



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 9, 2010

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Double F Corporation. 4245 Old Yellowstone Trail, Three Forks MT 59752

Michael, Cynthia and Shane Huempfer. P.O. Box 788 Bozeman MT 59771

Dyk Land Companies LTD. 6095 Pleasant St., Manhattan MT 59741

Christopher Rasmussen. 11545 Crystal Mountain Road, Three Forks MT 59752

Richard Brown. 11399 Crystal Mountain Road, Three Forks MT 59752

Michael and Fern Harmon. P.O. Box 1034, Manhattan MT 59741

Kenneth and Paula Weinacht. P.O. Box 11 Three Forks, MT 59752

Brian Stubbs. 12450 Clarkston Road, Three Forks, MT 59752

Timothy and Karen Coffey. 5504 Lawyers Road E. Wingate, NC 28174-8260

Lewis and Karin Pettross. PO Box 1542 Andrews NC 28901-1542

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the Fairweather Fishing Access Site wildlife enhancement lease-out. This project proposes to renew an existing wildlife agricultural lease on the above property for an additional 10 years. The crop share agreement has benefited upland bird and other wildlife species on the site. One public comment was received during a 15-day comment period ending April 1, 2010.

This Draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library, and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from FWP at the address provided above, or view on FWP's Internet Website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov>.

It is my decision to proceed with the proposed project with no changes to the Draft EA.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be mailed to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

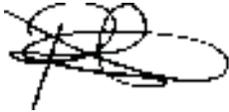
c/o Julie Cunningham

1400 South 19th Avenue

Bozeman, MT 59718

Or e-mailed to: juliecunningham@mt.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Flowers', with a large, loopy flourish at the end.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Decision Notice Fairweather Fishing Access Site: Wildlife Enhancement Lease-Out Environmental Assessment

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
April 9, 2010

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to renew an existing wildlife agricultural lease at Fairweather Fishing Access Site for an additional 10 years.

Alternative Considered

Under no action, the lease expires and FWP would lose the agricultural plots that provide food and shelter for pheasants and other wildlife. Discontinuation could also lead to spread of noxious weeds in these previously farmed areas as FWP does not have the staff resources to undertake or manage farming activity on this property.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on March 15, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 15 days (through April 1, 2010). The EA was mailed to 10 adjacent landowners and 8 other interested parties; legal notices were printed in the *Townsend Star* and the *Bozeman Chronicle*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov//publicnotices/>.

Summary of Public Comment

One written comment was received during the public comment period, which was in support of the proposed action because it was great way to enhance bird habitat at basically no cost to the State.

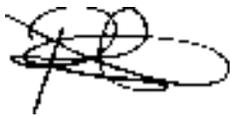
Final Environmental Assessment for the Fairweather Fishing Access Site Wildlife Enhancement Lease-Out

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and the need to continue the share-crop agricultural use in the Fairweather Fishing Access Site for wildlife benefits (70% of production is harvested, 30% is unharvested to provide benefit to wildlife as food and cover), it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, described in the EA as Alternative B.

I find there no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
