

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT  
FY2026 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: Mid-Canon Fishing Access Site Vault Toilet Installation Project

Reservoir or River Segment: Missouri River County(ies) Cascade County

Site Name (or project location): Mid-Canon Fishing Access Site

Applicant Name: Cannon Colegrove

Position and Agency: Recreation Manager, Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Telephone: 406-454-5854

Email: Cannon.colegrove@mt.gov

All projects are required to have a Project Sponsor to be considered for funding by the River Fund. Project sponsors serve as active members of Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups and will consult with applicants on projects. Sponsorship denotes that the proposed project meets the basic criteria for consideration (below). A project that does not meet the basic criteria or does not have a project sponsor will not be scored by the Regional Working Group.

Project Sponsor Name: Same as applicant

Position and Agency:   

Telephone:                   

Email:                   

The Basic Project Criteria below must be met for a project to be considered for funding:

1. The project is consistent with the FERC Project 2188 License.
2. The project occurs in the Missouri-Madison Project Area.
3. The project must be consistent with or support management plans in the Project Area
4. The project provides a public recreation benefit.

Refer to the Grant Application Instructions for further clarification on these criteria.

Awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds may be used for the purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment, or to pay contractor services or other non-agency project components. Project funds may not be used to pay agency or applicant overhead expenses, such as agency staffing costs for design and engineering, project management, or administrative expenses. Funds may be used to pay costs for contracted design and engineering, as appropriate. Accounting of project expenses must be included in status reports provided for the annual River Fund Board meeting.

Requests for review of draft applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the submission deadline.

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT  
FY2026 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Cost Breakdown and Financial Request:

Complete the financial section below by providing total project cost (to the nearest dollar), contributions by applicant and cooperators, request for NorthWestern Energy match of agency funds (see detailed instructions), and River Fund Grant request. Document in-kind contributions by public agencies for determination of NorthWestern Energy match request. A description of funding sources and in-kind contributions should be included in the Project Description.

	<u>Nearest Whole Dollar</u>	
Total project cost:	<u>\$273,226</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$37,500</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$0</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$37,500</u>	<u>14%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$9,375</u>	<u>3%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$226,351</u>	<u>83%</u>
	Design Consulting, Environmental Assessment (MEPA Compliance) Permitting, and Construction Bid Development 2026, Project Construction 2027 (anticipated). A phased approach would delay the construction implementation.	
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>implementation.</u>	

1. Has this project been previously submitted for funding consideration by the River Fund Board, either as a separate project or part of another project? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_No

*If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.*

2. **Project Description:** Provide a description of the proposed project. Be sure to include specific project elements that are planned, and any associated cost detail.

► The proposed project location is Mid Canon Fishing Access Site (FAS) on the Missouri River between Craig and Cascade. Mid Cannon FAS is a busy public use site that is utilized by floaters as a launch and takeout point for the Missouri River and offers 9 campsites. The proposed project involves the addition of a double precast latrine with vault and installation (see figure 2 for placement location). Incorporated into the project would be a 20'x16'x6' ADA parking pad, a 5' concrete ADA sidewalk leading from the parking pad to the vault latrine, a separate set of stairs, and revegetation of the project area. There currently is one vault toilet that is not ADA accessible that will remain in service. The proposed double vault toilet will be ADA accessible to accommodate the large and diverse user base for the site. The proposed project will not reduce parking or camping space and will provide 2 additional ADA parking spaces within the Fishing Access Site.

This FAS is located within the flood plain, which will require additional steps to be taken with the Cascade County Floodplain Administrator. These steps include a flood plain permit, which will require the vault toilet to be raised 10' above the flood plain. An engineering consultant will need to be hired to accurately complete the process of developing a foundation to support the vault toilet. An additional anticipated requirement of the flood plain permitting process is a hydraulic survey of the site, including the barrow area used for the buildup of the foundation. FWP will also need to pursue a DEQ/Cascade County Sanitary Permit for the Latrine. See the cost breakdown below.

Appropriation Level Cost Estimate

**Mid Canon FAS Latrine Installation**

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Project Cost**

Prepared by Montana FWP - Design & Construction

DATE: 8/25/2025

PM: Harrington

CURRENT YEAR: 2025

**Construction Cost**

**Engineer's Estimate**

Item #	Bid Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Mobilization	1	LS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
2	Structural Fill Import	20	CY	\$ 125.00	\$ 2,500.00
3	Unclassified Excavation and Haul and Latrine base	1,900	CY	\$ 23.00	\$ 43,700.00
4	Double Precast Latrine with Vault and installation	1	EA	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 44,000.00
5	20'x16' x6" ADA Parking Pad	1	EA	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
6	5' Concrete Sidewalk	260	LF	\$ 35.00	\$ 9,100.00
7	Timber Stairs	1	LS	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00
8	Revegetation	1	LS	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
9	Remove and Replace wood Bollards	20	EA	\$ 300.00	\$ 6,000.00
					\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>					<b>\$ 141,300.00</b>

