. A lot of guides are just going to have to retire as are a number of everyday fly fishermen who are going to have to forgo fishing the Madison. Frankly, If I remember right, before the onslaught of drift boats, most of the river had to be accessed by foot.
HERE'S ANOTHER POINT
Trout migrate up and down a river. So make some of the upper river a sanctuary from the Fishing- Period! When the cfs to temperature climbs there ought to be a location fish can be safe from hooks. By the way, research bears out that fish do feel the hook penetration in their jaws
I know what the comments will be, the fish will congregate in the safe zones. Yes I am sure of it. Go to the Firehole in the dead of summer and you will see what happens when the water warms up ! They congregate in a more comfortable zone near the little streams input. .
So this requires both fisheries people and hydrologists to identify sanctuary areas by water upwelling from groundwater, additional surface water inputs, the bank shade areas and deeper pools. It may require a rotation of sanctuary areas by somany years, in order to keep fish from just moving entirely into the sanctuaries. You might ask Kelly Gallup about the monster browns behavior, since these fish like to move away from congregations of fish.
Let me add this while you are masterly figuring out how the public is going to prosecute you folks. The tradeoffs are tough. What will happen is with such regulations, the other rivers are

going to take a huge hit. Lifer's will just move on to another river and publicize it to death in the fly fishing rag magazines until you are faced with the same problem.
The other concern I have is the locals and their inherit rights to their State waters. Both for ranching, agriculture, drinking water and just plain old recreation. The everyday Montanan should be able to fish the waters of their birth with all the problems brought on by outsiders.. And Outsiders include guides and businesses are Montana based and make a living from the river. These folks will argue that they are entitled, but the days of the one room incidental fly shop attached to the general store are long gone. These businesses are part of the larger situation (note I did not say problem). I don't know how one tells Kelly Gallup that his guides can only fish between so and so along these sections of river. That will be fun, but it will have to be done.
Here is the kicker in the Global Warming Days, how to keep fly fishing and the outdoors the viable offering it was and is. Keeping Montana that place to come to fish. I have had to deal with publicity and Superfund, DOE, DOD and basic western water resources throughout my career. The public bite can be harrowing, but with a good plan designed to benefit the survival of the trout are what is at stake. Then the fisherman, whoever they be!
I believe that the elements of a plan are embedded in this note, regardless of my prejudices towards the excessive fly fishing lifers.
Again, it is the trout. George Grant and I discussed the fact that it was the Grayling in his favorite river, years ago. George stayed true to that dream throughout his older years. Now it is your turn to do what is right for the trout and make the hard compromises to let them continue to get large enough to capture remote flyfishermens and flyfisherwomen's dreams.
And If you want some help, I lived off and on in Southeastern Idaho and fished Southwestern Montana during the years of the Great Yellowstone Fire, I would be glad to help or contribute to your difficult decision process!
Yours Truly,
John Jaacks II
1643 Disney Road
Severn, Maryland
7038191462
PS.. Don't let my address fool you. I have lived and fished throughout the west doing the topics described above. If you need further unbiased help on legal matters related to fishing and water, might I suggest my nephew Peter Jaacks, a lawyer from Denver Colorado, who happens to be a licensed fishing guide in Alaska with many years of dedicated fly fishing and experience in dealing with land and water appropriation for fishing. He would make an unbiased litigator for preserving the Trout.

November 22, 2021

Department of Fish , Wildlife and Parks
P.O Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

RE: Repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706
PUBLIC HEARING on December 15, 2021

I will list my input numerically regarding Public Hearing (12-15-21) as follows:

1. My number one question is, if these rules are repealed what would be in their place? Will the previous rules be reinstated, will the river be opened with no regulation, will new rules be recommended,? These are paramount questions that the commission should have put to the work group and obtained answers to before determining if a hearing was appropriate.

2. The "rationale for the work group's recommended repeal is due to lack of support for either rule". My question is, what does "lack of support" mean? Is it that the rules do not go far enough to address overcrowding, does it mean that the rules are detrimental to the fishing outfitters and the guides, does it mean overcrowding does not need to be addressed, etc.? Without the answer this question and knowing the consequences if the rules are repealed, how can the public provide input. I have no idea if I agree with the repeal or disagree since I do not know the outcome if they are repealed.

3. It appears this is not a work group rather it is a bunch of people who just do not want these rules. By definition a work group is to work. What work have they done?

