

Appendix A

Name Change



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NWRS/Planning
Mail Stop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

SEP 03 2010

Memorandum

To: **Acting** Director (ANRS)

From: **Deputy** Regional Director, Region 6

Subject: Name Change Request-Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area to Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area

Region 6 is requesting approval to rename an existing unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System). The unit for which the request is being made is the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in Powell County, Montana.

The Blackfoot Valley WMA is a conservation easement program where easements are purchased from willing sellers within a designated boundary (i.e., wildlife management area). Started in 1994, the purpose of the program is to protect a vital habitat corridor between federally protected lands, state wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, voluntary perpetual easements, and private lands that are part of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects. These easements limit the type and amount of development that may take place on a property in the future. No fee-title acquisition is associated with this unit of the Refuge System.

Recently an expansion of this conservation easement area was included in the America's Great Outdoors Crown of the Continent Conservation Initiative. During public scoping for an environmental assessment and land protection plan for the proposed expansion of the Blackfoot Valley WMA, it was brought to our attention that the term 'wildlife management area' caused confusion among the public, local agencies, and organizations. The confusion is due to the fact that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) commonly use the term 'wildlife management area' to describe areas that are managed by the State of Montana for wildlife purposes. With both the Service and MFWP using the term 'wildlife management area' to describe their respective management interests, many people become confused about which agency is responsible for managing which lands. This is especially significant given the fact that both agencies have missions related to wildlife purposes, but different management strategies.

For example, public access, including hunting, is generally available on state managed wildlife management areas, whereas the Service does not have a controlling interest in allowing or disallowing public access with conservation easements. This interest is determined by the private landowner encumbered with an easement.

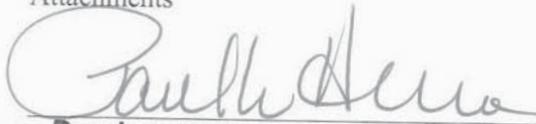
To eliminate this confusion, we recommend renaming the "Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area" to the "Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area." Implementing this change will also bring this unit into compliance with Service policy regarding the naming and renaming of units of the Refuge System.

Part 040 FW 2, Naming and Renaming Units and Unit Sites, Chapter 2, Part 2.7 (H2), of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual states, "When the Service has no fee-title ownership rights, such as for projects consisting entirely of easements, use 'Conservation Area' as the last part of the unit name."

Based on the above, we request the unit name of the **Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area** be changed to the **Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area**. If additional information is needed on this project, please contact Toni Griffin, Division of Refuge Planning, at 303/236-4618.

Concurrence
 Non-concurrence

Attachments



Date: 9.30.10

ACTING Deputy DIRECTOR

FWS ORGANIZATION CODE/NAME REQUEST FORM

A. Indicate Type of Action: Add _____ Change Delete _____ Consolidate _____

B. If this is only a change, what is being changed? (circle one below)

Organization Code only

Name only

Both Organization Code & Name

C. Indicate the new/correct/deleted Organization Code: 61512

D. Indicate the new/correct/deleted Organization Name: Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area
 (Do not abbreviate or use the acronyms)

If this is a change or consolidation, verify the old organization code(s) and name(s) below:

Organization Code: _____ Organization Name: Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area
 Organization Code: _____ Organization Name: _____
 Organization Code: _____ Organization Name: _____

E. Mailing Address: _____ Physical Address: _____

F. County Name and Numeric Code: _____

G. Congressional District Code: _____

H. Telephone Number: (____)____-____ Fax Number: (____)____-____

I. Will this organization directly receive funding? i.e., a Fund Target? **YES or NO**
 (If YES, provide the organization's primary eight-digit job number: _____)
 (If NO, the requestor must provide an organization code to receive financial reports for this organization: _____)

J. If the nature of this action is to **DELETE** an organization, the requestor must provide an organization code to receive financial reports for this organization: _____

K. Provide all higher management organization codes for the **Affected Organization Code:**
 (The first organization code is the organization to which the affected organization directly reports)

L. Based on the higher management codes, what is this **Organization's FPPS Level?** _____

(If two organization codes are given above, then this **Organization's FPPS level is 3**)

M. The **Effective Date** for this request: 09/2/2010

N. **BASIC JUSTIFICATION:** Provide the factors necessitating change, rationale for selecting proposed structure and site, etc. - See attached memo (09/2/2010)
- per policy 040 FW2.74(2)

O. **COST OF EFFECTING ORGANIZATION CHANGE:** Provide relocation costs, operational costs (salaries, utilities, transportation, travel, etc.) for existing and proposed structure.

NA

P. **IMPACT ON BUDGET AN/OR EFFECT ON PENDING BUDGET REQUESTS:** Provide impacts upon current fiscal year budget or upcoming fiscal year budget request.

NA

R. **EFFECT ON PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION:** Provide effects on efficiency and effectiveness, and quality of goods and services provided to customers.

NA

S. **Point of Contact:** Provide a point of contact for questions regarding this request:

Name: Toni Griffin E:mail Address: toni-griffin@fws.gov
Organization: R6 NWR - Planning Fax: (303)236-4792
Phone: (303)236-4378

Appendix B

List of Plants and Animals

MAMMALS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Mustela vison</i>	American Mink
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Badger
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat
<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Bighorn Sheep
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Black Bear
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat
<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	Bushy-tailed Woodrat
<i>Lynx canadensis</i> ^T	Canada Lynx
<i>Spermophilus columbianus</i>	Columbian Ground Squirrel
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse
<i>Sorex monticolus</i>	Dusky or Montane Shrew
<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	Elk or Wapiti
<i>Martes pennanti</i> *	Fisher
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i> *	Fringed Myotis
<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
<i>Canis lupus</i> ^E	Gray Wolf
<i>Ursus arctos</i> ^T	Grizzly Bear
<i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Heather Vole
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> *	Hoary Bat
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little Brown Myotis
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared Myotis
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged Myotis
<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>	Long-tailed Vole
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Long-tailed Weasel
<i>Martes americana</i>	Marten
<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Masked Shrew
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Meadow Vole
<i>Microtus montanus</i>	Montane Vole
<i>Alces americanus</i>	Moose
<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	Mountain Cottontail
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain Lion
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Muskrat
<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Northern Flying Squirrel
<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Northern Pocket Gopher
<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Northern River Otter
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Porcupine
<i>Sorex preblei</i> *	Preble's Shrew
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox
<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Red Squirrel
<i>Tamias ruficaudus</i>	Red-tailed Chipmunk
<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Short-tailed Weasel
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> **	Silver-haired Bat
<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Snowshoe Hare
<i>Myodes gapperi</i>	Southern Red-backed Vole
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Striped Skunk
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> *	Townsend's Big-eared Bat
<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	Vagrant Shrew
<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Water Shrew
<i>Zapus princeps</i>	Western Jumping Mouse
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Western Small-footed Myotis
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed Deer
<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	White-tailed Jack Rabbit
<i>Gulo gulo</i> *	Wolverine
<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Marmot
<i>Tamias amoenus</i>	Yellow-pine Chipmunk

BIRDS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	American Avocet
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> *	American Bittern
<i>Fulica americana</i>	American Coot
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	American Dipper
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	American Pipit
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin
<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>	American Three-toed Woodpecker
<i>Spizella arborea</i>	American Tree Sparrow
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> *	American White Pelican
<i>Anas americana</i>	American Wigeon

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
<i>Dendroica coronata auduboni</i>	Audubon's Warbler
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl
<i>Bucephala islandica</i> **	Barrow's Goldeneye
<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher
<i>Cypseloides niger</i> *	Black Swift
<i>Chlidonias niger</i> *	Black Tern
<i>Picoides arcticus</i> *	Black-backed Woodpecker
<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	Black-billed Magpie
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee
<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	Black-chinned Hummingbird
<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Black-headed Grosbeak
<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> *	Black-necked Stilt
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Black-throated Blue Warbler
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> *	Bobolink
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird
<i>Spizella breweri</i> *	Brewer's Sparrow
<i>Certhia americana</i> *	Brown Creeper
<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brown Thrasher
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Bufflehead
<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Bullock's Oriole
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California Gull
<i>Stellula calliope</i>	Calliope Hummingbird
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Canvasback
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> *	Caspian Tern
<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i> *	Cassin's Finch
<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	Cassin's Vireo
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing
<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow
<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Cinnamon Teal
<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> *	Clark's Grebe
<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i> *	Clark's Nutcracker
<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Clay-colored Sparrow

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle
<i>Gavia immer</i> *	Common Loon
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> *	Common Tern
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk
<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	Cordilleran Flycatcher
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco
<i>Junco hyemalis caniceps</i>	Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)
<i>Junco hyemalis montanus</i>	Dark-eyed Junco (Montana Junco)
<i>Junco hyemalis mearnsi</i>	Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker
<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	Dusky Flycatcher
<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	Dusky Grouse
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Eared Grebe
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> ***	European Starling
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak
<i>Buteo regalis</i> *	Ferruginous Hawk
<i>Otus flammeolus</i> *	Flammulated Owl
<i>Sterna forsteri</i> *	Forster's Tern
<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Fox Sparrow
<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> *	Franklin's Gull
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> *	Golden Eagle
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> *	Grasshopper Sparrow
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird
<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Gray Jay
<i>Perdix perdix</i> ***	Gray Partridge
<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i> *	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
<i>Ardea herodias</i> *	Great Blue Heron
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret
<i>Strix nebulosa</i> *	Great Gray Owl
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> *	Greater Sage-Grouse

