FWP Region 6
54078 Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230

October 17, 2012

Governor's Office – Sheena Wilson
Montana State Library, Helena
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director's Office
Fish and Wildlife Division
Parks Division
Lands Section
Communication & Education Bureau
Commission Secretary
Legal Unit
Montana DNRC Northeastern Land Office
Environmental Quality Council
MT Environ. Information Center
State Historic Preservation Office
Hill County Commissioners
Clay Vincent Hill County Planner
MFWP Commissioner, A. T. Stafne
Representative Kris Hansen
David Aageson
BFW Land Company
Donna Greytak
Arnold Hall
Healy Family LP
James Hirst
Lee & Roxana Laeupple
John Schaller
Steve and Wanda McIntosh
Evelyn Wanke
Trevor Wolery

Dear Interested Party:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing to purchase approximately 2,992 acres of property for a Wildlife Management Area located about 42 miles northwest of Havre. The property is located along the Milk River and consists primarily of Milk River riparian habitats and associated uplands.

The primary purpose of this proposal is to conserve and enhance native areas that provide important habitat for game and nongame species and to provide additional recreational opportunities for the general public. This habitat provides critical winter range for big game species and the Milk River serves as a migratory corridor for many species. Protecting and enhancing the existing habitat is expected to increase use by game animals, including mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer, antelope, pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, and waterfowl along with a variety of native nongame species of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals.

The Draft Environmental Assessment can be found on the on the FWP website at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/. Additional details regarding this proposal are included in the Draft Management Plan and Socio-Economic Assessment. The comment period for this proposal will be from October 17th through 5:00 pm on November 9th. A hard copy of the proposal can be requested by calling 406-228-3700.

A public meeting will be held at the Hill County Electric Hospitality Room in Havre on October 30th at 7:00 pm to discuss the proposed acquisition and take public comment.

Please send all written comments to the following address:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Attn: Milk River WMA Acquisition Proposal
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501

Comments can also be emailed to: shemmer@mt.gov

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Pat Gunderson
Region 6 Supervisor
Montana, Fish Wildlife & Parks