Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
Phone 406-542-5500
April 22, 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 direct federal funds toward the purchase of two Conservations Easements (CEs) to protect 16,864 acres of fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Blackfoot River watershed southwest of Ovando, Montana (Missoula and Powell counties). The North Chamberlain CE on 13,424 acres would be purchased by FWP from The Nature Conservancy, and financial support would be given to the Five Valleys Land Trust for its purchase of the Sunset Hill CE on the remaining 3,440 acres.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Ovando on Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Blackfoot Community Church (basement) to discuss the proposed acquisition and take public comment.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website http://fwp.mt.gov ("Recent Public Notices," beginning April 22).

Comments should be directed by: mail to Pat Saffel, Attn: Chamberlain EA, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula 59804; phone to 406-542-5507; or email to psaffel@mt.gov. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5 p.m. on May 21, 2010.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP conservation easement proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its June or July meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr