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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks P.O. Box 1630 Miles City, MT 59301

September 8, 2023

## **RE:** Wildcat Wildlife Management Area Fee Title Acquisition EA

Dear Interested Party:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is proposing the establishment of the Wildcat Wildlife Management Area (WMA) along the Lower Yellowstone River Corridor (LYR) in Rosebud County, Montana. Public access to lands along the LYR is currently limited and in areas where public access opportunities do exist, such resources are heavily utilized. Due to the abundance of recreational potential along the LYR, and the current lack of public access, recreational opportunities are cherished.

FWP determined a Checklist EA constitutes the appropriate level of review for the proposed action. Therefore, to assess and disclose potential impacts of the proposed action, FWP prepared a Draft Checklist EA for recent public review and comment. Public comment was accepted from August 1, 2023, to August 30, 2023, during which time 281 comments were received.

Based on the environmental review provided in the Draft EA, FWP review of public comments received on the Draft EA, and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies, FWP determined the Proposed Action will not have significant adverse impacts on the human environment and constitutes a reasonable and appropriate strategy to achieve the identified objectives. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is unnecessary. FWP hereby adopts the Draft EA as final and approves the proposed action.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Brett Dorak, FWP Region 7 Wildlife Manager, at (406) 234-0921.

Sincerely,

Brad Schmitz Region 7 Supervisor