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Greater Yellowlegs
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker
<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>	Hammond's Flycatcher
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> *	Harlequin Duck
<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Harris's Sparrow
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> **	Hooded Merganser
<i>Podiceps auritus</i> *	Horned Grebe
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer
<i>Passerina amoena</i>	Lazuli Bunting
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Least Sandpiper
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser Scaup
<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Lesser Yellowlegs
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i> *	Lewis' Woodpecker
<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> *	Loggerhead Shrike
<i>Numenius americanus</i> *	Long-billed Curlew
<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Long-billed Dowitcher
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl
<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	MacGillivray's Warbler
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Marbled Godwit
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Mountain Bluebird
<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	Mountain Chickadee
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	Mourning Dove
<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker
<i>Colaptes auratus cafer</i>	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> *	Northern Goshawk
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Surnia ulula</i> **	Northern Hawk Owl
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Northern Oriole
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail
<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	Northern Pygmy-Owl
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler
<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Northern Shrike
<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Northern Waterthrush
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher
<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla**</i>	Ovenbird
<i>Myioborus pictus</i>	Painted Redstart
<i>Falco peregrinus*</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe
<i>Dryocopus pileatus*</i>	Pileated Woodpecker
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Pine Grosbeak
<i>Spinus pinus</i>	Pine Siskin
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie Falcon
<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>	Pygmy Nuthatch
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Red Crossbill
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo
<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	Red-naped Sapsucker
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked Grebe
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
<i>Aythya americana</i>	Redhead
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck
<i>Columba livia***</i>	Rock Pigeon
<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Rock Wren
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
<i>Chen rossii</i>	Ross's Goose
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk
<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Ruddy Duck
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse
<i>Selasphorus rufus**</i>	Rufous Hummingbird
<i>Xema sabini</i>	Sabine's Gull
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow
<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Semipalmated Plover
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus*</i>	Sharp-tailed Grouse

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Asio flammeus</i> **	Short-eared Owl
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting
<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Snow Goose
<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	Snowy Owl
<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Solitary Vireo
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora
<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Spotted Sandpiper
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted Towhee
<i>Falcapennis canadensis</i>	Spruce Grouse
<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Steller's Jay
<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Surf Scoter
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> **	Swainson's Hawk
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Swainson's Thrush
<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Townsend's Solitaire
<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	Townsend's Warbler
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow
<i>Cygnus buccinator</i> *	Trumpeter Swan
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Tundra Swan
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture
<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Varied Thrush
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Vaux's Swift
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i> *	Veery
<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow
<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Violet-green Swallow
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail
<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Warbling Vireo
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western Bluebird
<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Western Grebe
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark
<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Western Tanager
<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	Western Wood-Pewee
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow
<i>Plegadis chihi</i> *	White-faced Ibis
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow
<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	White-winged Crossbill
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	White-winged Scoter
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> ***	Wild Turkey
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Willet
<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	Williamson's Sapsucker
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Wilson's Phalarope

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	Wilson's Snipe
<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Wilson's Warbler
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> *	Winter Wren
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler

REPTILES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Gartersnake
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Eastern Racer
<i>Elgaria coerulea</i> *	Northern Alligator Lizard
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle
<i>Charina bottae</i>	Rubber Boa
<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	Terrestrial Gartersnake

AMPHIBIANS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Columbia Spotted Frog
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	Long-toed Salamander
<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	Pacific Treefrog
<i>Ascaphus montanus</i>	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog
<i>Bufo boreas</i> *	Western Toad

FISH

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i> ^T	Bull Trout
<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	Slimy Sculpin
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi</i> *	Westslope Cutthroat Trout

INVERTEBRATES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Rhyacophila betteni</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Parapsyche elsis</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Lepidostoma cascadense</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Lepidostoma unicolor</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Chyrandra centralis</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Dicosmoecus atripes</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Dicosmoecus gilvipes</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Anagapetus debilis</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Arctopsyche grandis</i>	A Caddisfly

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Neophylax splendens</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Neothremma alicia</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Micrasema bactro</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Helicopsyche borealis</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Hesperophylax designatus</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Onocosmoecus unicolor</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Brachycentrus americanus</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Brachycentrus occidentalis</i>	A Caddisfly
<i>Eukiefferiella brehmi</i>	A Eukiefferiellan Chironomid
<i>Eukiefferiella devonica</i>	A Eukiefferiellan Chironomid
<i>Eukiefferiella gracei</i>	A Eukiefferiellan Chironomid
<i>Ephydatia cooperensis*</i>	A Freshwater Sponge
<i>Helobdella stagnalis</i>	A Leech
<i>Nemotaulius hostilis</i>	A Limnephilid Caddisfly
<i>Serratella tibialis</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Ephemerella excrucians</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Baetis bicaudatus</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Baetis tricaudatus</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Epeorus longimanus</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Drunella coloradensis</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Drunella doddsi</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Drunella grandis</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Drunella spinifera</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Attenella margarita</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Acentrella turbida</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Timpanoga hecuba</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Plauditus punctiventris</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Caudatella hystrix</i>	A Mayfly
<i>Ergodesmus compactus</i>	A Millipede
<i>Lophomus laxus*</i>	A Millipede
<i>Endopus parvipes*</i>	A Millipede
<i>Rhyacophila brunnea</i>	A Rhyacophilan Caddisfly
<i>Rhyacophila alberta</i>	A Rhyacophilan Caddisfly
<i>Rhyacophila narvae</i>	A Rhyacophilan Caddisfly
<i>Rhyacophila verrula</i>	A Rhyacophilan Caddisfly
<i>Zaitzevia parvula</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Heterlimnius corpulentus</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Cleptelmis addenda</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Lara avara</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Narpus concolor</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Ordobrevia nubifera</i>	A Riffle Beetle
<i>Despaxia augusta</i>	A Stonefly

