April 24, 2009

You are invited to participate in a new pilot project in elk Hunting District 380 between the Elkhorn Working Group (EWG) and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).

The priority purpose of the project is to obtain public information on the location of wildlife, primarily elk, to aid in trend counts done by FWP (usually January or February) and to assist in determining wildlife distribution in seasons when the trend count is not being done. It secondarily provides opportunity for landowners and others to input specific wildlife-related concerns, comments and observations. This information will be publicly available after final summary. After not more than one year, an annual review effort including the EWG and FWP will assess this effort for utility, possible refinement, continuation or conclusion. Not to be monitored daily, this project will not replace existing survey efforts, official game damage complaints or other formal comment windows with FWP.

<u>You are asked to document daily observations on the website.</u> To submit observations, this letter with the embedded link below can be found under "Opportunity for Public Comment" on the Hunting home page at the *fwp.mt.gov* website. You may submit observations individually as they occur or via a single entry of multiple observations.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Dd3g7ZtjwpZ\_2bxQAAO6xw2w\_3d\_3d

This link opens an online reporting form for daily observations. The first seven entries on that form are self-explanatory. Comments below are provided to assist with items 8 – 11.

- **8. Location of First Elk Observation:** If possible, use Township, Range and Section. If those are not available enter a specific description of nearest landmark (i.e. "on ridge about 200 yards west of Manganese Springs" or use fences, roads, cattle guards, etc. to identify location).
- **9. Number and location of elk observed same day in second or subsequent observation:** This is for subsequent elk observations on the same day. Please combine with the location of those subsequent observations (i.e. Second observation "12 elk, 300 yards east of Horse Gulch BM sign-in-box #\_\_; Third observation 21 elk, T5N, R3W Sec. 14").
- **10. Comments about elk observations:** This may be used to note time of day of observation, terrain, cows, calves, bulls etc. Also for multiple past date observations (i.e. "First Elk Observation: 7:30. a.m., September 5, approx 20 cows, 5 calves, 2 brow-tined bulls, partly in timber and park; Second Observation: 4:30 p.m., September 29, 4 brow-tined bulls; Third Observation: 5:30 p.m., September 30, 40 cows, 10 calves. Have seen about same number of cows, calves in same location on three separate occasions this past September.").
- **11. Other observations or comments:** Use for observations of other wildlife, forage, weeds, specific concerns by landowners and others for FWP consideration, etc.

<u>Thank you for participating in this pilot project.</u> If you have any questions please call any of the following EWG Members or FWP personnel:

Brud Smith, EWG -- 225-4397 Tom Williams, EWG -- 266-5760 Tom Carlsen, FWP - 266-3367 Quentin Kujala, FWP - 444-5672