



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Ent

54078 US Hwy 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230

November 26, 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
Chouteau County Commissioners

Chouteau County Planner
MFWP Commissioner, Ron Moody
Representative Roy Hollandsworth
Senator Llew Jones
Bradley Dugdale, Attorney at Law
Harold Brende
Ronnie Briese
Roger Debruyker
D & J Robertson Farms
Humphrey Limited Partnership
K & E Brothers
Lazy B M LTD Partnership
Georgia Reichelt
Virgelle Ventures Inc
Dianna Webster

Dear Interested Party:

You recently received documents relating to the proposed action of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) accepting the donation of 1,050 acres of property for a Wildlife Management Area located approximately 13 miles southwest of Big Sandy. The property is located along the Missouri River and consists primarily of native grasslands, badlands, and riparian habitats.

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 mule deer. Protecting and enhancing the existing habitat is expected to increase use by game animals, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, antelope, sharp-tailed grouse, and Hungarian partridge along with a variety of native nongame species of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals.

Through the public comment effort that ran from October 17 through November 9, 2012 and the public hearing that was held, written or verbal comments were received from 10 individuals. The majority of the comments that were received supported the proposal (7), one comment opposed the acquisition, while the remaining two comments did not support or oppose the proposal.

The Decision Notice is available for review at the Region 6 FWP headquarters in Glasgow and at the FWP Havre area office. The Decision Notice is also available upon request by contacting the FWP Havre Area Office at 265-6177 or on the FWP website at <http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices>.

Several issues were raised during the comment period; they are all addressed in the Decision Notice with additional explanation. Based on the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and public access benefits, as well as, a majority of public support for the project, it is my recommendation through the attached Decision Notice to accept the donation of this property to create Spring Coulee WMA, subject to approval by the MFWP Commission and the State Land Board.

The Commission will be asked to accept the donation of this property on a conference call scheduled for 9:00 AM on December 10, 2012. The public will be afforded an opportunity to listen to and provide comment during the conference call at all Regional Headquarters and at the Great Northern Inn in Havre, Montana. If you have any further questions regarding this proposal, please contact Scott Hemmer at the Havre Area Office at 265-6177.

Thank you very much for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Gunderson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Gunderson
Region Six Supervisor