4. The timing of this hearing is appalling and quite frankly appears purposely scheduled at a time when the public are the busiest with the Holidays. The initial hearing regarding this matter on October 20, 2020 gave the public reasonable time to provide thoughtful responds. Having this hearing only 16 days prior to the implementation of these administrative rules is irresponsible and shameful and the Fish and Wildlife Commission should be admonished.

5. The commission did not include within the hearing notification the actual rules that are recommended to be repealed. Instead a website was provided that took time and effort to navigate before finding the rules. I hope this was not purposeful to provide an obstacle to the public responding.

6. I am very interested in knowing the makeup of this work group, what are their qualifications, and who do they represent? What is their intent in putting forth these recommendations? Without having this information it is hard to know if the work group is representative and composed of individuals who value the well-being of the river or if instead they have an agenda that benefits a limited faction of those who use the river.

7. I will refer the commission to their purpose: that it is responsible for managing wildlife populations through hunting, fishing, habitat protection programs and other methods. The last sentence of the notice of hearing scheduled on December 15, 2021 is as follows, "The commission has determined that the repeal of the above referenced rules will not significantly and directly impact small businesses". The commission made no mention of the impact the repeal would have upon the overcrowding of the river. Where in the commission's mandate are they to be responsible for small businesses. The commission has a specified purpose and should not be influenced by other entities.

8. It is my belief that these rules do not go far enough to address the overcrowding of the river. They appear to try to defuse the heated and hateful disagreements regarding the management of the river that have existed over many year. Theses rules "give a little and take a little" with limited if any impact on addressing the problem of the overcrowding of the river. The rules that were generated from the October 20, 2020 hearing absolutely failed to address the threat to the river due to the overcrowding.

9. The overcrowding of the river is clearly due to too many guides and outfitters on the river. Until the commission acknowledges this as the cause of overcrowding they cannot do their job. The commission cannot let themselves be intimated by commercial entities. Foremost, the river is to be valued as a treasure not as a financial enterprise. The commission cannot please everyone, that is not their job, their purpose is to ensure that the river is to be preserved for future generations. I am calling upon the commission to do their job.

Cc: Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Joanne O'Callaghan
Dennis O'Callaghan
725 Hillview Court
Vacaville, CA 95688
Joanne cell # 707-718-8422
Dennis cell # 707-718-8468

November 23, 2021

Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

RE: Repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706
Public Hearing on December 15, 2021

Dear Director,

My husband and I have fished the Madison River for over 50 years. We view the river as a treasure that must be preserved.

I am very concerned that the Fish and Wildlife Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing regarding the above administrative rules without providing the proper information as to the outcome and consequences of the repeals. Without having adequate information the public is unable to provide any kind of meaningful input.

Seconding, the timing of the hearing is very questionable in that it is scheduled at a time of year when the public is busy with the Holidays. This raises the question if the commission really wants the public input.

At this point I question the functioning of the commission. I am concerned that my input in the attached letter will not be considered. I have had no response from the commission regarding 2 text messages I sent nor has my husband had a response to a phone message he left. To me this appears to be a stunt to ramrod the repeal of these rules.

I hope my input will be considered and that this commission will operate in good faith.

Thank you,

Joanne O'Callaghan
725 Hillview Court
Vacaville, CA 95688
707-718-8422

Enclosure: letter date 11-22-2021

November 22, 2021

Department of Fish , Wildlife and Parks
P.O Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

RE: Repeal of ARM 12.11.6702 and 12.11.6706
PUBLIC HEARING on December 15, 2021

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2. The "rationale for the work group's recommended repeal is due to lack of support for either rule". My question is, what does "lack of support" mean? Is it that the rules do not go far enough to address overcrowding, does it mean that the rules are detrimental to the fishing outfitters and the guides, does it mean overcrowding does not need to be addressed, etc.? Without the answer this question and knowing the consequences if the rules are repealed, how can the public provide input. I have no idea if I agree with the repeal or disagree since I do not know the outcome if they are repealed.

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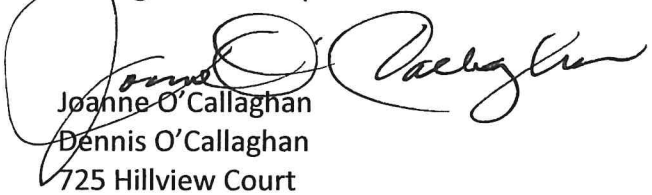
Cc: Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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