



Region 4 State Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5859

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE
FOR THE
HOST PAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT
EDEN BRIDGE – SMITH RIVER STATE PARK**

November 14, 2013

Description of Proposed Action: Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, proposes to improve the existing host site area and utilities at Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park. The project would involve laying two gravel pads for host camping units, installing one shared underground potable water cistern, two underground septic holding tanks, relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal adjacent to each of the two host pads and relocating the existing storage shed to a new location behind the existing vault latrines. The project will also include moving the entrance road to a safer location approximately 100' west of the current entrance.

Providing the basic amenities of stable and level parking pads as well as convenient and reliable electricity, water, sewer and phone will greatly enhance the ability to attract and maintain quality volunteer hosts for the long-term. This will ensure a high quality experience for floaters as well as non-floating visitors.

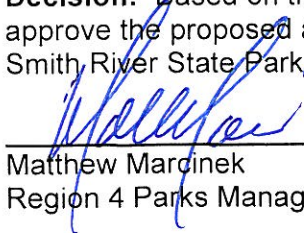
Public Process and Comments: A draft Environmental Assessment proposing this action was posted on September 30, 2013 in the Public Notices section of the Montana State Parks website. Legal notices were published twice each in the *Great Falls Tribune* and *Helena Independent Record*. Printed copies of the EA were mailed to three adjacent landowners. A copy of the EA was placed in the Region 4 Headquarters lobby. Public comments were taken for 31 days through October 31, 2013.

Five (5) public comments were received.

Supportive (1): One comment was received in support of the project.

Oppose (4): Four comments were received in reference to the funding of the project. However, these comments did not specifically address impacts to the physical or human environments that were evaluated within the Environmental Assessment (EA) and therefore outside of the scope of the Assessment. The four comments made references to not utilize the Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account to fund this project and/or to focus on other types of projects and/or to not complete the project and place the funding source into the Corridor Enhancement Account. Section 7(b), page 2 of the EA specifically identifies that the funding source earmarked for this project is 2011 Bed Tax money.

Decision: Based on the Environmental Assessment and content of public comment, it is my decision to approve the proposed action to improve the existing host pad area, utilities and entrance area at Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park.


Matthew Marginek
Region 4 Parks Manager