



Flathead Audubon Society

PO Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

Gary Bertellotti, Regional Supervisor
Region 4 FWP
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

April 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Bertellotti,

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA), "*Acquisition of DNRC Inholdings on Sun River, Beartooth and Blackleaf Wildlife Management Areas*" and wish to submit comments.

FAS supports the proposal for MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks to purchase by fee title 9,488.26 acres of Trust Lands managed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) identified as inholdings on three FWP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's). It only makes sense for all lands within the WMA boundaries to be owned and managed by MT FWP because DNRC could decide to manage or lease their lands for use that is not compatible with the WMA's. These WMA's provide invaluable habitat for a variety of species and should continue to be managed for wildlife.

Although FAS is based in Kalispell, many of our members have and will continue to visit and use these WMA's.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis Young, Conservation Committee Chair
Flathead Audubon Society
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