



April 10, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources.

We are concerned about the creation of a trap / skeet range by Robert Hayes on his property at Sun Dance Farms, 5755 Farm to Market Rd., Whitefish. This property is used heavily by migratory birds, especially in the spring when the area is often temporarily flooded. Our concerns are based on the following impacts of this shooting range.

1. Flathead Audubon is concerned that the waterfowl will be displaced by the shooting to less desirable spots, therefore increasing the mortality during the time when they are most stressed.
2. The noise from the shooting will have a negative impact on the atmosphere of the Farm to Market area. This has always been a relatively quiet area with an elementary school quite close and many of the residents have moved here for the very fact that it is quiet. It is unfortunate to have this destroyed.
3. We feel strongly that lead shot should not be used in an area of heavy waterfowl feeding. This is a major cause of lead poisoning and death in waterfowl. Residual shot can cause mortality long after being deposited so waterfowl do not have to be present at all times for lead poisoning to occur.

Because the impacts of the proposed use of this land as a trap / skeet range extend far beyond the area owned by Mr. Hayes, we feel that it is an inappropriate use of this land in this area.

Yours Truly,