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Amphinemura banksi</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Prostoia besametsa</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Zapada cinctipes</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Zapada columbiana</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Zapada oregonensis</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Yoraperla brevis</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Doroneuria theodora</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Hesperoperla pacifica</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Claassenia sabulosa</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Setvena bradleyi</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Kogotus modestus</i>	A Stonefly
<i>Atherix pachypus</i>	A True Fly
<i>Tvetenia bavarica</i>	A Tvetenian Chironomid
<i>Cordulia shurtleffii</i>	American Emerald
<i>Pteronarcys dorsata</i>	American Salmonfly
<i>Agapetus montanus**</i>	An Agapetus Caddisfly
<i>Hyaella azteca***</i>	An Amphipod
<i>Euphydrias anicia</i>	Anicia Checkerspot
<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	Anise Swallowtail
<i>Sympetrum semicinctum</i>	Band-winged Meadowhawk
<i>Leucorrhinia proxima</i>	Belted Whiteface
<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Black Meadowhawk
<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor**</i>	Blue-eyed Darner
<i>Leucorrhinia borealis*</i>	Boreal Whiteface
<i>Euconulus fulvus</i>	Brown Hive
<i>Rhionaeschna californica**</i>	California Darner
<i>Nymphalis californica</i>	California Tortoiseshell
<i>Speyeria callippe</i>	Callippe Fritillary
<i>Aeshna canadensis</i>	Canada Darner
<i>Ladona julia**</i>	Chalk-fronted Corporal
<i>Pontia protodice</i>	Checkered White
<i>Sympetrum internum</i>	Cherry-faced Meadowhawk
<i>Anax junius</i>	Common Green Darner
<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	Common Whitetail
<i>Leucorrhinia glacialis**</i>	Crimson-ringed Whiteface
<i>Lacinipolia cuneata</i>	Cuneate Arches
<i>Leucorrhinia intacta</i>	Dot-tailed Whiteface
<i>Libellula forensis</i>	Eight-spotted Skimmer
<i>Lestes dryas</i>	Emerald Spreadwing
<i>Discus whitneyi</i>	Forest Disc
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Skimmer
<i>Euphydrias gillettii*</i>	Gillette's Checkerspot
<i>Polygona faunus</i>	Green Comma

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Sphaerium simile</i>	Grooved Fingernailclam
<i>Sphaerium occidentale</i>	Herrington Fingernailclam
<i>Leucorhynchia hudsonica</i>	Hudsonian Whiteface
<i>Allogona ptychophora</i>	Idaho Forestsnail
<i>Oreohelix carinifera</i> *	Keeled Mountainsnail
<i>Aeshna eremita</i> **	Lake Darner
<i>Aeshna constricta</i> **	Lance-tipped Darner
<i>Lycaena cupreus</i>	Lustrous Copper
<i>Udosarx lyrata</i> *	Lyre Mantleslug
<i>Magnipelta mycophaga</i> *	Magnum Mantleslug
<i>Deroceras laeve</i> ***	Meadow Slug
<i>Aglais milberti</i>	Milbert's Tortoiseshell
<i>Somatochlora semicircularis</i> **	Mountain Emerald
<i>Enallagma annexum</i>	Northern Bluet
<i>Chlosyne palla</i>	Northern Checkerspot
<i>Lestes disjunctus</i>	Northern Spreadwing
<i>Ischnura cervula</i>	Pacific Forktail
<i>Cordulegaster dorsalis</i>	Pacific Spiketail
<i>Aeshna palmata</i>	Paddle-tailed Darner
<i>Ophiogomphus severus</i>	Pale Snaketail
<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	Pale Swallowtail
<i>Gnophaela vermiculata</i>	Police Car Moth
<i>Zonitoides arboreus</i>	Quick Gloss
<i>Sympetrum madidum</i> **	Red-veined Meadowhawk
<i>Dasyfidonia avuncularia</i>	Red-winged Wave
<i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	River Jewelwing
<i>Colligyris greggi</i> *	Rocky Mountain Dusksnail
<i>Oreohelix strigosa</i>	Rocky Mountainsnail
<i>Sympetrum costiferum</i>	Saffron-winged Meadowhawk
<i>Pteronarcys californica</i>	Salmonfly
<i>Polites sabuleti</i>	Sandhill Skipper
<i>Aeshna juncea</i> **	Sedge Darner
<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>	Shadow Darner
<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Signal Crayfish
<i>Prophyaon humile</i> *	Smoky Taildropper
<i>Epitheca spinigera</i> **	Spiny Baskettail
<i>Lestes congener</i>	Spotted Spreadwing
<i>Microphysula ingersolli</i>	Spruce Snail
<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i> ***	Spurge Hawkmoth
<i>Sympetrum pallipes</i>	Striped Meadowhawk
<i>Oreohelix subrudis</i>	Subalpine Mountainsnail
<i>Coenagrion resolutum</i>	Taiga Bluet
<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	Twelve-spotted Skimmer

