

FWP EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED WEST SWAN VALLEY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has written a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed West Swan Valley Conservation Project located about 7 miles south Swan Lake in Lake County within the east half of the Swan River State Forest. FWP proposes to secure permanent conservation management on up to 9,500 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat on land currently owned by Plum Creek Timber Company. FWP is considering three alternative methods to achieve this outcome, including purchase of a conservation easement, purchase of fee-title ownership, or a combination of conservation easement and fee-title ownership, as well as no action.

The public comment period for this draft EA is being extended through 5:00 p.m., September 24, 2010, due to delay in getting appraisal information. We plan to have cost estimates for both action alternatives and will share this information the week before the public comment period closes.

A copy of the draft is attached. Please direct written comments to Nancy Ivy, FWP, 490 N Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 or e-mail to nivy@mt.gov.

Contact persons: Joel Tohtz, FWP Fisheries Mitigation Coordinator (406-751-4570 or e-mail to jtohtz@mt.gov); Alan Wood, FWP Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator (406-751-4595 or e-mail to awood@mt.gov).

Thanks,
Nancy

Nancy Ivy
Admin Support
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4579
nivy@mt.gov