Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

July 31, 2014

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire 640 acres adjacent to FWP's Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA), two miles west of Anaconda in Deer Lodge County. The WMA addition would provide critical winter and spring habitat for elk, is notable for its extensive aspen stand that provides high-quality habitat for multiple species, and would improve public access to the WMA. The project would be funded with $1.36 million from NRDP, $50,000 from FWP's Habitat Montana Fund, and $50,000 from the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Anaconda on August 14th (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. at the Metcalf Memorial Senior Citizen Center (115 East Pennsylvania) to discuss the proposed acquisition and take public comment.

The EA may 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 ("Public Notices," beginning August 1).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2014.

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 and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its October meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr