



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: (406) 257-0349  
Ref:mw005-01  
February 27, 2001

Dear Interested Parties:

We wanted to bring you up to date on the progress on Shelter Island. I apologize for not being more timely with this letter, but I have been down with the flu for the last ten days.

As you are probably aware, Timberland Construction was at the site in January. They did some clearing for the home and boathouse, and accomplished tasks that would provide information on which the design of the project (septic systems, etc.) could be based. Due to recommendations in the Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan, and upon the recommendation of the biologist that has been hired to write a nest management plan, Timberland ceased work on February 1 and pulled all equipment off the island. The work in January fell within general guidelines set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The eagle biologist (the biologist selected was recommended by FWP and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will be monitoring the nest for the next month, coming up with recommendations and, finally, a nest management plan.

An archeologist has been hired and has surveyed the site. He found no evidence of burial grounds. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Cultural Committee was contacted, and they have no records of burial sites on the island. The archeologist will continue to work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to ensure protection of any archeological or cultural resources throughout the building process.

Finally, Mr. Abbey has purchased mainland property over which he will run the power cable to the water; hence, he no longer needs a powerline easement on the Zelezny access site. The result is that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks no longer has any role in this process, except to provide information to DNRC as to how the power cable will affect fish and wildlife. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has jurisdiction below low water mark on the lake. This means that all further correspondence and questions pertaining to the electrical cable installation should be directed to William Wright, Kalispell-Plains Unit Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. His phone number is (406) 751-2263, and his e-mail address is [wwright@state.mt.us](mailto:wwright@state.mt.us). All correspondence received to this date will be forwarded to Mr. Wright.

Lake

**Shelter Island Interested Parties**

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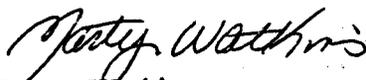
February 27, 2001

Neither FWP nor DNRC have control over what a landowner does on private property. We cannot require Mr. Abbey to write a nest management plan or require him to allow an anthropologist or the tribe to look at the site for cultural resources. He is paying to get these things done because he feels it is the right thing to do. Lake County Planning Office has stated that what this landowner is doing is well within their requirements for septic permits and land use. When dealing with private property, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can only react after a nest is abandoned. Mr. Abbey, by hiring an expert to write a nest management plan, has gone out of his way to make sure the eagle is protected and the nest is not abandoned because of his activities.

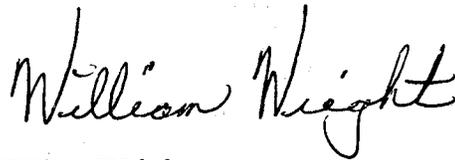
DNRC continues to gather information regarding the marine power cable. When this information is gathered, they will update the environmental assessment.

Thank for you for interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Marty Watkins  
Regional Park Manager  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
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