



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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Decision Notice
Western Montana Fish & Game Association, Inc.
(WMFGA)

October 9, 2012

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to provide the WMFGA with a Montana Shooting Range Development Grant. This range is located in the Hellgate Canyon between East Missoula and Bonner, Montana. FWP will provide \$22,750 in partial funding to make the following range improvements:

- Earthwork Project
- Road Corner Reconstruction
- New Shooting Bays

FWP published a Draft EA for public review and comment on FWP's website (http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/recreation/pn_0125.html) from August 20, 2012 through September 7, 2012. FWP published a legal notice in the *Missoula* newspaper and issued a news release announcing the public comment period for the draft EA on August 22, 2012.

Public Comments: FWP received four comments regarding this action, two in opposition, and two in favor. The comments in opposition both cited what appeared to be the lack of compliance with the current law regarding public access options to the shooting range. After internal and legal review, it was determined that WMFGA was out of compliance. However, at FWP's urging to substantially comply with the law, WMFGA did adequately advertise, staff, and hold a public sight-in day on October 7, 2012.

Based on public, legal and internal review, and WMFGA's compliance with FWP's request to hold the public sight-in day, 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.

Sincerely,

Wayde Cooperider
Montana Shooting Range Grant Coordinator