Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
406-542-5500
September 10, 2010

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find the Decision Notice (DN) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) concerning its proposal to purchase via fee title a 24,170-acre Wildlife Management Area from The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land northwest of Seeley Lake. The project area is located in the Blackfoot Valley's Clearwater watershed in Missoula County, within FWP administrative Region 2. Funding would come from the state Habitat Montana Program, state Hunting Access Enhancement Fund, USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Program, USFWS State Wildlife grant, US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program grant, and private fundraising. The total purchase price would be $18.4 million.

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

In consideration of the Draft EA and the DN, I will recommend that the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission approve the proposed purchase of the Marshall Creek property. This action is expected to be at the Commission's next scheduled meeting on October 7 in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana State Land Board. Both the Commission and Land Board meetings are open to the public.

Sincerely,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr