



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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JUN 28 2005

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref: JS049-05  
June 24, 2005

TO:

USFWS Bison Range, Steve Kallin, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 59824  
Ralph Goode, Chairman, Flathead Reservation Fish & Wildlife Board, 4717 Hillside Rd., Charlo, 59824  
CSKT Fish & Wildlife Program, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855  
Tony Incashola, Salish Culture Committee, Box 418, St. Ignatius, MT 59865  
Patricia Hewankorn, Kootenai Culture Committee, P O Box 278, Pablo, 59855  
Sid Rundell, PO Box 162, Big Arm, 59910  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
\*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
\*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Lands, & Wildlife  
\*Mt Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Helena 59620  
\*Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800  
DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601  
\*DNRC, Bob Sandman  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624  
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624  
Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman, 59715  
Polson City Library, PO Box 820, Polson, 59860  
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Ave. E, Polson, 59860  
Sen. John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-9317  
Rep. Jean Windham, 894 Finley Point Road, Polson, 59860

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region One, has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the West Wing Birding Blind project at the Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area just off of Highway 93 in Lake County. The purpose of the project is to construct a wildlife viewing and photography blind in order to enhance wildlife/bird-watching opportunities for tourists and local enthusiasts.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the record of decision is attached. Please direct your questions or comments to Wildlife Area Manager John Grant, FWP Ninepipe WMA, 5791 Ninepipe Road, Charlo, MT 59824, (406) 644-2510 or e-mail to [jgrant@mt.gov](mailto:jgrant@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Jim Satterfield  
Regional Supervisor

/ni

Enclosure

c: Big Sky Upland Bird Association, PO Box 9005, Missoula, 59807-9005  
Ducks Unlimited, Great Plains Region, 2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-9011  
Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, PO Box 39, Charlo, 59824

\*E-mailed

**West Wing Birding Blind Project**

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**June 24, 2005**

**Joe Ball, University of Montana Wildlife Coop Unit, 909 S Ave W, Missoula, 59801**

**Polson Outdoors, Inc., Matt Bishop, PO Box 1432, Polson, 59860-1432**

**Bill Matthews, Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903**

**Flathead Audubon, PO Box 9173, Kalispell, 59904**

**Mountain Audubon, #1 Second Ave E, Suite C-179, Polson, 59860**

**Five Valleys Audubon, PO Box 8425, Missoula, 59807**

**Lower Flathead Valley Community Foundation, Inc., William H. Edelman, 1050 Spring Creek Road, Ronan, 59864**

**Rob Shrider, CAC, 204 Hwy 93 S, Ronan, 59864**

**Greg Schafter, President, Mission Valley Pheasants Forever, 4220 West Post Creek Rd., Charlo, 59824**

**Daniel Casey, American Bird Conservancy, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, 59901**

**Mission Valley Ducks Unlimited**



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Record of Decision  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
West Wing Birding Blind Project  
Environmental Assessment

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 1  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

June 24, 2005

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

A 10-ft x 10-ft wooden plank platform with slatted wooden walls on three sides to serve as a wildlife viewing and photography blind will be built at the Ninepipe WMA near an existing parking area adjacent to US Highway 93. A walkway (4-ft wide and approximately 100-ft long) will be constructed between the parking area and the platform. Beginning at the parking area the walkway will be made mostly of compacted gravel terminating at a short plank boardwalk leading onto the viewing platform. Along one side of the walkway will be a 6-ft high "screening" wall. The structure will enhance wildlife/bird-watching opportunities for tourists and local enthusiasts. Public education and awareness of natural resources will occur.

With the no-action alternative, the structure would not be built and potential public benefits would not occur.

**Public Comment:**

One comment in favor of the project was received.

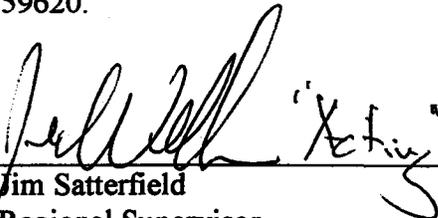
**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):**

Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment (EA), I find the construction of the bird blind described above to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final environmental assessment and/or the record of decision (ROD) and FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area, 5791 Ninepipe Road, Charlo, MT 59824. Please direct requests and questions to:

John Grant, Wildlife Area Manager  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area  
5791 Ninepipe Road  
Charlo, MT 59824  
(406) 644-2510  
jgrant@mt.gov

In accordance with FWP policy, an appeal may be made by any person who has either commented in writing to the department on the proposed project, or who has registered or commented orally at a public meeting held by the department on the proposed project, or who can provide new evidence that would otherwise change the proposed plan. An appeal must be submitted to the Director of FWP in writing and must be postmarked or received within 30 days of this ROD. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and how the department can provide relief. The appeal should be mailed to: Director, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

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Jim Satterfield  
Regional Supervisor

6/24/05  
Date