

**FEBRUARY 2026 COMMISSION MEETING
FUTURE FISHERIES TALKING POINTS**

- The citizen panel met on December 10th, 2025 to develop funding recommendations for the Winter 2026 funding cycle.
- 10 of 10 proposals received were recommended for funding or partial funding.
- Funding recommendations total **\$436,417**
 - **Requests** were \$436,417
 - **Contributions from recommended projects:** Total (match and other) was \$1.1 million
 - **Recommended project impact:** Ratio of \$2.6 in external contributions to every \$1 of FFIP funding (long term average is around \$5:1)
- This is the second of four funding cycles, and with these recommendations, would expend existing authority and funding.
 - \$2M ask in 2025 legislative session
- Recommended projects have gone through a prioritization process and final rankings are available to the Commission.
 - Prioritization was not used to make funding recommendations
 - By statute, this process happens after Review Panel makes recommendations
- Applications and materials are available online, fwp.mt.gov/FFIP. No public comments were received during the Review Panel meeting or outside the Commission Meeting public process.
- Environmental compliance is covered by Categorical Exclusion for many projects (4), and the remainder (3) will be addressed under FWP MEPA guidelines.
- Potential other questions
 - **Progress in Eastern Montana?**
 - FWP started a new effort to fund high priority design, which is already translating to projects moving toward construction (some of which will use FFIP)
 - Aquatic Habitat Coordinator in hiring process, which will build capacity to develop more projects from idea to construction.
 - **Legislative Request?**
 - None