#### Miscellaneous Project Costs

Item #	Bid Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	FWP Supplied Signs	0	EA	\$ -	\$ -
2	Printing, Advertising, & Incidentals	0	LS	\$ -	\$ -
3	Cultural Resource Inventory	1	LS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
4	Design Consultant Fee		%	40%	\$ 56,520.00
5	Construction Oversight		%	10%	\$ 14,130.00
6	Permits	1	LS	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
7	Overhead Costs (A&E, Grants, etc.)		%	0%	\$ -
8	Interpretive Consultant	1	LS	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS COST:					\$ 87,150.00

SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:				\$ 228,450.00
Appropriation Level Contingency				15.00% \$ 34,267.50
Project Cost Estimate:				\$ 262,717.50

Target Construction Year			2026
Inflation @			4% \$ 10,508.70
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST AT TIME OF CONSTRUCTION			\$ 273,226.20

3. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or construction season.

► This project could be separated into two phases, depending on the availability of funding. In this scenario, if the full amount of funds were not approved, FWP could utilize a smaller amount to complete phase 1 - the required flood plain permitting, cultural consultation, sanitary permits, and hiring an engineering consultant. The total to complete phase 1 of the project would be \$87,150. FWP would then seek funds for phase 2 of the project through either River Fund in 2026 or the 2027 legislature to fund the purchase, construction, and installation of the vault latrine and other on-the-ground construction/development work. A phased approach would have some level of uncertainty as to if the legislature or River Fund would fully fund the construction (phase 2) of this project. If phase 2 was to go unfunded in this grant application, the construction of this project would be delayed until funding became available or discontinued if funding was unavailable.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern Energy as a condition of awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds. Grant and matching funds may not be used for any land-disturbing activity, or the modification, renovation, or removal of any buildings or structures until the CRM consultation process has been completed. Agency applicants must submit a copy of the proposed project to a designated Cultural Resource Specialist for their agency. Private parties or non-governmental organizations are encouraged to submit a copy of their proposed project to a CRM consultant they may have employed. Private parties and non-governmental organizations may also contact the NorthWestern Energy representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed will be held without any action until the information has been submitted.

Summarize how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management.

► By Montana law (22-3-433 MCA), all state agencies are required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office to identify heritage properties on land owned by the state that may be adversely impacted by a proposed action or development project. Construction of parking areas, trails and other ground disturbing activities would require consultation with the State Historical Preservation Office. FWP will work with our Heritage Specialist to be in compliance of the conditions of the awarded River Fund grant funds and Montana law.

5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Start answers after ►.

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

- No

5.2 Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site. Describe if the project will meet operation and maintenance needs. Higher points awarded to projects that are higher priority and are not a recurring expense. Lower points awarded to projects that are low priority and/or have been previously funded. It is unlikely that the timeframe of River Fund would address emergency operation and maintenance needs but could support non-emergency operation and maintenance needs.

- There is a strong need to provide the public with an additional vault latrine, in closer proximity to the highest density of public use within Mid Canon FAS. The current single latrine at Mid Canon FAS is situated such that the average boat ramp user will not see the latrine unless they utilize the less popular, upper ramp. Even with the poor location of the existing latrine it still receives enough use that FWP staff cannot keep it adequately stocked during the peak season. These issues have led to the public frequently urinating and defecating throughout the site which is a nuisance to the public and FWP staff that must clean up the mess. The proposed project will meet the level of operational needs to accommodate the present and future demand at the FAS. The strain on maintenance of the current one vault toilet will be alleviated by the proposed double vault toilet providing the necessary facilities to meet the public demand.

5.3 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations. Identify project partners other than NorthWestern Energy or River Fund, if any, and describe their participation. Document all funding sources and all in-kind support and services to a project, because all are sources of partnerships and in-kind contributions from public agencies qualify for calculation of NorthWestern Energy matching funds. If there are no project partners, explain why.

- Mid-Canon FAS is owned by Cascade County. FWP manages the property for a high quality and safe outdoor recreation experience through a \$1.00 per year lease agreement with Cascade County. FWP's ongoing lease agreement and partnership with the county provides the public with a desirable point of river access with amenities that provide visitors with additional outdoor recreation experiences for river access and camping. In August 2025, Recreation Manager Cannon Colegrove met with Cascade County Commissioner Jim Larson to discuss this project's objectives, design work, construction process, and planning work for the proposed project. Commissioner Larson expressed support for this project and encouraged collaboration with the County Planner in the flood plain permitting and construction process.

5.4 Project provides a benefit to public recreation in the Project Area and addresses specific issues and goals of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan (CRP). Identify how the project provides a benefit to public recreation and describe how the project specifically addresses issues and goals in Chapter 2-1 of the CRP.

- The first goal listed in the CRP, is to provide a safe and well-managed recreation site. Providing adequate sanitation service in the form of the appropriate number of vault latrines within a recreation site for the volume of use it experiences is at the core of providing a well-managed site. Unfortunately, Mid Canon FAS does not offer the appropriate number of vault latrines to accommodate a safe and well managed recreation site. The lack of sanitation facilities at the site has promoted irresponsible user behavior and impacts to the natural resources and user experience from users defecating throughout the recreation site. This irresponsible behavior is contrary to goal 8 of the CRP.

This proposed project will not only meet these two goals but will make progress meeting many of the other goals of the CRP. The project has the following specific goals that relate to the goals of the CRP.

- The additional double vault latrine will be the appropriate response to meet the intensity and priority for the demand of use this site experiences (Goal 2 of the CRP).
- Provide an additional precast double vault latrine in the day use parking area to reduce the user conflict within the sole vault latrine located at the far end of the campground. (Goal 3 of the CRP).
- It is a value of FWP to incorporate expanded access at our Recreation Sites, especially within heavily used sites such as Mid Canon. Therefore, this project will incorporate an appropriate level of ADA parking and ADA access to the proposed double vault latrine, something that is non-existent at the site currently. (Goal 6 of the CRP).
- This project greatly promotes and improves user impacts to the site by providing adequate sanitary services near the highest density of recreation use within the site. This in turn, improves visitor safety, and mitigates impacts to the site's natural resources. (Goals 7 and 8 of the CRP).
- FWP leases Mid Canon from Cascade County at only a cost of \$1.00 annually. FWP has expended funds as outlined in the terms of the Lease Agreement to asphalt pave and install speed bumps leading to the FAS, therefore, the proposed project would still meet the site's access road goals outlined in the CRP, despite any use increases the site may experience from the addition of a double latrine. The pavement and speed bumps within our lease term area are in place and in good condition.

5.5 *Project responds to a clearly identified need.* Describe and document the need for this project and how the project would address that need. Cite specific sources, as possible, to establish need and support the project. Discuss consequences if the funding request is unsuccessful. For a new construction or acquisition project, identify how post-project, long-term costs (such as site maintenance and management) will be provided.

► Mid Canon FAS has 9 payable campsites, two designated boat ramps, and 40 designated day use parking spaces between the primary boat launch parking lot and the overflow parking lots. The site is a popular launch and take-out location for the public using the Missouri River and is often observed exceeding parking capacity during the summer months. Over the last 6 years, Mid Canon FAS has averaged 12,750 group visits annually (according to the Missouri-Madison 2024 Recreation Visitor Use Counts) and is consistently one of the most used Upper Missouri River sites. The existing single vault toilet cannot handle the current capacity and is situated in a poor location for the demand of use. The current latrine is located at the far upstream end of the site, 360 feet away from the center of the primary day use parking lot. The proposed new double latrine would be 65 feet from the center of the primary parking lot. Despite increasing the toilet paper capacity within the current vault latrine, our maintenance staff cannot keep up with the demand to re-stock and service the latrine for the level of demand it sees, and visitors continue to defecate and urinate throughout the site, with many staff observations of feces and toilet paper throughout the vegetation surrounding the primary parking lot and boat ramp areas. Craig FAS is the most comparable site to Mid Canon – with 9 camp sites and 35-day use parking spaces (compared Mid Canon's 9 campsites and 40-day use parking spaces). Craig has 1 vault latrine in the campground and 2 vault latrines in the day use parking area. FWP would like to bring Mid Canon FAS up to that standard of sanitation.

In 2022, a special analysis was conducted to provide information on visitor's opinions of sanitation facilities. Those visitors surveyed felt that the sanitation at Mid-Canon FAS was slightly dissatisfying, while the visitors were satisfied by the sanitation at Craig FAS (Appendix B).

Post project and long-term costs are identified to be at a propriety maintenance rate of \$77.50 per hour. This additional bathroom install is expected to take two days per week during the spring, summer, and fall, and once per week in the winter at ½ hour to service each time, plus periodic pumping. Total estimated long-term costs to have staff and supplies to service this new double latrine is estimated to be \$6,820 annually plus pumping the latrine 2 times for a cost of \$620 per service. Total long term annual costs estimated at \$8,060 to have staff, wages, contractors, and supplies to maintain and service the new latrine. FWP will be able to reallocate maintenance time spent walking through the bushes and cleaning human waste throughout the site to now redirecting adequate funds and staff capacity to support the servicing of the additional toilet system to the standard of servicing expected of all FASs within the Region.

The consequences if this funding is unsuccessful is the continued impacts to the site's resources, user experience, public safety and sanitation, and conflicts within the site from the high demand of only one vault latrine serving the entire site. FWP would need to investigate and pursue alternative options to mitigate the challenges associated with having a lack of sanitation services at this FAS for the volume of public use that is occurring and anticipated to occur in the future.

- 5.6 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected. Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project, demonstrate that the project has been well vetted, and include cost estimates.

► FWP's Design and Construction Unit has utilized our licensed Professional Landscape Architect (PLA) to produce a conceptual design product, and our Construction Project Manager has provided an Engineer's Opinion of Probable Project Cost. These documents are provided as Appendix A of this application.

