



4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405
February 14, 2024

Dear Interested Parties:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) is proposing to purchase and manage a conservation easement (CE) on 1,080 acres owned by Cliff Henderson north of Winifred, MT. This proposed CE, called the “Stafford Ferry Conservation Easement,” will protect and conserve in perpetuity mixed sagebrush-grassland habitat adjoining the Missouri River Breaks in deer/elk hunting districts (HDs) 417 and 426. This CE will also guarantee free public access for hunting and other recreational pursuits on these deeded CE lands, satisfying MFWP’s objectives in providing access and recreational opportunities to the public.

MFWP is currently seeking review and public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed CE. The EA and associated documents, including the Draft Deed of Conservation Easement and Draft Management Plan may be obtained by viewing MFWP’s internet website <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notice>. A 15-day public review and comment period will be available February 19 – March 6, 2024. A public informational meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on February 27, 2024, at the BLM office in Lewistown, MT.

Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or e-mail to the addresses below. Comments must be received by MFWP no later than 5:00pm on March 6, 2024.

Stafford Ferry CE c/o Sonja Andersen
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
or email comments to: sandersen@mt.gov

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon following the end of the comment period. The Draft EA will be considered as final if no substantive comments are received by the deadline listed above. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will have the final decision-making authority over this CE proposal.

Thank you for your interest and involvement,

Sincerely,

Jason Rhoten
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4 Supervisor
Great Falls, MT 59405
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