Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P O Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
November 7, 2008

Environmental Quality Council
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Research & Tech Services, Endangered Species Coordinator
Montana State Library
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Montana Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 7 – Miles City Office
State Historic Preservation Office
MT Environmental Information Center
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Native Species Coordinator
USDA Fort Keogh
Joe Whalen, City Hall Mayor
Milo Huber, Custer County Commissioners
Gary Matthews, Custer County Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed an Environmental Assessment prepared by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Fisheries Division. FWP must decide whether or not to grant an easement for the right of way across the Miles City Fish Hatchery property as requested by the Tongue River Railroad Company (TRRC). Two options are available to the State. FWP can implement a negotiated easement agreement with TRRC in which all critical concerns of FWP and the Miles City Fish Hatchery would be addressed and mitigated or FWP can choose not to grant an easement, in which case TRRC could initiate condemnation proceedings to appropriate the lands required for the right of way necessary for construction of the rail line as granted by the Surface Transportation Board.

The Environmental Assessment is available on Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks' webpage: http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices.

Please submit written comments by 5 P.M., December 7, 2008 to:

Bob Snyder, Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Sincerely,

Bob Snyder, Hatchery Bureau Chief
FWP Fisheries Division