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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Raundal Coulee CE EA
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone 406-538-4658

December 13, 2013

Dear Interested Parties:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) is proposing to purchase and manage a conservation easement (CE) on the Tom and Karen Browning Ranch approximately 15 miles north of Mosby, MT. This CE, called the "Raundal Coulee Conservation Easement," will protect and conserve in perpetuity ~ 2,600 deeded acres of sagebrush grassland, plains timber, riparian habitat, and farm ground, including ~3.5 miles of Musselshell River frontage. This CE will also guarantee free public access for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other recreational pursuits on deeded CE lands, satisfying MFWP's objectives in providing access and recreational opportunities to the public.

MFWP is currently seeking review and public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed CE. The EA and associated documents, including the Draft Deed of Conservation Easement and Draft Management Plan may be obtained by viewing MFWP's internet website http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/. Hard copies or CD copies of these documents are available via e-mailing sonjasmith@mt.gov, by phoning (406) 538-4658, or by written request to Region 4 FWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, 59405. Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or e-mail to the addresses above. Comments must be received by MFWP no later than 5:00pm on January 11, 2014.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue a Decision Notice for this EA soon following the end of the comment period. The Drat EA will be considered as final if no substantive comments are received by the deadline listed above. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority over MFWP CE proposals, and the Montana Board of Land Commissioners must also render its decision on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gary Bertellotti
Regional Supervisor

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