

Otter Island Fisheries Conservation Area Acquisition Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 1 Headquarters 490 N. Meridian Road Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Otter Island Fisheries Conservation Area Acquisition and wish to submit comments.

FAS supports the proposal for MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks to accept the donation of the parcel of land and manage it as described in the draft environmental assessment. The protection and management of riparian and wetland habitats on this parcel will benefit both fisheries and wildlife while providing access to the public for fishing and other dispersed recreation activities. The long-term conservation of the Flathead River will benefit from this donation.

The Otter Island Fisheries Conservation Area will complement and be a good addition to other conservation properties in the nearby area including the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area which FAS co-manages with Montana Audubon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Lopp, President Flathead Audubon Society P.O. Box 9173 Kalispell, MT 59904 October 8, 2013