



Jessica Fitzpatrick
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
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Helena, MT 59620

February 18, 2011

Church Slough Petition for Changing Boating Use Regulations Draft EA

Dear Ms Fitzpatrick:

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources. We have reviewed the draft EA for the petition for changing boating use regulations on Church Slough and wish to provide the following comments.

Flathead Audubon Society supports the selection of Alternative B, The Proposed Action, whereby The FWP Commission would adopt the seasonal boating closure and no-wake boat speed rule for Church Slough as described under the Proposed Action. Previous comments dated March 24, 2010 provided by Flathead Audubon concerning the establishment of the boat launch at Church Slough proposed the same seasonal restriction.

The waterfowl use of Church Slough and the great viewing opportunities are valuable parts of the quality of life in the Flathead and the adoption of the seasonal boating regulations are necessary to help preserve them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Lewis Young
Conservation Chair
Flathead Audubon Society
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