Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500
August 19, 2010

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to conduct forest restoration treatments on 354 acres within the Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area's Ovando Mountain Unit north of Ovando in Powell County. The purpose is to restore and improve ungulate winter range and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to the WMA and adjacent forested ownerships. Treatments would remove conifers encroaching on aspen galleries, thin shade-tolerant understories of historically open and fire-adapted stands, and remove diseased, dead and dying late-seral lodgepole pine to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and encourage grass and woody browse recruitment on important ungulate winter range.

This EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5500; by emailing fwprg22@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website http://fwp.mt.gov ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments should be directed by: mail to Jay Kolbe, FWP, PO Box 1228, Seeley Lake, MT 59868; phone to 406-677-0162; or email to jkolbe@mt.gov. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2010.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr