

COUNTY OF

POWELL

409 Missouri Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-846-3680

Chairman Brenden, Senator Vuckovich, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Donna Young. I represent the Powell County Commissioners, in support of Senate Bill 174, introduced by Senator Vuckovich.

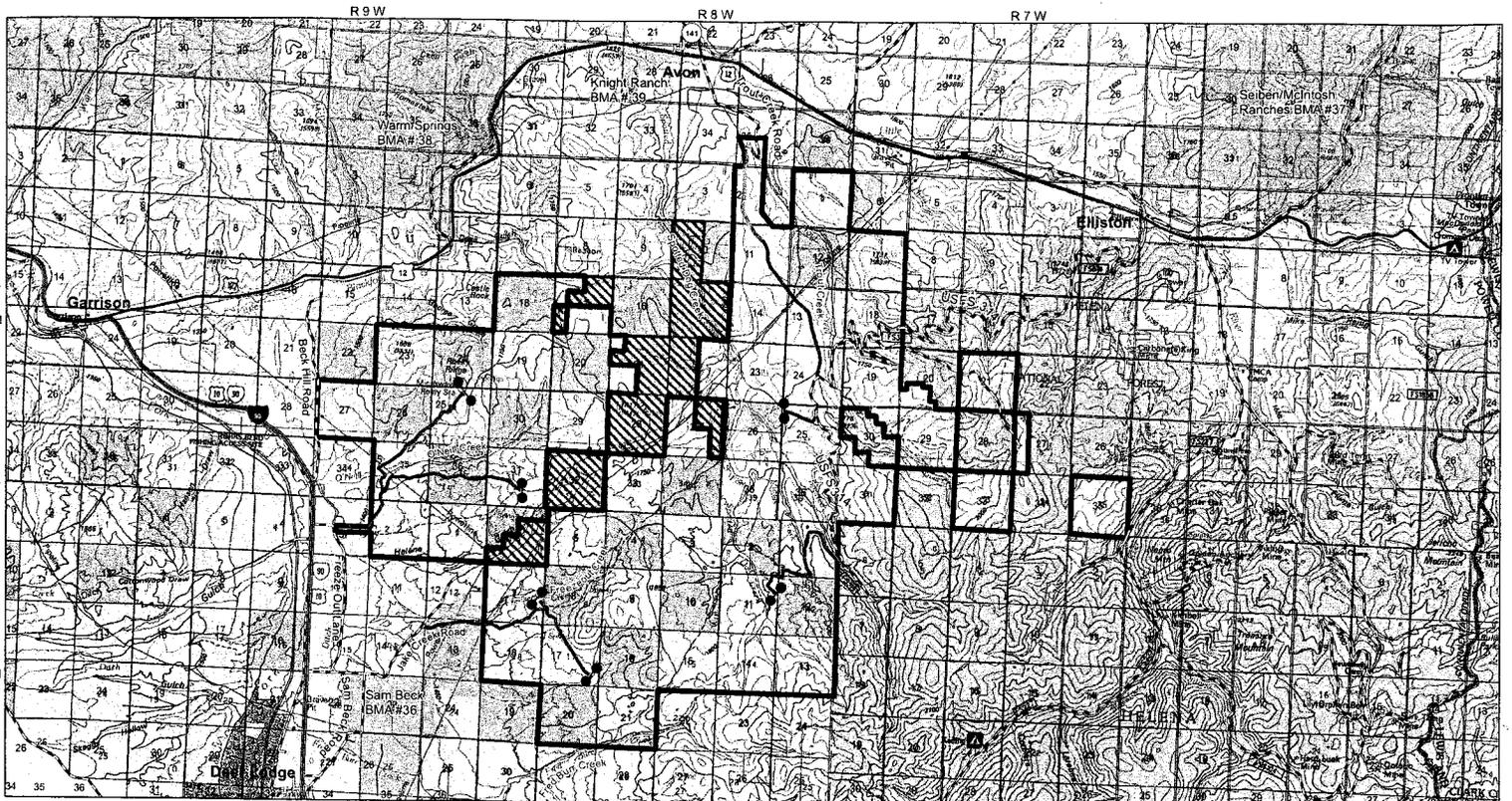
Last summer, when the FWP used Natural Resource Damage funds to purchase the Spotted Dog property for use as a Wildlife Management Area, the County Commission was asked for their support. We supported this purchase, with conditions. One condition was that the property would continue its historic use as grazing land.

