



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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September 15, 2011

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal for the evaluation of potential interim locations for the placement of bison until completion of a statewide bison conservation strategy. The sources of bison for the interim period are brucellosis-free bison originating from the ongoing Quarantine Feasibility Study. The interim locations evaluated in the EA include: FWP's Marias River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Spotted Dog WMA, Tribal lands on the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations, the Green Ranch, and the Slip 'n Slide pastures.

Comments on the proposal are being sought on the proposed action, and all comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2011. Comments can be submitted via regular mail to the PO Box above (please add, "Attn: Interim Translocation of Bison EA"), or emailed to [BisonSiteEvaluationEA@mt.gov](mailto:BisonSiteEvaluationEA@mt.gov).

Comments can also be submitted at one of the regional public hearings FWP will host during the comment period:

- Deer Lodge, October 5<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), Community Center at 6:30 pm;
- Shelby, October 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday), Marias River Electric Cooperative at 6:30 pm;
- One or two meetings are also planned in FWP's Region 6, so that interested parties to the proposed tribal lands can submit comments. Locations, times, and dates for those meetings are still pending. Please check FWP's website for updates.

Additional copies of the EA can also be obtained at the FWP regional headquarters in Glasgow, Great Falls, and Missoula; FWP's headquarters in Helena; and FWP's area office in Conrad; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> (under "Submit Public Comments") beginning September 15.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority and is expected to be asked to render a decision on this proposal at its November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in Helena.

Thank you for your interest in this project.