



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: February 4, 2021

Agenda Item: Future Fisheries Improvement Projects, Winter 2021 funding cycle

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) continues to provide funds for projects that restore fishery habitats in streams, rivers and lakes for the benefit of wild fisheries. Applications are reviewed twice each year by a 14-member Citizen Review Panel appointed by the Governor. Recommendations are forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Commission every six months for consideration and approval. For the Winter 2021 funding cycle, the Citizen Review Panel recommends funding 7 of 8 submitted proposals at a program cost of \$121,748.84. Matching funds total \$627,732.62 and other contributions total \$1,116,632.00, producing a ratio of \$14.3 in external contributions to every \$1 of FFIP funding.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

The public is informed about program funding opportunities via news releases, a public meeting, and information posted on FWP's website. The Citizen Review Panel conducted a public meeting and reviewed applications, discussed proposed projects with applicants in attendance, and provided the opportunity for public comment. No public comment was received at the meeting, except from applicants in attendance. All applications received for the funding cycle were posted on FWP's website, which allowed viewers to submit comments online. No online comments were received. Every funded project will undergo review for environmental compliance prior to project initiation, and many have already completed the process. Current applications, recommendations, and ranking information can be found on the FFIP website at <https://fwp.mt.gov/ffip> under *Winter 2021 Future Fisheries Applications*.

Alternatives and Analysis:

- A. The commission could approve funding recommendations for active projects submitted by the Citizen Review Panel and prioritized by the ranking committee. This alternative would provide funds to assist in the completion of projects that will improve habitat for wild fish populations.
- B. The commission could disapprove or modify the recommendations of the Citizen Review Panel. Under this alternative, applicants would need to seek other sources of funding or suspend projects that otherwise would have benefited wild fish populations.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission approve the Citizen Review Panel funding recommendations for the Winter 2021 funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.