



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

**Region 1  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901**

**Decision Notice  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
PINE GROVE POND  
FISHING ACCESS SITE  
PROPOSED ACQUISITION  
Environmental Assessment**

**November 7, 2016**

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to accept the donation of 5.17 acres of property bordering the Pine Grove Pond Fishing Access Site (FAS). The parcel would be donated by the Street Family Trust and would serve as a buffer between the fishing access site and the surrounding private land. Since its acquisition in 2010, Pine Grove Pond Fishing Access has been a very popular family recreation site. FWP currently owns approximately 23 acres, including a 12-acre family fishing pond and 1500 feet of shoreline on the Whitefish River. Private land to the north and west of the FAS is subject to potential subdivision and residential development in the future, threatening the primitive character and natural environment of the FAS. This additional property would help mitigate those impacts by providing a buffer from development and could provide additional parking space if needed in the future.

**Public Comment:**

FWP accepted public comment on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for a 15-day period, from October 20, 2016, through November 4, 2016. The EA was advertised through media releases and legal notices in the Daily Inter Lake, Whitefish Pilot, and Helena Independent Record. Copies of the EA were available from the Kalispell FWP office and the FWP State Headquarters in Helena. Public notice was on the FWP web site, and the draft EA was available for viewing at the Montana State Library and the Flathead County Libraries. Notification of the draft EA was distributed to neighboring landowners and interested parties. Seven comments were received, all of which were in favor of the proposal to accept donation of the property.

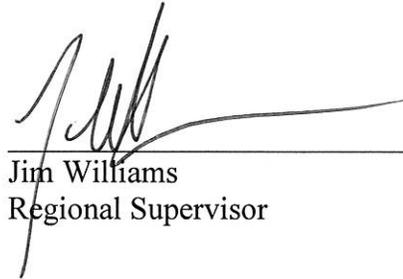
**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):**

Based on the analysis in the EA, I find Alternative B to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**Alternative B: Proposed Action:**

FWP would accept the donation of a total of 5.17 acres in order provide a buffer to future development on neighboring private land, additional parking if needed, wildlife viewing, and picnicking. FWP also proposes to fence the property boundary where necessary.

The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.



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Jim Williams  
Regional Supervisor

11/7/16

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Date