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Helisoma anceps</i>	Two-ridge Rams-horn
<i>Aeshna interrupta</i>	Variable Darner
<i>Sympetrum corruptum</i>	Variegated Meadowhawk
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>	Western Glass-snail
<i>Margaritifera falcata</i> *	Western Pearlshell
<i>Amphiagrion abbreviatum</i>	Western Red Damsel
<i>Cupido (Everes) amyntula</i>	Western Tailed Blue
<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>	White-faced Meadowhawk
<i>Stagnicola caperata</i>	Wrinkled Marshsnail
<i>Aeshna sitchensis</i> **	Zigzag Darner

VASCULAR PLANTS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Polygonum austiniiae</i> *	Austin's Knotweed
<i>Bidens beckii</i> *	Beck Water-marigold
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i> *	Blunt-leaved Pondweed
<i>Centunculus minimus</i> *	Chaffweed
<i>Cardamine rupicola</i> *	Cliff Toothwort
<i>Carex crawei</i> *	Crawe's Sedge
<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i> *	Creeping Sedge
<i>Castilleja cervina</i> *	Deer Indian Paintbrush
<i>Drosera anglica</i> *	English Sundew
<i>Collomia debilis</i> var. <i>camporum</i> *	Flexible Collomia
<i>Juncus hallii</i> *	Hall's Rush
<i>Grindelia howellii</i> *	Howell's Gumweed
<i>Hutchinsia procumbens</i> *	Hutchinsia
<i>Physaria carinata</i> *	Keeled Bladderpod
<i>Drosera linearis</i> *	Linear-leaved Sundew
<i>Botrychium minganense</i> **	Mingan Island Moonwort
<i>Phlox kelseyi</i> var. <i>missoulensis</i> *	Missoula Phlox
<i>Carex livida</i> **	Pale Sedge
<i>Nymphaea leibergii</i> *	Pygmy Water-lily
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i> *	Slender Cottongrass
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i> *	Water Bulrush
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i> *T	Water Howellia
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> *	Watershield

* Species of Concern

** Potential Species of Concern

*** Exotic Species (not native to Montana)

E Endangered—listed in the Federal Register as being in danger of extinction.

T Threatened—listed in the Federal Register as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

Appendix C

List of Endangered and Threatened Species

MAMMALS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Lynx canadensis</i> ^(T)	Canada lynx
<i>Canis lupus</i> ^(E)	Gray wolf
<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> ^(T)	Grizzly bear

FISH

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i> ^(T)	Bull trout

PLANTS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i> ^(T)	Water howellia

(E) Endangered—listed in the Federal Register as being in danger of extinction.

(T) Threatened—listed in the Federal Register as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

Appendix D

List of Preparers and Reviewers

<i>Author's Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Work Unit</i>
Kathleen Burchett	Project leader	USFWS, Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Great Falls, MT
Mark Ely	Geographic information system (GIS) specialist	USFWS, Region 6, Division of Refuge Planning, Lakewood, CO
Kevin Ertl	Wildlife refuge specialist	USFWS, H2-O Waterfowl Production Area, Helmville, MT
Vanessa Fields	Wildlife biologist	USFWS, Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Great Falls, MT
Randy Gazda	Wildlife biologist	USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Great Falls, MT
Toni Griffin	Planning team leader	USFWS, Region 6, Division of Refuge Planning, Lakewood, CO
Greg Neudecker	Assistant Montana PFW coordinator	USFWS, Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Great Falls, MT
Jason Steigert	Economist	BBC Research & Consulting, Denver, CO
<i>Reviewer's Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Work Unit</i>
Laurel Bowen	Writer-editor	TBC Solutions, Clinton, TN
David Lucas	Chief of planning	USFWS, Region 6, Division of Refuge Planning, Lakewood, CO
Jim Stutzman	Montana state coordinator	USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Great Falls, MT

Appendix E

Finding of No Significant Impact

U.S. Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Region 6, Denver, Colorado

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Powell counties, Montana

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed the Land Protection Plan and Environmental Assessment, Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion. The Environmental Assessment evaluates two alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, and the subsequent environmental consequences of expanding the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area.

Alternative B, the preferred alternative, was selected for implementation, because it best meets the Service's objective to maintain the continued presence of the large expanse of intact habitat in the Blackfoot Valley. The Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area expansion has been proposed to help protect the Blackfoot Valley from being drastically changed by widespread, unplanned residential or commercial development. This proposal also would benefit the American public by protecting wildlife, water quality and open space. The following is a summary of anticipated environmental effects from implementation of the preferred alternative:

1. Expanding the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area would provide for the conservation of up to 80,000 acres of important habitat on private land. This project would help maintain the uniqueness of the Blackfoot Valley region and complement other conservation efforts by The Nature Conservancy, The Montana Land Reliance, Blackfoot Challenge, and other state and federal agencies.
2. Conservation easements within the expanded Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area would help alleviate habitat fragmentation issues. Maintaining key biological linkages would facilitate wildlife movement and provide for wildlife habitat requirements for species such as the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, wolverine, and gray wolf. The potential for human-wildlife conflicts would be greatly reduced.
3. Compatible agricultural practices such as livestock grazing or haying would continue, while sodbusting (breaking of native rangeland) would be prohibited. Easements would maximize the connectivity with other protected grasslands and decrease the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation on wildlife species.
4. Water resources on 80,000 acres would be protected from increased non-point source pollution from residential subdivision, commercial development, and draining of wetlands, which are prohibited under the proposed easement program. This project will help reduce the demand for potable water associated with new subdivisions and the challenges to water rights that may follow.

5. Location and distribution, but not rate or density, of human population growth would be affected. Positive effects may occur from increased public wildlife viewing, and hunting opportunities. Open space also may enhance property values on adjoining lands as people begin to seek out undeveloped lands in the future.
6. The Service, within the approved project boundary, would create no additional land-use regulations. The purchase of an easement would not result in a transfer of land title, and private landowners would continue to pay property taxes. Preventing subdivision and development could decrease future tax revenues in certain market areas. However, open space could actually provide a net savings to local governments when compared to the revenues generated and costs of services associated with residential development.
7. Oil and gas exploration or development on private land would not be precluded. Typically, conservation easements do not affect subsurface estates (oil and gas deposits) because the Service only acquires rights associated with surface ownership. In many places where the subsurface estate has been severed from surface ownership, including those in the Blackfoot Valley, the landowner does not own the subsurface rights; this means that the easement that the Service acquires from the landowner is junior to the subsurface rights. In instances where a landowner owns both the surface and the subsurface estate, the Service would treat oil and gas development as a permitted use and provide for such development in the easement document. Easements contain reasonable surface stipulations for such actions as revegetation of disturbed areas, access, and site reclamation.
8. Wind development within the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area would not occur on conservation easements which reduces fragmentation within the Valley from the placement of towers and associated infrastructure development. This improves wildlife corridors' integrity throughout the Valley. Restricting wind towers also prevents mortality from direct strikes of towers by migratory birds and other avian wildlife species.
9. Conservation easements purchased on private tracts would not change the landowner's right to manage public access to their property. Private landowners would retain full control over their property access rights, including allowing or restricting hunting and fishing on their lands, under the proposed easement program.
10. The proposed conservation easement program would maintain the long term biological productivity of approximately 80,000 acres of grassland, riparian, forest and tundra ecosystems, including increased protection of endangered and threatened species and maintenance of biological diversity by preserving a large intact functioning system. The nation would gain the protection of species for future generations of Americans. The public would gain long term opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreational activities from the continued presence of wildlife in the Valley.
11. Protection of the Blackfoot Valley will build resiliency and resistance to disturbances in the natural system from stressors which will help the ecological system absorb changes from climate change. The Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area will accomplish this by maintaining

intact, interconnected landscapes, and restoring fragmented or degraded habitats.

As part of the public scoping process associated with this action, comments were solicited from the public through news releases and public meetings. An open house was held in Ovando, Montana on May 19, 2010. Public comments were taken to identify issues to be analyzed for the proposed project. Approximately fifteen landowners, citizens, and elected representatives attended the meetings, and most expressed positive support for the project. In addition, the Service's field staff contacted local government officials, other public agencies, and conservation groups, all of which have expressed an interest in and a desire to protect the Blackfoot Valley from the pressures brought about by rural subdivisions.

Thus, this EA has taken a hard look at the environmental impacts to inform the public and ourselves about the consequences of the proposed action. Environmental consequences will be beneficial to wildlife habitat, endangered species, migratory birds, water quality, and native fish. While the proposal to expand the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area will largely preserve the current state of the natural environment and prevent degradation, there may be some reduction in energy development requiring surface occupancy, that would otherwise occur, but for the easements proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantive conflict is not apparent over these land use issues; the vast majority of verbal and written comments received during scoping meetings and on the environmental assessment were in favor of the expansion of the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area through the use of voluntary conservation easements.

In determining whether this project is a major action significantly¹ affecting the quality of the human environment, we looked at both the context and intensity of the action (40 CFR § 1508.27, 40 CFR § 1508.14) as required by NEPA. The project will be implemented over time dependent upon the Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to obtain the funding needed for easement acquisitions. Of the 824,024 acres of habitat within the boundary area, 80,000 acres may be entered into voluntary easements with the Service, on a strictly voluntary basis with willing sellers only.

Because the human environment² is interpreted by the National Environmental Policy Act to mean the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment (40 CFR § 1508.14), in addition to our thorough analysis of physical environmental effects, we carefully assessed the manner in which the local people relate to the environment in the Blackfoot Valley. Economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require the preparation an environmental impact statement (40 CFR § 1508.14). The location of the proposed action is largely rural and dominated by agricultural industries, mainly ranching. The vast majorities of commentators on the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area project supported the proposed action indicating in various comments that it would help them to relate to their natural and physical environment in much the same way they do now- via a ranching economy. Those who are interested in pursuing other economic development opportunities, such as wind energy, will not be precluded from doing so because the proposed action involves easements acquired on a voluntary basis only.

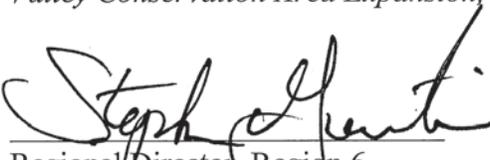
Therefore, in consideration of the fact that the Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation easement approach has a proven track record of effectiveness and minimal controversy due to its fundamental basis of voluntary participation to accomplish mutual goals of the Service and landowners, the compelling science in support of the project, and my review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting reference, I have determined that expanding the boundary for the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and supporting Environmental Assessment will be available to the public. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for all affected landowners, agencies, private groups, and other interested parties.

