



Board of County Commissioners
Mark Crago | Chair
Tyrel Hamilton
Steve Riveland

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11/16/2021

Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

RE: Support for proposed acquisition of Big Lake WMA addition

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners:

As the Stillwater County Commissioners representing each of its three districts, we support the addition of approximately 114 acres to the Big Lake Wildlife Management Area by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). The proposed acquisition is located on the south side of Big Lake about 23 miles northwest of Billings in Stillwater County. The property is currently owned by T Bar J Ranch.

FWP's proposed acquisition is entirely consistent with community interests in Stillwater County. Specifically, this addition to the Big Lake WMA will allow FWP and the landowner to build a fence on upland ground instead of through the basin of Big Lake, which will greatly facilitate management of wildlife and provide for cattle fencing without the recurring challenge of fencing in a waterbody. It is also important to our constituents that FWP will be paying the equivalent of property taxes after it acquires the property and will subsume management of the property into the WMA for current and future generations of Stillwater County residents to continue to enjoy.

Thank you for considering this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Steve Riveland
District 1

Mark Crago
District 2

Tyrel Hamilton
District 3

Return to: Mike Ruggles, Region 5 Supervisor
Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks
mikeruggles@mt.gov

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Ruggles, Mike

From: Bert Otis <otisranch@wispwest.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 9:00 AM
To: FWP Region 5 Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alternative B: Proposed Action – FWP would purchase in fee title the proposed, South Side Addition to Big Lake WMA.

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks Commission,

I support Alternative B, the fee title purchase of the 115 acres of land adjoining Big Lake. It seems like the best/easiest solution to fencing the cattle out of the WMA. The appraised value seems good also.

Thank you

Bert Otis

PO Box 60

Emigrant, MT 59027