This was a very fast process, with the property quickly purchased and opened for hunting season. The Commissioners were never informed that the FWP Director was planning to use the property to disperse captive buffalo. The current fences will not support keeping them off of the neighboring ranches. Past practices of cattle grazing, and use as deer and elk habitat is in the best interest of the ranchers, hunters, and the economy of Powell County.

I am asking for your support for SB 174, to prevent the movement of buffalo to the Spotted Dog property.

I have written testimony for the record, and would be happy to answer questions.

Thank you for your time.



Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area

Disclaimer - This map is not intended to depict property ownership outside of the Wildlife Management Area. Contact the appropriate land management agency for information on public land ownership and travel guidelines.



- Spotted Dog WMA Boundary
- Private Land In-Holding (PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE LAND NO TRESPASSING)
- State School Trust (DNRC)
- US Forest Service
- BLM
- Interstate Highway
- State or Federal Highway
- County or Other Public Road
- WMA Public Access Road
- Parking Area, Gate or End of Motorized Access

TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

1. Access to WMA by designated motorized travel route, foot, bicycle or horseback only.
2. Motorized access east of USFS 314 is allowed on designated roads. Refer to USFS Regulations.
3. No Camping on DNRC Lands.

10/13/2010

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 2/1/11

BILL NO. SB 174

SPOTTED DOG WILDLIFE

MANAGEMENT AREA: INTERIM PUBLIC-USE

REGULATIONS FOR 2010

(Valid beginning 10-20-2010, unless otherwise posted, updated or rescinded)

1. Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is open to public use from noon on May 15 through November 30. During this period, motorized travel is allowed only on open roads (see accompanying map). Hiking and horseback riding is allowed anywhere on the WMA, and mountain bicycling is allowed on roads and trails.
2. Motorized vehicles are restricted to the designated open road system (no motorized vehicles off roads or on closed roads; see accompanying map). The designated open road system includes Jake Creek Road, O'Neill Ridge Road, Trout Creek Road, Spotted Dog Creek Road, Rocky Ridge Road, US Forest Service Road #314, and some associated roads in the WMA that are east of Road #314.
3. Gates--Do not park in such a way as to block gates (whether they are open or closed). Do not park along roads in such a way as to block motorized or nonmotorized travel.
4. Camping is allowed (motorized vehicles restricted to the road shoulder or pullouts). Camping stay limit is 14 days during any 30-day period.
5. **NO CAMPING** on DNRRC Lands within Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area.
6. No firewood cutting. Open fires are prohibited.
7. A recreationist may not keep horses on state school trust land overnight.
8. Permits are required for groups of more than 15 people; contact Region 2 FWP.
9. Contact Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (406) 542-5500 or DNRRC (406) 563-6078 with any questions.
10. Pack in, pack out garbage and litter.
11. Hunting is in accordance with regulations pertaining statewide and to Deer/Elk Hunting District (HD) 215, Antelope HD 215, and Black Bear Management Unit (BMU) 301.
12. Trappers still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from DNRRC, usually at no additional charge. Contact FWP in late October for further information on trapping.
13. Be aware that cattle are still present on this WMA; please use caution and know your target!
14. Pets must be kept under the control of the recreationist and may not harass livestock.
15. The WMA will be closed to all public entry from December 1 until noon on May 15, to provide undisturbed access for elk, deer and antelope to critical winter habitat.
16. Due to the winter closure, the WMA is closed to the winter season for mountain lion hunting, and will open for spring black bear hunting at noon on May 15th.
17. An exception to the winter closure allows snowmobilers to continue using the pre-existing groomed trail system along Forest Service roads (Tree Farmer Road and Irish Mine Road) in the eastern portion of the property, where potential conflicts with wintering wildlife are minimal. Snowmobilers must stay on the groomed route.
18. Outfitting is prohibited within the WMA.
19. Commercial activities are prohibited, except as authorized by permit, as specified by FWP's commercial use policy.

REPORT VIOLATIONS--During office hours call R2 FWP at 406-542-5500. Evenings, weekends and holidays, call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) or 9-1-1.

Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
406-542-5500



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**