The FONSI, Environmental Assessment, and other supporting documents are on file at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuges, Division of Planning, P.O. Box 25486-DFC, Denver, Colorado 80225. They are available for public inspection upon request.

Supporting Reference

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2010. *Land Protection Plan and Environmental Assessment, Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area Expansion*, Denver, Colorado.


Regional Director, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

9/24/10
Date

¹ 40 CFR § 1508.27 "Significantly" as used in NEPA requires considerations of both context and intensity: (a) Context. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant; and (b) Intensity. This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action.

² 40 CFR § 1508.14 "Human environment" shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. (See the definition of "effects" (40 CFR § 1508.8).) This means that economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an environmental impact statement. When an environmental impact statement is prepared and economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated, then the environmental impact statement will discuss all of these effects on the human environment.

Appendix F

Environmental Action Statement

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6
Denver, Colorado

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the action of expanding the executive boundary of the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area:

- is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 2, Appendices 1 and 2, and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1. No further documentation will be made.
- is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment.
- is found to have special environmental conditions as described in the attached environmental assessment. The attached Finding of No Significant Impact will not be final nor any actions taken pending a 30-day period for public review [40CFR 1501.4(e)(2)].
- is found to have significant effects and, therefore, a notice of intent will be published in the *Federal Register* to prepare an environmental impact statement before the project is considered further.
- is denied because of environmental damage, Service policy, or mandate.
- is an emergency situation. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting document:

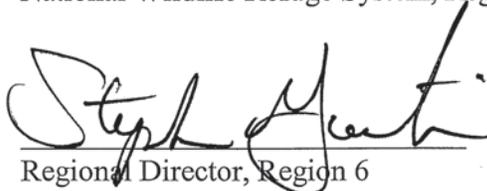
Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan, Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion



Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 6

Date

9/24/10



Regional Director, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

9/24/10

Appendix G

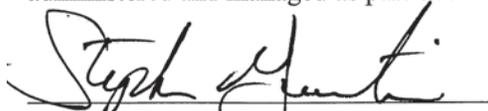
Environmental Compliance Certificate

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 6 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

PROJECT: Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion
STATE: Montana

ACTION (indicate if not applicable)	DATE
NEPA (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT)	
Categorical Exclusion.....	N/A
Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact	9/24/10
Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision	N/A
Executive Order 11593, Protection of Historical, Archaeological, and Scientific Properties.....	8/30/10
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management	8/30/10
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	8/30/10
Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs	8/30/10
Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.....	8/30/10
Executive Order 12996, Management and General Public Use of the National Wildlife Refuge System.....	8/30/10
Endangered Species Act, Section 7	9/07/10
Coastal Zone Management Act, Section 307	N/A
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.....	N/A
Level I Contaminants and Hazardous Waste (Secretarial Order 3127: 602DM2).....	8/30/10

I hereby certify that all requirements of the law, rules, and Service regulations or policies applicable to planning for the above project have met with compliance. I approve the expansion of the executive boundary for the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area to be administered and managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.


Regional Director, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

9/24/10
Date

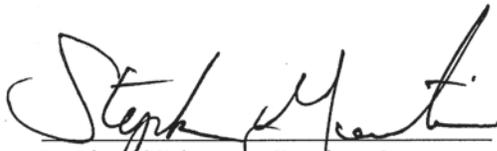
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

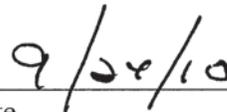
The following Executive Orders and legislative acts have been reviewed as they apply to the expansion of the executive boundary of the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area:

- 1. Executive Order 11593. Protection of Historical, Archaeological, and Scientific Properties.** The regional archaeologist determined that the acquisition of easements within the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion is not an undertaking under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In fact, the project has the potential to protect cultural resources. If, in the future, the Service grants a special permit for the landowner under the easement, section 106 may be relevant at that time. If so, the Service will take the necessary steps to address any historical or archaeological issues.
- 2. Executive Order 11988. Floodplain Management.** No structures that could be damaged by or that would significantly influence the movement of floodwater are planned for construction by the Fish and Wildlife Service on easements acquired as part of this project.
- 3. Executive Order 11990. Protection of Wetlands.** This action is consistent with protection of existing wetland resources from incompatible activities and thereby complies with this executive order.
- 4. Executive Order 12372. Intergovernmental Review.** The Service has discussed the proposal to expand the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area with landowners; conservation organizations; other federal agencies; state, and county commissioners; and other interested groups and individuals. At the federal level, the Service staff has briefed Senators Baucus and Tester, as well as the congressional delegation, and coordinated with representatives from other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. At the state level, Governor Schweitzer's staff, along with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks was briefed on the project.
- 5. Executive Order 12898. Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.** Expanding the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area will not have a disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations. Therefore, this action complies with this Executive Order.
- 6. Executive Order 12996. Management and General Public Use of the National Wildlife Refuge System.** The public has been invited to participate in the planning process and has been very engaged. The Service held a public open house to seek input from the public regarding the proposed expansion of the conservation easement program, and to identify the issues that needed to be addressed in the planning process. Approximately fifteen written comments have been received from the public. The public's issues and comments have been incorporated into the Environmental Assessment and a copy of the final document will be sent to all interested landowners, agencies, private groups, and other parties. Since this project will strictly be easement acquisition, the Service will not manage or have control over public access to the protected lands. This right will remain with the private landowner and therefore a compatibility determination is not needed for this project.

