Decision Notice
Polson Shooters Association

August 19, 2011

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) released a draft environmental assessment (EA) on July 20, 2011 to provide the Polson Shooters Association a Montana Shooting Range Development Grant. This range is located on Kerr Dam Road, southwest of Polson, Montana. FWP proposed to provide $20,150 in partial funding to connect power to the range; construct a wall between handgun and rifle ranges; construct concrete pads, benches and covers; and add stairs from parking area.

Legal notice of the Polson Shooters Association EA was published in the Lake County Leader newspaper on July 28th and again on August 4th. FWP issued a statewide news release regarding this proposal and EA on July 22, 2011. The EA was available for public review on FWP's website (http://fwp.mt.gov/, "Recent Public Notices") from July 20 through August 5, 2011.

Public Comments: FWP received 2 comments from the public.

One of the comments was in support of alternative A: to move forward with the grant.

The other comment received stated: *"My comments regarding the shooting range are as follows, We live almost next door, less than qtr mile from the range and the noise and the hours are problematic to us. The sound levels are very high, there for I would suggest some type of noise barrier to deflect the sound upward, and to regulate the shooting hours and days to 3-4 days a week max, with hours of 9am to 5pm and no later, due to the residential suburban environment we have now in the immediate area and the negative impact the shooting range has on my family and other nearby neighbors."*

FWP Response: Currently the range is open to the public on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Club members have the option to shoot during daylight hours but are asked not to shoot before 8 a.m. On August 18th, a representative of the Polson Shooters Association and the person making the comment met at the range where they toured the facility, discussed the proposed grant improvements, and other possible options to reduce noise levels. Both parties have notified FWP that they felt the meeting was a positive step towards resolving noise concerns.

Based on these public comments and internal review, the Draft EA will be adopted as the Final EA. This Decision Notice and the Final EA will serve as the final documents pertaining to this action. Funding for this project will be granted by FWP pending the completion of other administrative requirements by the Polson Shooters Association as required by the Shooting Range Development Program.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Kurt Cunningham
Montana Shooting Range Grant Coordinator