



Region 2
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

December 21, 2020

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to enter into a 7-year Cooperative Habitat Management Lease Agreement with the O. W. Potter Jr. Exemption Trust (PET). Under this arrangement, approximately 37.4 acres of FWP's Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) would be available for livestock grazing in exchange for resting approximately 313 acres of elk winter range on the PET property. The BCWMA and PET properties proposed for the agreement are located in Missoula County, south of Clearwater Junction.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices"). Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than January 19, 2021.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP's leases, and tentatively the Commission would be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its scheduled February 25, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr