Rose, Sharon

#1

From: brownjs2@bresnan.net
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 01 (Brown)--Public Comment: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project--Draft EA

Name: Jim Brown
City: Missoula
This is an excellent project that will both improve habitat for elk and reduce crown fire potential. Retention of snags is mentioned and I want to emphasize the importance of leaving snags and a few large diameter trees that could become snags. Flammulated owls do occur in this area. Leaving snags for this species of conservation concern and other snag dependent birds should be considered as an important objective. Creating a more open forest condition my also improve foraging conditions for the owl

---

This e-mail was generated from the 'Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project--Draft EA' Public Notice Web Page.

Rose, Sharon #2

From: Edward Monnig <emonnig01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 02 (Monnig)--[EXTERNAL] Mt Jumbo WMA project

Ms. Rose,

I have hiked through and around the Mt Jumbo WMA many times, and I believe the proposed forest habitat restoration project is appropriate and necessary.

A long history of fire suppression and economic-driven selective harvest have created non-sustainable forest conditions. Despite this history, there does remain a good legacy of large trees on the site which need the protection that can occur with designed thin-from-below treatment

Your public engagement process is well-crafted. Continue to make it clear that habitat improvement is the over-riding objective and that all treatments are in service of this goal.

Given the lack of snags in the Mt Jumbo area, please protect all existing snags possible. I believe this treatment will improve prospects for future snag recruitment.

The current outbreak of tussock moth on parts of Mt Jumbo are in part a reflection of the overly dense condition in these areas. Although a native insect, large tussock moth outbreaks can indicate forest conditions out of balance.

Thank you for vigorously pursuing this restoration activity.

Edward Monnig

Rose, Sharon

#3

From: bashoorzachary@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 03 (Bashoor)--Public Comment: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project--Draft EA

Name: Zachary Bashoor
City: Missoula
-Mentioned in Part 1, Item 8 of the EA, the "FWP is planning to coordinate the logging portion of this project with the adjacent timber harvest on Forest Service Land..." I applaud FWP for the frugality, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility of citizen's tax dollars.

- In part 1, Item 2, addressing Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan and threats to habitat types in the WMA, would potential for stand-replacing fire due to accumulations of hazardous fuels be considered a threat to the habitat types?

-Part 2, Item 8, outlining benefits of forest restoration treatments, instead of just benefitting the timber industry, would it be appropriate to outline benefit to multiple industries from both long-term increased public use opportunities by improving the vitality of the land and the result of cleaner airshed in the event of a fire in the WMA?

- If there are any growing concerns of aesthetic value deterioration: Due to the low amount of volume (board feet) being harvested and the high amount of public use in the area, it may make sense to physically mark "cut" trees of harvestable size, in the harvesting units to further mitigate long-term aesthetic concerns.

-I am in full support of this project and am encouraged to see a project right out my backdoor that will ensure forest resilience and vitality as well as contribute to long-term public safety, health, and economic stability.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project--Draft EA' Public Notice Web Page.

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Missoula Ranger District
(406) 329-3814
Bldg. 24A Ft. Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

#4

File Code: 1900

Date: 08/14/2020

Dear Ms. Bradley, Mr. Ritter, and Mr. Parke,

The Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest supports the objectives of the proposed treatments for the Forest Habitat Restoration Project listed in the July 2020 Draft Environmental Assessment.

The objectives of the proposed treatments to increase forage potential on elk and deer winter range, promote stand conditions that would allow fire to burn at low severity appropriate for the habitat type, and reduce fuel loading in the wildland urban interface closely align with similar ongoing treatments in the Missoula Ranger District's Marshall Woods Ecosystem Restoration Project (2016) adjacent to your proposed project boundary. These congruent treatments would serve to increase the efficacy of reducing the fuels and lessening the wildfire hazard in the broader area.

Promoting ecosystem health with prescribed fire to distribute beneficial fire effects to areas within the wildland urban interface (WUI) is an essential tool we support and compliments the objectives of the 2018 Missoula County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Your coordination with the US Forest Service, City of Missoula and others in this all lands approach exemplifies the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy goal of managing for resilient landscapes across all jurisdictions.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for Missoula Ranger District to comment on this proposal. Missoula Ranger District is interested in following the progress of your analysis and alternatives development and we look forward to this collaboration.

Sincerely.

Jennifer Hensiek
District Ranger

Rose, Sharon

#5

From: Eric Clewis <eclewis@mtwf.org>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 05 (MWF, Clewes)--[EXTERNAL] Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project Draft EA Comments
Attachments: Mt Jumbo WMA Letter.pdf

Sharon Rose,

Please consider the attached document as the Montana Wildlife Federation's comments regarding the Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project Draft EA. Will you please also list me as the point of contact for future updates?

