BROGAN'S LANDING FISHING ACCESS SITE: OPTIONS CONSIDERED FOR REPLACEMENT/RELOCATION

There is a vested interest from the Gardiner community (both commercial outfitters and the public) to have a replacement option for the Brogan's FAS, which was mostly obliterated in the June 2022 flood event. This FWP site provided access for half-day boat floats from the town of Gardiner downstream. The only other option with a boat ramp in this area is the US Forest Service (USFS) Cinnabar access site (approximately ½ mile downstream on the west side of the river). This is a small access site and the USFS only allocates two commercial use permits for use of this site (there are four major commercial rafting operations based in Gardiner).

FWP considered three options for replacement:

- 1. <u>LaDuke Picnic Area (USFS day use site ½ mile upstream</u>): Our first consideration for replacement was working with the USFS to acquire a long-term lease at LaDuke picnic area and use FEMA funding to construct an access road and boat launch there. This is an existing day use area with paved parking and a vault latrine. FWP Design and Construction had multiple site visits and produced a preliminary concept design. The access road would have gone through a known archeological site, so our heritage team worked with a contractor to perform a cultural survey last fall. It is likely not possible to pursue construction of a boat access at this site due to the extensive cultural evidence found during the survey.
- <u>Brogan's Gravel Pit</u>: This is adjacent property immediately to the north of Brogan's FAS (on the map as Brogan Limited Partnership LLC). The landowner was approached about the possibility of acquiring 20 acres of what is currently an operating gravel pit, and he is willing to consider selling a portion of his land to FWP. This has not been pursued beyond this initial conversation due to the following issues:
 - the cost of the bare land is likely quite high (landowner mentioned an estimate of \$5 million for the 20 acres)
 - the cost of developing the site in addition to the land purchase (e.g., boat launch, revegetation, site reclamation costs)
 - FWP fisheries biologist has concerns over the long-term stability of the bank and sustainability of an access site in that area due to the loose composition of the riverbank and heavy erosion from the flood event.
- 3. <u>USFS Cinnabar Fishing Access</u>: The USFS Gardiner District Supervisor contacted our region about the possibility of FWP acquiring a long-term lease of their Cinnabar access site if we have interest in maintaining and providing a boat launch access on this section of the river. This site had some repairs/improvements done in May 2024 from flood damage. There is some uncertainty if the site would have the capacity to provide access to all the commercial outfitters and the general public during peak season, being the only public access for half-day floats out of Gardiner. Further assessment is needed.



