

Furthmyre, Coleen

From: khfischer@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 1:48 PM
To: fwpsmithriverrule@mt.gov; Furthmyre, Coleen; Kirkeby, Betsy
Subject: Public Comment: Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Smith River Biennial Rule. I've floated the Smith River for over 30 years and it continues to be one of the finest floats in the state. I've been a lifelong resident and I'm also the author to the river guide book "Paddling Montana".

Camping: With an updated permitting system, would MT FWP be able to allow floaters to reserve their campsites online, instead of wasting the time of FWP employees in Camp Baker? The concept of bear proof coolers is very good and I've experienced plenty of problems with irresponsible campers. That being said, is there opportunity for FWP to provide hanging poles, bear boxes, etc. to encourage responsible use? While these have real costs, there is ample opportunity for cost sharing from various wildlife advocacy and sportsman's groups.

Permitting: I inquired with the history of permitting from Neal Whitney at FWP. Namely inquiring about the increase in out of state applicants. In short, the increase has been substantial over the past decade and I would encourage State Parks to limit out of state permits to 20% of the total number of permits available (minus outfitter permits). I would also encourage state parks to investigate whether a bonus point system would be sensible to apply to the online permitting system for the Smith. Would it also be possible to make other participants in a float party ineligible to apply for a permit the following year.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to many more great seasons on the Smith. Thanks for your excellent work.

Sincerely,
Kit Fischer
116 Sentinel ST.
Missoula, MT 59801

This e-mail was generated from the 'Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension' Public Notice Web Page.

Furthmyre, Coleen

From: a.michaelshaw@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 4:00 PM
To: fwpsmithriverrule@mt.gov; Furthmyre, Coleen; Kirkeby, Betsy
Subject: Public Comment: Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension

Thank for the opportunity to comment.

I have been floating the Smith for 10 years and am a Montana resident. I would like to see a bonus point system established to raise additional funds for the river as well as increase odds for Montana residence to draw a permit during the prime float times, such as June. At the rate we're going, the odds are decreasing with more use and out-of-state applications. Theoretically, I may never draw a date in mid to late June without any assistance from a bonus-point system, similar to hunting permits in Montana. This could be a great revenue generator and help folks have a quality Smith River trip during the prime dates.

Thank you,
Adam Shaw

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Furthmyre, Coleen

From: hfischermt@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 2:20 PM
To: fwpsmithriverrule@mt.gov; Furthmyre, Coleen; Kirkeby, Betsy
Subject: Public Comment: Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension

Montana residents should receive preference for permits over non-residents in a ratio that more closely resembles other desirable permits, such as for hunting permits for elk or bighorn sheep. In addition, people who receive permits should no be allowed to apply for the next three years. It's getting too hard to get a permit!

This e-mail was generated from the 'Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension' Public Notice Web Page.



November 15, 2018

Colleen Furthmyre
Montana State Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Smith River Biennial Fee Rule Extension

Dear Ms. Furthmyre,

I am writing on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU). Trout Unlimited represents 160,000 members across the country. Montana Trout Unlimited represents the organization's 4,300 members and 13 TU chapters in Montana. TU's mission is to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

TU supports the proposal to extend the current Smith River Biennial Fee Rule for the next biennium, until December 2020. With the current rule set to expire in December of 2018, we believe it is necessary to extend the current rule, giving the Parks Department and other interested parties time to work on and update the fee rule over the next two years. Additionally, since the 2017 fee rule was set, several outfitters have sold their Smith permits to other outfitters. We support the proposed update of commercial outfitters to the current rule.

Given the significance of the Smith River to Montana's economy and recreational community, the fee rule is an important management tool that needs careful consideration. TU is fully supportive of the extension to the next biennium.

Sincerely,

Colin Cooney
Montana Field Representative
Trout Unlimited

David Brooks
Executive Director
Montana Trout Unlimited