Thank you,

Eric Clewis
Western Montana Field Coordinator
Montana Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 1175
Helena, MT 59624
cell: (832) 444-6976
eclewis@mtwf.org
www.montanaw [montanawildlife.org]ildlife.org [montanawildlife.org]

5

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Protecting Montana's wildlife, land, waters and hunting & fishing heritage for future generations.

August 19, 2020

Sharon Rose
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, Region 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula MT 59804

Attn: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project Draft EA

Dear Sharon Rose,

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is our state's oldest and largest state-based wildlife conservation organization. We were formed in 1936 when hunters joined landowners to restore depleted wildlife in Montana, and for 84 years we have worked on key issues affecting wildlife, habitat and access.

MWF is strongly supportive of the proposed forest habitat restoration project of approximately 100 acres on the Mt. Jumbo Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This project will increase potential forage for elk and deer as well as reduce severe wildfire risk in the wildland urban interface (WUI) near Missoula. Additionally, many species of non-game wildlife will benefit from this proposed habitat work.

Overall, this EA addresses many concerns that we would potentially have regarding noxious weed proliferation, logging practices and project timing. Conducting project work during winter months reduces negative impacts to soil health and leaves minimal landscape impact. The elk herd that frequents Mt Jumbo WMA typically utilizes the project area during late winter and early spring so the timing of project work mitigates negative impacts to this herd. Through coordinating this work with local Forest Service (FS) projects, there will be minimal long-term negative impacts to wildlife and recreation in this WMA. While it is impossible to completely negate detrimental impacts, we believe this project does an excellent job of walking the line between achieving landscape goals and reducing harm to wildlife.

MWF commends the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks for working to improve wildlife habitat on our WMA's while moving towards a fire resilient landscape. Thank you for the opportunity to comment If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please contact our Western Montana Field Coordinator, Eric Clewis, at eclewis@mtwf.org

Sincerely,

Eric Clewis

Eric Clewis
Western Montana Field Coordinator
Montana Wildlife Federation

PO Box 1175 | Helena, Montana 59624 | t: 406.458.0227 | e: mwf@mtwf.org | montanawildlife.org

Rose, Sharon

#6

From: Clancy Jandreau <jandreauc@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 06 (Missoula Parks & Rec, Jandreau)--[EXTERNAL] attn: Mt. Jumbo WMA Forest EA Comments
Attachments: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project_City of Missoula Comments.docx

Dear Sharon Rose,

Please find attached, the City of Missoula's Conservation Lands Program comments on the Draft EA for Mt. Jumbo. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Please let us know if you have any questions or seek additional information.

Thanks,

Clancy Jandreau
Conservation Lands Program Specialist
Ecosystem Services Division
Missoula Parks and Recreation
100 Hickory St.
Missoula, MT 59801
cjandreau@ci.missoula.mt.us
406.552.6739

Messages and attachments sent to or from this e-mail account pertaining to City business may be considered public or private records depending on the message content. The City is often required by law to provide public records to individuals requesting them. The City is also required by law to protect private, confidential information. This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this transmission, please notify the sender immediately, do not forward the message to anyone, and delete all copies. Thank you

MISSOULA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DIVISION
100 Hickory St • Missoula MT 59801 • (406) 552-6253 • (406) 327-2140 • www.missoulaparks.org
CONSERVATION LANDS MANAGEMENT URBAN FORESTRY

6

DATE August 24, 2020

TO Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59802

FROM Missoula Parks and Recreation
Conservation Lands Program
100 Hickory St.
Missoula, MT 59801

SUBJECT Comments on the Draft Mt. Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project EA

Dear Mt Jumbo Forest Project Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to read and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment for the Mt. Jumbo Wildlife Management Area. As an adjacent landowner to the proposed project, we are excited to see any project which will improve habitat for elk and other wildlife species that depend on the forests and grasslands of Mt. Jumbo. We see the Mt. Jumbo Wildlife Management Area as critically important in supporting the broader commitments that the City and FWP have jointly made to provide quality winter range habitat for elk and other species. With this in mind, we offer the following comments and/or recommendations to the Draft EA as written:

- Please clarify whether you intend to access the WMA during the Mt. Jumbo Winter Wildlife closure extending from December 1st through May 1st.
- If at all possible, we recommend that no work occurs during the usual winter closure period.
- If not possible, what specific impacts do you expect logging operations to have on elk while they are in their winter range?
- Finally, we wish to reiterate our request that FWP and their contractors coordinate any access across City land with the Missoula Parks Department.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing to improve habitat on Mt. Jumbo.