Seasonal install of Porta Potties has been considered, and with the high use of this site, was determined to be an unsustainable option. Standard porta-potties are designed to accommodate between 150-200 uses between being pumped. It is estimated based on the use of the site, that we would need to have between 4-6 porta potties to accommodate the use with a weekly pumping schedule. It is unlikely that these porta potties could be serviced by a company out of Great Falls or Helena (pumped, cleaned, and restocked) at that frequency, and would require a significant cost – typically at \$150+ per unit per service. Likewise, a vault toilet which typically has a 1,000 gallon vault will support roughly 10,000 uses, and is pumped annually to bi-annually at a cost of \$620 per unit. Porta-potties are also more susceptible to vandalism, garbage, and tipping or moving the units.

- 5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency plans, including Project 2188 License plans and land use and land management plans in place in the Corridor. Management plans should provide justification for the project.

► Installing a double vault latrine in the method proposed, will adhere with all county flood plain permit requirements, which are in place to protect resource values such as water quality, streamflow, riparian habitat, and fisheries protections. The existing latrine at the site, which sits below the floodplain, will receive relieved pressure from public demand as this new double latrine will be far more convenient and accessible for the users of this recreation site. Only 2 camping sites will be in closer proximity to the old latrine, while 7 camping sites and 40-day use parking spaces will be in closer proximity to the new double latrine that meets flood plain permitting requirements. This project will set a better example of meeting FWP's goals, and the goals outlined in the Missouri-Madison CRP to provide a safe and sanitary recreation site, while



mitigating and improving the overall impacts that users have on the natural resources of the property.

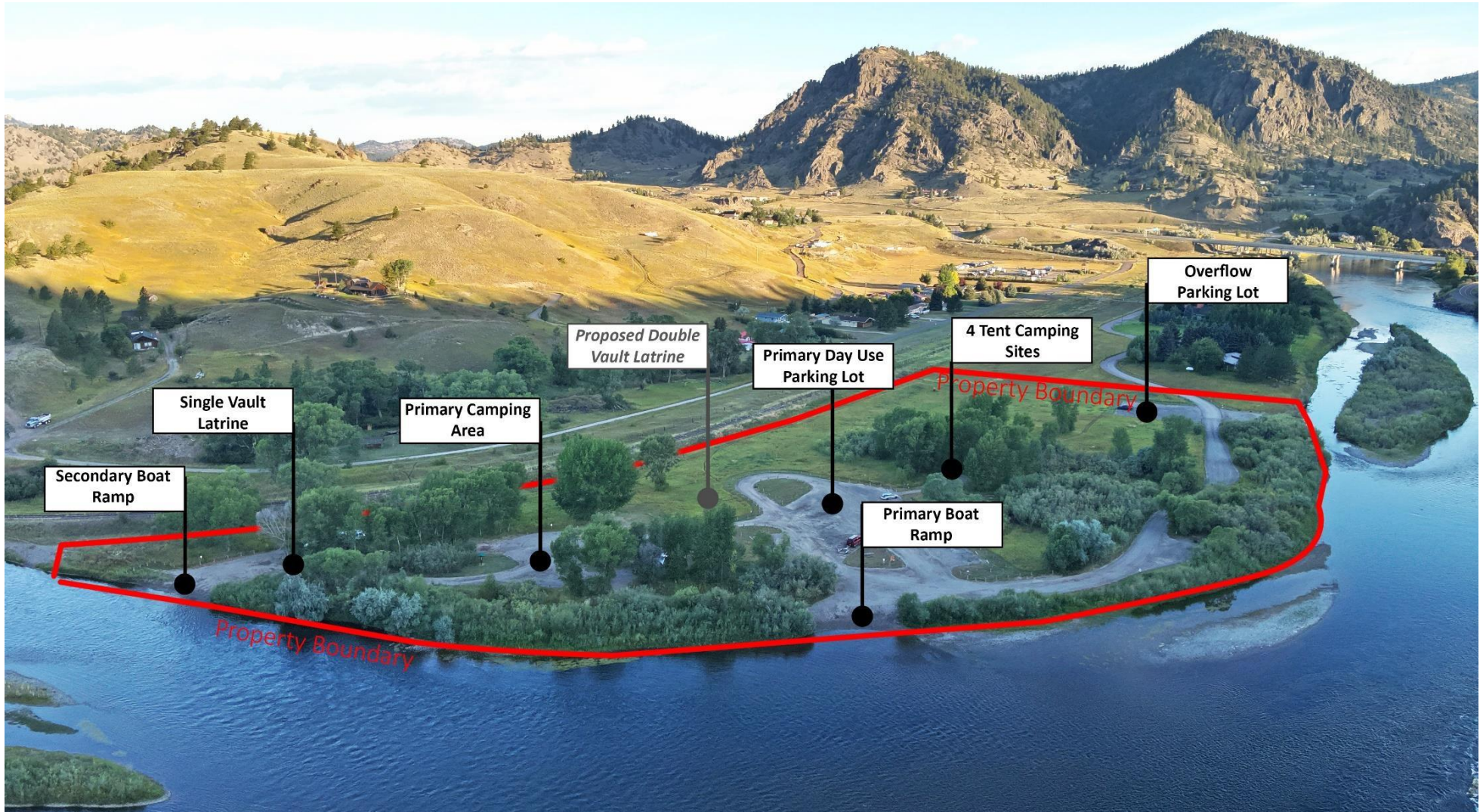
6. Insert map(s) showing the location of the proposed project, drawings and design work related to the project, and a reasonable number of photos (as available) here.

