



Region 5, 2300 Lake Elmo Dr, Billings, MT 59105
Decision Notice for acquisition of 501 Pemberton Ln with additional improvements
November 17, 2022

Description of Proposed Project

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) appreciates the reviews and comments regarding the proposed Pemberton Lane acquisition. As detailed in the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), FWP proposes to acquire 2.442 acres of land at 501 Pemberton Lane, for administrative use which would support FWP and Region 5 operations. Likely improvements include installation of sidewalks, lighting, and security fencing at the site. Additionally, installation of a sidewalk along Lake Elmo Drive at the FWP Region 5 Administrative office at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, and within the driveway a loading and unloading zone and lighting to improve access and safety for the public are improvements under consideration for access to Lake Elmo State Park from the administrative office.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) FWP released a draft EA for public review on October 7, 2022 and asked for public comment through November 7, 2022. Notice of the EA's availability was published in the Billings Gazette and Helena Independent Record. Adjacent landowners were also notified. The EA was posted on FWP's official website and was also available at the Region Five Headquarters in Billings.

The EA evaluated potential impacts of the following alternatives:

1. Purchase property at 501 Pemberton Lane and finalize plans for the development of sidewalks and lighting at both sites, security fencing at Pemberton Lane property, and the loading/unloading zone at the regional office for recreationists utilizing Lake Elmo State Park.
2. Do not purchase 501 Pemberton Lane and develop the sidewalk, lighting, and security fence but move forward with improvements at FWP R5 Headquarters to include sidewalk, lighting, and a loading/unloading zone for recreationists utilizing Lake Elmo State Park.
3. No action

SUMMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

FWP received 1 public comment in favor of the land purchase.

DECISION

After considering the public comment, FWP recommends approval of the proposed action, to acquire the 2.442-acre lot at 501 Pemberton Lane and make proposed improvements at 501 Pemberton Lane and 2300 Lake Elmo Drive Following the Environmental Assessment, I have determined the proposed action will not have negative effects on the human and physical environments associated with this project. I conclude that the EA is the appropriate level of analysis, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary. Provided the proposed acquisition is approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, the department will proceed with purchase of the property at 501 Pemberton Lane and finalize plans for the development of sidewalks and lighting at both sites, security fencing at Pemberton Lane property, and the loading/unloading zone at the regional office for recreationists utilizing Lake Elmo State Park. By this Decision Notice, the draft EA is hereby made final.



Mike Ruggles
Region 5 Supervisor
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Date