Sincerely,

Clancy Jandreau
Conservation Lands Program Specialist
Ecosystem Services Division
Missoula Parks and Recreation
jandreauc@ci.missoula.mt.us
406.552.6739

Rose, Sharon

#7

From: Walker Conyngham <walkconyngham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 07 (HHA, Conyngham)--[EXTERNAL] Attn: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project Draft EA
Attachments: Mt Jumbo WMA Restoration Project HHA comments.pdf

Hello Sharon,

Attached are Hellgate Hunters & Anglers' comments supporting the Jumbo restoration project. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

Sincerely,

Walker Conyngham
President
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers

7

Hellgate
HUNTERS & ANGLERS

P.O. BOX 7792 MISSOULA, MT 59807
www.hellgatehuntersandanglers.org

Sharon Rose
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 5980

August 25, 2020

Attn: Mt Jumbo WMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project Draft EA

Dear Sharon:

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA) is an all-volunteer conservation organization based in Missoula. We work to conserve Montana's wildlife, wild places, and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage. We represent over 400 members and supporters in western Montana. On behalf of these members, I write to you today to voice support for the Mt Jumbo Wildlife Management Area Forest Habitat Restoration Project.

The proposed actions will increase elk and deer forage across roughly 100 acres in addition to improving habitat for many non-game wildlife species. This project will also reduce wildfire risk near many houses within the north end of the Missoula valley. For sportsmen and women, homeowners, and the broader Missoula community, this restoration project is a commonsense approach to a pressing issue.

The environmental assessment directly addresses prevention measures for the spread of noxious weeds and provides mitigation for damage caused by logging practices. Scheduling this project during winter months will reduce the impacts of heavy machinery on the landscape. Additionally, coordinating this work with local USFS efforts will achieve project results over a shorter time period, thereby reducing negative impacts to wildlife and recreation. The elk herd that frequents this WMA typically occupies the project area in late winter and early spring and should not be significantly negatively impacted by this project. We appreciate the concern paid to Missoula's most visible elk herd in this regard and encourage the Department to ensure that the work is completed before elk occupy this winter range.

Hellgate Hunters & Anglers commends Montana FWP for working to improve wildlife habitat on our wildlife management areas while moving towards a fire resilient landscape. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Walker Conyngham
President
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers

Rose, Sharon #8

From: Parke, Jason
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 08 (Franke)--Mount Jumbo comment
Attachments: Support of Mount Jumbo WMP Restoration Project, 07-29-2020.docx

Hi Sharon,

I did not see this one in your spreadsheet but I got this attached letter from Rick Franke re: Mount Jumbo in late July.

R. Jason Parke

Forester

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PO Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

O: (406) 444-7329 | C: (406) 431-3223

8

July 29, 2020

Region 2 FWP
Attn: Mount Jumbo Forest EA
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804

RE: SUPPORT OF MOUNT JUMBO WMA HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Hello,

I am writing in support of FWP's plans for a restoration project in the Mount Jumbo Wildlife Management Area.

As a resident on Elk Ridge Road, the project area is located about a mile from our house. Our family has recreated in the area of the Mount Jumbo WMA for years, hiking and biking the roads and trails. I believe the proposed project can be conducted with minimal disruption to recreation, and fuel reduction efforts will reduce the risk of severe wildfire and help protect recreation values in the long run.

As a professional forester, I support the vegetative treatments proposed to enhance wildlife habitat, improve growth and vigor of remaining trees, and reduce hazardous fuel loading. Merchantable sized trees (sawlogs and pulplogs) designated for removal should be utilized and hauled offsite to reduce fuels and support local jobs.

I also support the burning of slash associated with the thinning operations, as well as broadcast burning prescribed by FWP to improved habitat. Nobody likes the smoke generated by such burning, but it's sometimes necessary to improve or maintain beneficial conditions, and is a good trade-off for reduced fuel loads and risk of an uncontrolled wildfire, literally in my back yard.

I am encouraged to see FWP plans to minimize impacts from the thinning operations by using forestry Best Management Practices. I support the application of herbicides as necessary to control noxious weeds on the project area, as weeds are a huge threat to native grasses and forbs in the area on which deer and elk depend.

Like so many others in the Missoula Valley, our family has enjoyed watching elk on the slopes of Mount Jumbo and the surrounding area. It's great to see FWP actively managing the Mount Jumbo WMA to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and other values.

Rick Franke
5070 Elk Ridge Road
Missoula, MT 59802