



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1 Airport Road
Glasgow, MT 59230

May 12, 2016

Environmental Quality Council
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Conservation & Education Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Commission Secretary
Regional Office Managers
Regional Supervisors
Director's staff
Legal Unit
Lands Unit
Law Enforcement Division
Responsive Management Unit
Montana State Library, Helena
Montana Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation

LEG Services
State Historic Preservation Office
Governor's Office
MT Environmental Information Center
Richard Kerstein (FWP Commissioner)
Richard Stuker (FWP Commissioner)
BLM Malta Field Office
USFWS Bowdoin NWR
Phillips County Commissioners
Phillips County NRCS
Phillips County Grazing District
DNRC-NE Land Office
Ducks Unlimited-Bob Sanders
Wetlands America Trust
John and Patricia Wilke
Little Big Warm LLC
Milk River Land and Cattle
Lyle and Joann Davis

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action of purchasing a conservation easement on 1,760 acres from Wetlands America Trust Inc., a division of Ducks Unlimited (DU). This property called Pintail Flat is located in a single parcel approximately 14 miles south of Dodson in south Phillips County. The proposed easement would conserve and enhance wetland and grassland habitats, perpetuate agriculture as the principle use, and maintain public access to this land.

The draft EA was out for a 30-day public review from January 22, 2016 through February 26, 2016. Twenty-five comments were received, with nineteen supporting, one neutral, and five opposed.

Based on the analysis within the EA, public comments and internal review, a Final EA has been prepared addressing issues raised regarding cost of the easement and public parking along the county road. The Decision Notice and the Final EA will serve as the final documents pertaining to this action. FWP recognizes that there will be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project and concludes that an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. In consideration of these facts, it is my decision that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks move forward to purchase the Pintail Flat Conservation Easement. This decision is made subject to the approval of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

The Final EA and Decision Notice is available at: <http://fwp.mt.gov> under public notices or can be obtained upon request from MFWP Region 6 Headquarters, 1 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230, (406) 228-3700.

Thank you for your involvement in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark D. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mark Sullivan
Region 6 Supervisor