Figure 1: Example of a concrete double pre-cast vault latrine





Figure 2: Mid-Canon FAS property labeled map with proposed double vault latrine centrally located.

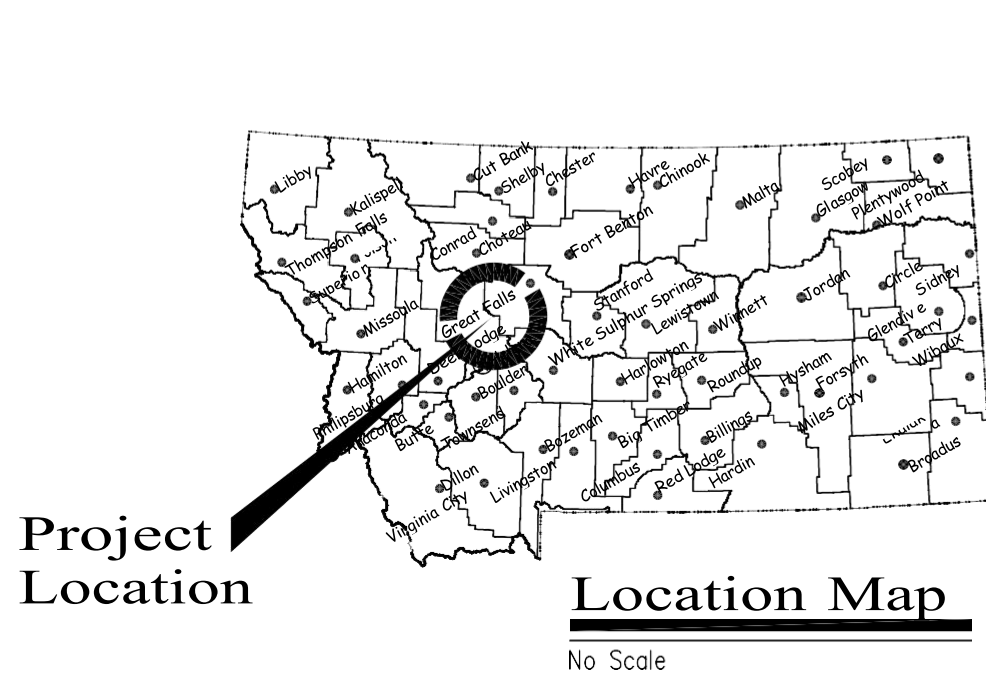


Appendix A: FWP Design and Construction Section Probable Project Cost and Conceptual Design



# PROPOSED LATRINE RELOCATION AT THE MID CAÑON FISHING ACCESS SITE

Cascade County, Montana



**Project Location**



**Vicinity Map**

No Scale

**Project Location**

## MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SECTION

### MAILING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 200701

HELENA, MT 59620-0701

TEL 406.841.4000

FAX 406.841.4004

[fwp.mt.gov/Doing Business/Design&Construction](http://fwp.mt.gov/Doing Business/Design&Construction)

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

1522 9th AVENUE

HELENA, MT 59601

## DRAWING INDEX

- 1 COVER SHEET
- 2 LATRINE SITE PLAN
- 3 DETENTION BASIN SITE PLAN
- 4 ENLARGED LATRINE RELOCATION SITE PLAN

K.HARRINGTON December 30, 2013

DRAWN BY: DATE:

CHECKED BY: DATE:

J. RENENGER 8/22/25

APPROVED BY: DATE:

APPROVED BY: DATE:

APPROVED BY: DATE:

APPROVED BY: DATE:

