Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
Phone 406-542-5500
September 10, 2009

*Governor's Office, Attn: Mike Volesky, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Region 2 Information Officer, *Chris Hunter, Paul Valle*
*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184
*Region 2 FWP Citizen Advisory Committee members
**Seeley Lake Water District
**Seeley-Clearwater Resource Council
**Missoula Conservation District
Missoula County Weed Supervisor
*Bob Fullerton, Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
*Rob Kingery, Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest
Lolo National Forest
**Wade Fredenberg, Creston National Fish Hatchery, US Fish & Wildlife Service
**Big Blackfoot Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Cruz Ranches, Inc., Attn: Bill Cruz, PO Box 431436, Miami, FL 33143-1436
Jeff Bertsch, PO Box 207, Seeley Lake, MT 59868-0207

*Emailed notice of the EA's availability
**Mailed postcard notice of the EA's availability
blank = Mailed full copy of EA

Dear Interested Citizen:

The enclosed *Revised* Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Clearwater Fish Barrier Modification/Removal Project. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to reconstruct or remove a fish barrier and earthen dike constructed in 1964 along the Clearwater River (north of Seeley Lake, Missoula County), because the integrity of the fish barrier has diminished over time. The original Draft EA for this project was issued for public review in January 2009. This current revision primarily involves minor changes and clarifications to the original preferred alternative (3A) to construct a full height rock-step channel at the site. The revised preferred alternative includes a channel crest elevation that is 1.5-feet higher than previously proposed, in order to maintain the current reservoir pool elevation.

In addition, FWP addresses liability for structures that may remain at the site. Alternatives 1, 2, 3A and 3B would maintain a structure. Under these alternatives, FWP would make an

agreement with the landowner that would transfer liability and ownership for these structures to the landowner. The agreement would also require that the structure built would continue to provide passage for fishes that the constructed structure originally intended. No significant difference in project costs is anticipated. All comments received during the original EA review period will be considered when the Decision Notice for this Revised Draft EA is issued.

The Revised Draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library, and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from Region 2 FWP Headquarters at the above address, or viewed on FWP's Internet website at http://fwp.mt.gov ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2009, and should be addressed to Ladd Knotek at the address above, emailed to him lknotek@mt.gov, or phoned to him at 406-542-5506. If you have questions, please contact Ladd Knotek.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr
Enclosure: Clearwater Fish Barrier Modification/Removal *Revised* Draft EA