



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** Nov. 12, 2024 (modified Nov. 7, 2024)

**Agenda Item:** Brogan's Landing Fishing Access Site Permanent Closure

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 15 minutes

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**Background:** Brogan's Landing Fishing Access Site (FAS) in Region 3 was badly damaged in the June 2022 Yellowstone River flood and subsequent erosion has extended the damage. The FAS has been under an emergency closure since July 1, 2022. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Design and Construction Unit (D&C) has examined the site and determined that it should be closed permanently. The remaining footprint of the site is insufficient for future reconstruction, as the new high-water mark has shifted. The areas at both the top and bottom of the access road are too small for safe parking or vehicle turn-around. D&C has determined this site cannot be safely reconstructed in a manner to support the public's safety and welfare.

Closing access is only considered when necessary, and additional access opportunities are sought. Brogan's Landing FAS provided access for half-day floats from the town of Gardiner and had five car parking spots and five for trucks with boat trailers. The other option for launch in the area is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) site (Cinnabar) 0.5 mile downstream. This is a small access site that allocates two commercial use permits. FWP considered three other areas close by to acquire access to the Yellowstone River (see attachment). Two of the sites are no longer being considered. The third, Cinnabar mentioned above, needs further assessment and discussion with the USFS.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Public comment will be taken online prior to the October commission meeting, and they will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the meeting. There will be a comment opportunity at the meeting as well.

**Alternatives & Analysis:** The site is under an emergency closure currently and can remain closed.

Alternative A: Approve the permanent closure of Brogan's Landing FAS.

Alternative B: Not approve the closure. The public may likely continue to park along Highway 89 to walk into the FAS.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends approving the permanent closure of Brogan's Landing FAS as it cannot be reconstructed to support public safety. The department will continue to explore other access options in the area.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the permanent closure of Brogan's Landing Fishing Access Site.