

Glenda Wiles

From: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:36 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Rose, Sharon
Subject: RE: Proposed Annual Closure Rule for Bitterroot River . . .
Attachments: News Release--FWP to Hold March 4 Hearing on Proposed Rule.docx

Public Hearing
Notification

Please see the attached news release: "FWP to Hold March 4 Hearing on Proposed Rule for Bitterroot River Around Supply Ditch Diversion"

The hearing will be held March 4 at the Bitterroot National Forest office in Hamilton (1801 North 1st) beginning at 6:30 p.m.

(Apologies if you have already received this notice)

From: Rose, Sharon
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Rose, Sharon
Subject: Proposed Annual Closure Rule for Bitterroot River near Supply Ditch Diversion Dam

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is proposing an annual rule regarding the potential closure of all or a portion of the Bitterroot River from FWP's Woodside Fishing Access Site (FAS) downstream to Tucker Crossing (West) FAS in Ravalli County. The rule would allow for timely decisions on closures to protect public safety, and would also provide information and publicity needed to help keep the public safe.

Attached is a copy of the proposed rule, along with supplemental information explaining the issue.

This information, along with the opportunity to comment online, is also available on FWP's website at: http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/fishing/pn_0039.html

Comments may also be mailed to Sharon Rose, Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; phoned 406-542-5540; or emailed to shrose@mt.gov.

Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on March 9, 2015.

Sharon Rose
Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5540
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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NEWS

Region 2 • 3201 Spurgin Road • Missoula, MT 59804

Contact: Vivaca Crowser, Information Officer, (406) 542-5518, vcrowser@mt.gov, fwp.mt.gov/regions/r2/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2015

FWP to Hold March 4 Hearing on Proposed Rule for Bitterroot River Around Supply Ditch Diversion

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) will hold a public hearing in Hamilton on Wednesday, March 4 to answer questions and collect comment on a proposed rule that outlines under what conditions FWP could temporarily close floating on a portion of the Bitterroot River surrounding Supply Ditch Diversion Dam for public safety.

The hearing will be held at the Bitterroot National Forest office in Hamilton (1801 North 1st) beginning at 6:30 p.m. The proposal is also available for review and comment online now through March 9 at fwp.mt.gov under “submit public comments” and “commission.”

Supply Ditch Diversion creates dangerous currents that have caused a number of boating accidents over the past several years, including a fatality in 2013. During high flows, fast currents make it very difficult for floaters to stop and carry boats around the dam. The proposed rule outlines when FWP could put a temporary closure in place to address these safety concerns.

“The proposal has caused a lot of confusion in recent weeks, both in terms of how to comment and when and why the rule would be used,” says Pat Saffel, FWP Region 2 Fisheries Manager.

Saffel says that FWP aims to avoid river closures of any sort. “The intention of the proposed rule is to give FWP a tool to quickly put a temporary closure in place only if we absolutely have to for public safety.”

FWP and other stakeholders are working on a long term solution that calls for modifying the dam structure for safer passage instead of using a temporary closure.

Find more information online at fwp.mt.gov by following links under “Submit Public Comments.” Comments or questions can also be directed to Sharon Rose Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; phone 406-542-5540; email shrose@mt.gov.

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