

Decision Notice

Rooney Easement into Custer National Forest (Ashland Ranger District)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region 7, Miles City
December 11, 2006

Proposal

In the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed Rooney Easement, released October 17, 2006, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase a perpetual public road easement for all uses from Ron and Sherry Rooney. The proposed easement lies in Sec 21 T1S R46E and totals approximately 3.8 acres, in Powder River County. The two-track trail within the proposed easements exits the Beaver Creek county road, traverses Ron Rooney's private land and enters into several sections of land owned by the U.S Government and administered by the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer National Forest.

Summary of Public Comment

Six emails of public comment concerning the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) were received during the comment period of October 17 – November 17, 2006. All the comments were in support of the proposed actions described in the EA for this project.

Regional Supervisor's Recommendation

Based on the findings in the EA and the comments received from the public, it is my decision to approve and proceed with the proposed action. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this proposed action. FWP will purchase an easement from Ron and Sherry Rooney for perpetual public access across their private land into land administered by the Forest Service. Once the easement document is final, FWP intends to assign/transfer the easement to the Forest Service. The easement will serve the public in perpetuity and provide permanent vehicular access to several sections of land administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Questions concerning this Decision Notice should be directed to Dwayne Andrews, Region 7, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P. O. Box 1630, Miles City, MT 59301, (406) 234-0919 or dandrews@mt.gov

This Decision Notice and the EA are available for review from Region 7 Headquarters or online at FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.



Bryce Christensen
Regional Supervisor

December 12, 2006

Date