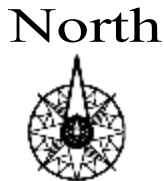
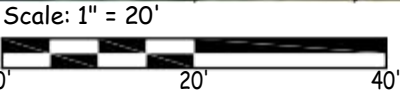
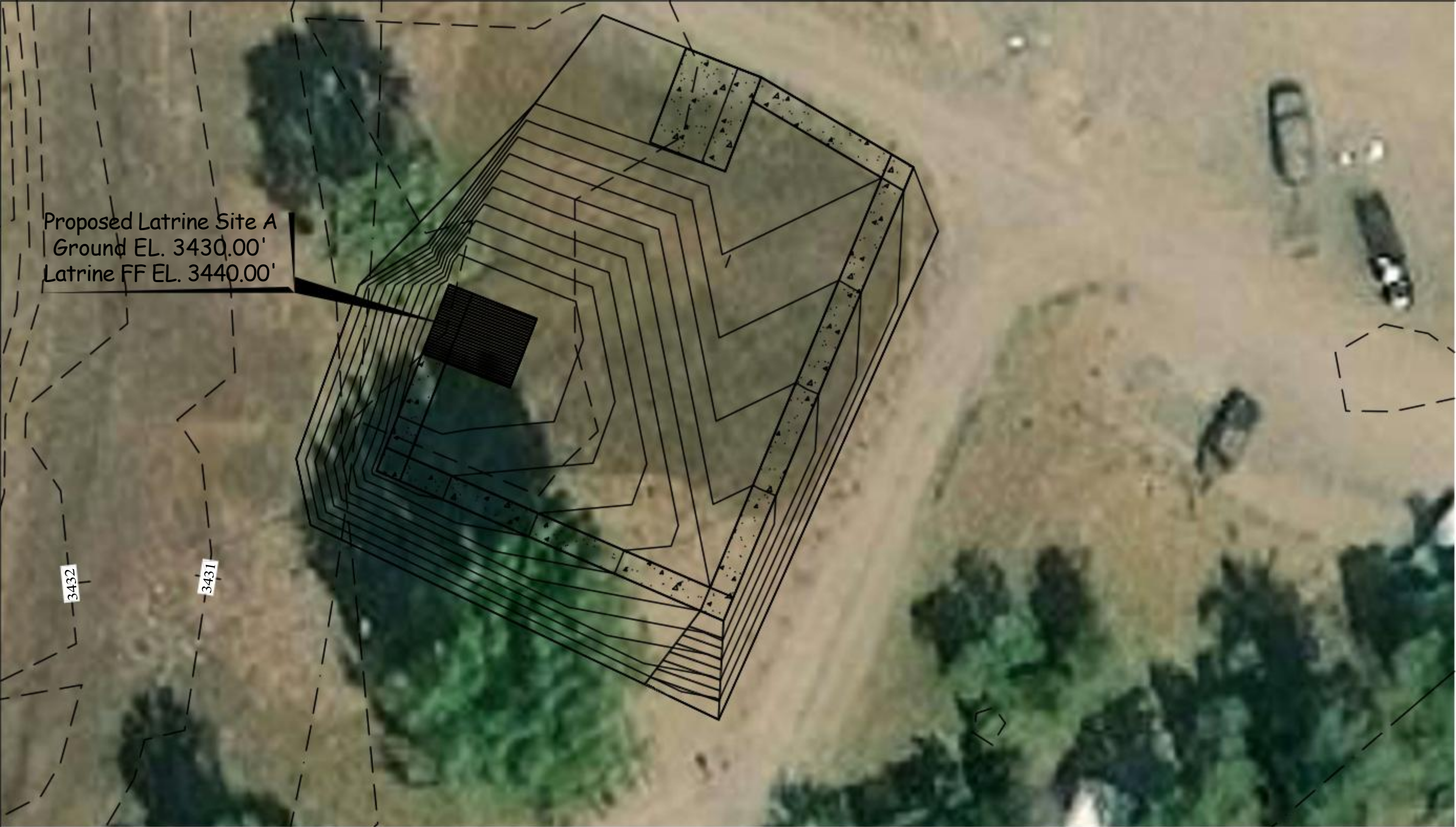


**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

**Mid Cañon FAS**  
Proposed Latrine Relocation

SHEET: 1  
of 4





K. HARRINGTON 8/22/25  
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CHECKED BY: DATE:

J. RENENGER 8/22/25  
APPROVED BY: DATE:  
APPROVED BY: DATE:

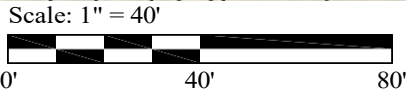
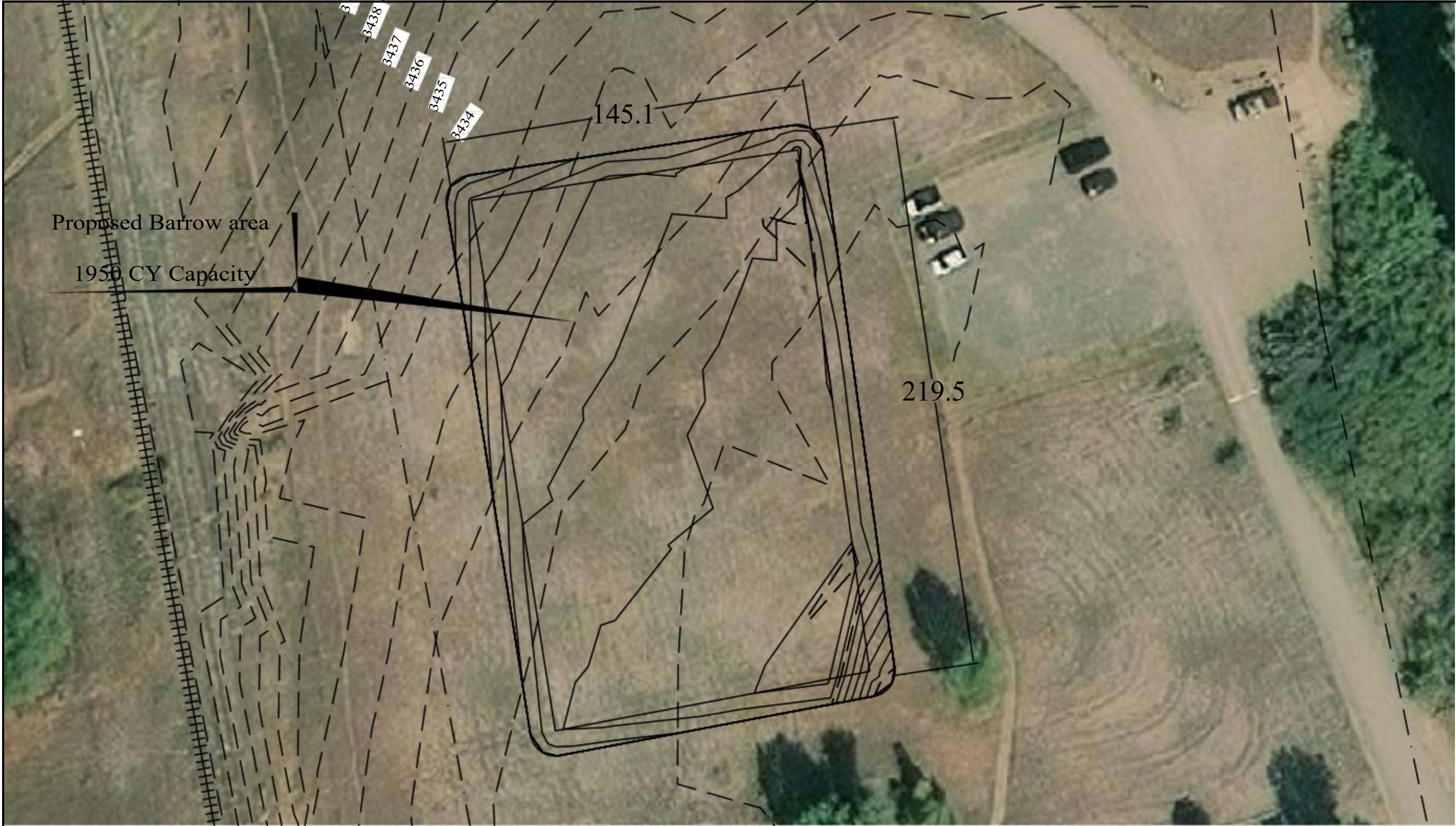
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APPROVED BY: DATE:



# Mid Cañon FAS

## Proposed Latrine Relocation





K.HARRINGTON	8/22/25
DRAWN BY:	DATE:
CHECKED BY:	DATE:

J. RENENGER	8/22/25
APPROVED BY:	DATE:
APPROVED BY:	DATE:

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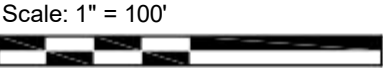
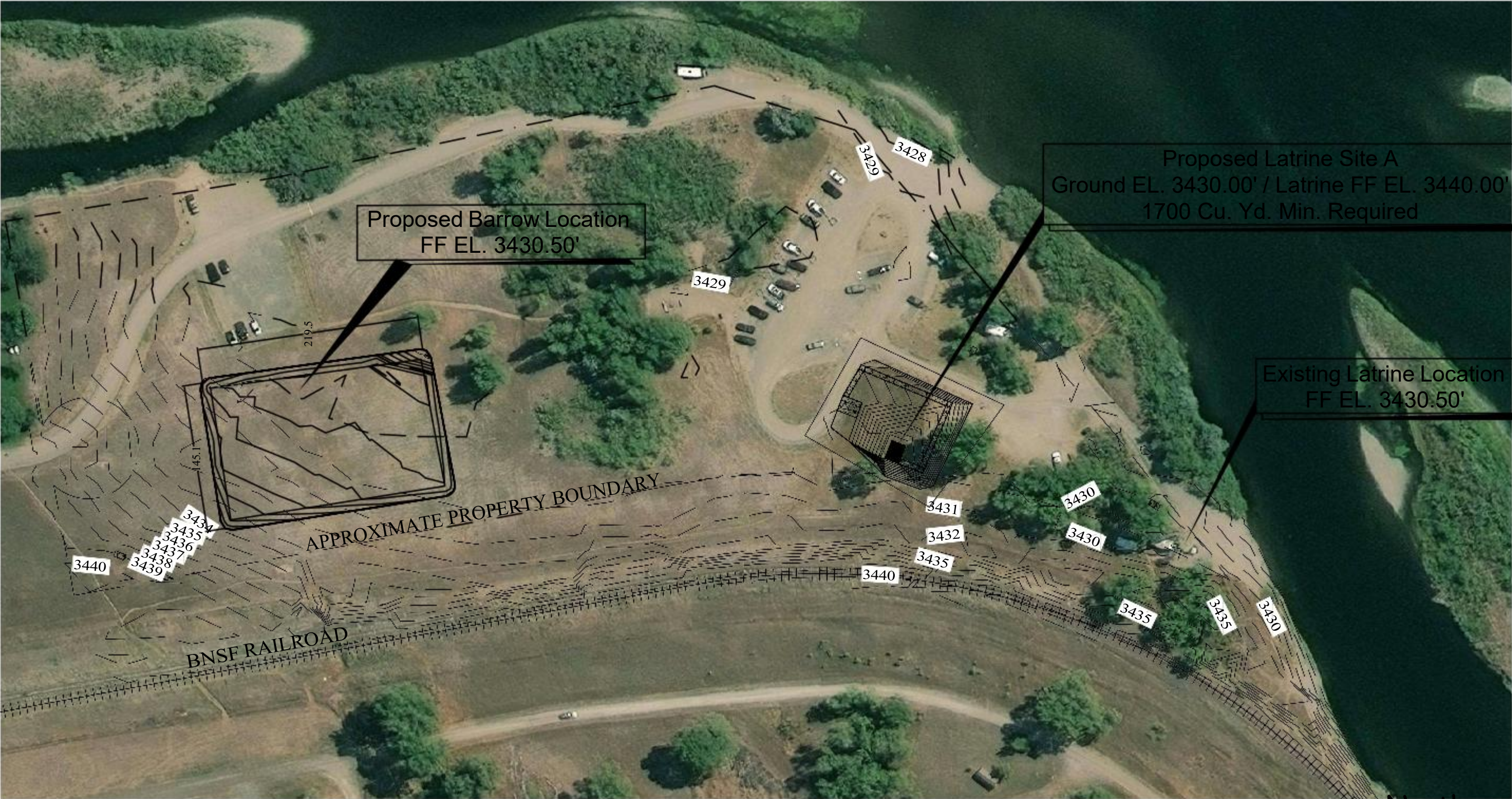


**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

# Mid Cañon FAS

## Proposed Barrow Pit Relocation





K. HARRINGTON		J. RENENGER		0'		100'	
8/22/25		8/22/25					
DRAWN BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:	APPROVED BY:	DATE:

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Mid Cañon FAS

Proposed Latrine Relocation



## Appendix B

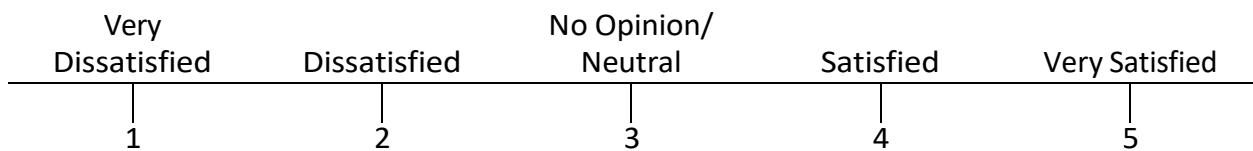
### 2022 Missouri-Madison Recreation Visitor Survey

#### Special Analysis: Missouri River Fishing Access Sites

This special analysis was conducted to provide information regarding visitors' opinions about conditions related to sanitation facilities at fishing access sites along the upper Missouri River. The information may not statistically represent the population of users at recreation sites due to small sample sizes (N-Value), so ***caution should be exercised in interpreting results***. However, data may be helpful for understanding general opinions.

	N-value	Average visitor rating of satisfaction with...	
		Upkeep and cleanliness of toilet facilities*	Number of toilet facilities*
MidCanon FAS	20	3.2	2.9
Craig FAS	9	3.4	4.0
Holter Dam Boat Launch and Campground	12	3.9	3.6

*\* Responses based on a scale from 1 (Very Dissatisfied) to 5 (Very Satisfied), as below.*





## CASCADE COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners  
325 2nd Avenue North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
Tel. 406.454.6810  
Fax 406.454.6945  
commission@cascadecountymt.gov  
www.cascadecountymt.gov

### Letter of Support

September 10, 2025

To the Board of Directors of Missouri/Madison River Fund,

The Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks has a lease agreement with the Cascade County Commission, for use of Cascade County Parkland at the Mid Canon Fishing Access on the Missouri River near the Dearborn Exit. Mt. FWP is proposing a project to add a double vaulted latrine to the site. This well-used boat launch and fishing access is with only one single vault latrine to serve the whole of the Mid Canon Fishing and Camping Area. The double vault latrine would be more centralized and closer to the campground and the primary boat ramp. This along with the current latrine would make for a cleaner and more pleasant facility for the recreating public.

The Cascade County Commission would be in support of this addition and feel this project is deserving of the Missouri/Madison River Grant Funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

James L. Larson  
Commission Chairman

Joe Briggs  
Commissioner

Eric Hinebach  
Commissioner