7. **Endangered Species Act, section 7.** An internal section 7 consultation concluded the proposed action would have a 'May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species/modify critical habitat' on listed species within the acquisition project area.
8. **Coastal Zone Management Act.** Due to the location of the project area, compliance of this Act was determined to be not applicable.
9. **Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.** Since the Service will not be acquiring any land within the project area in fee-title, no relocation assistance will be needed and no real property acquisition will occur.
10. **Secretarial Order 3127. Contaminants and Hazardous Waste.** A Level 1 pre-acquisition contaminant survey will be completed prior to the purchase of any easement.

I hereby certify that the Service has complied with all requirements of law, rules, or regulations applicable to pre-acquisition planning for the above project. I approve the expansion of the executive boundary of the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area and the subsequent acquisition of up to 80,000 acres of easements from willing sellers:


Regional Director, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


Date

Appendix H

Section 7 Biological Evaluation

INTRA-SERVICE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 EVALUATION FORM

Originating Persons: Kathleen A. Burchett, Project Leader, Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex and Toni Griffin, Refuges, Division of Planning, Denver Regional Office

Telephone Number: 406/727-7400

Date: 8/27/10

I. Region: Region 6

II. Service Activity: Establishment of the Expansion of the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area

III. Pertinent Species and Habitat

A. Listed species and/or their critical habitat within the 3 county action area:

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY		
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	T
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	T
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T
MISSOULA COUNTY		
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	T
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	T
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T
POWELL COUNTY		
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	T
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	T
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T

C - Candidate
 T - Threatened
 E - Endangered

B. Proposed species and/or their proposed critical habitat within the county / action area:

Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*) listed as proposed threatened in Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Powell counties.

C. Candidate species within the county / action area:

Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a candidate species in Missoula County.

IV. Geographic Area/Action

This Intra Section 7 covers the expansion of the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area in portions of 3 counties in Montana; Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Powell counties.

V. Location

The proposed boundary expansion (see attached map):

- State of Montana
 - A. Counties: Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Powell.
- Description of extent of boundary for the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area:

The Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area project area encompasses an 824,024-acre ecosystem that includes portions of Missoula, Powell, and Lewis and Clark counties. The parts of these counties make up the Blackfoot River watershed in western Montana. The watershed is bordered to the east by the Continental Divide, to the south by the Garnet Mountains, to the north by the Bob Marshall and Lincoln-Scapegoat Wilderness Areas, and to the west by the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

The watershed is located at the southern edge of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem, a 10 million-acre area of the Northern Rocky Mountains that extends north into Canada and includes Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, Canada's Castle Wilderness, the Bob Marshall-Great Bear-Scapegoat Wilderness Complex, parts of the Flathead and Blackfoot Indian Reservations, Bureau of Land Management lands, and significant acreage of state and private lands. The watershed provides critical connections between the Crown of the Continent ecosystem and the Selway/Bitterroot ecosystem to the south. The center of the project area lies about 55 miles east of Missoula.

VI. Description of the Proposed Action

The Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area was approved as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1994 and is a landscape conservation strategy to protect one of the last undeveloped, low elevation river valley ecosystems in western Montana. This proposal involves the acquisition of an additional 80,000 acres of conservation easements from willing sellers on private land within an expanded project boundary encompassing approximately

824,024 acres. No land will be purchased in fee title under this project. In addition, the proposal will rename the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area to Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area.

The Blackfoot Valley provides a vital habitat corridor between existing U.S. Forest Service boundaries, Bureau of Land Management properties, state wildlife management areas, Service waterfowl production areas, The Nature Conservancy easements, Service conservation easements, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects.

VII. Determination of Effects

At the federal level, four species are listed as threatened or endangered, including the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, gray wolf, and bull trout.

The proposed expansion of the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area (CA) will have a beneficial effect on species listed in Section III. One of the purposes for the expansion of the Blackfoot Valley CA is to support the recovery and protection of threatened and endangered species, and to reduce the likelihood of future listings under the Endangered Species Act.

Expanding the Blackfoot Valley CA would provide for an increase in conservation protection on up to 80,000 acres of important habitat on private land. This program would help maintain the uniqueness of the Blackfoot Valley and complement conservation efforts of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, The Nature Conservancy, and other federal and state agencies.

The fact that the Blackfoot Valley remains biologically and ecologically intact is a tribute to the area's ranchers and residents, who have long recognized what this unique and important landscape represents for ranching and wildlife. The project aims to ensure habitat for wildlife remains intact in perpetuity and, by doing so, strengthens the ranching heritage of the Blackfoot Valley.

Conservation easements along the Blackfoot Valley would help alleviate habitat fragmentation issues. Key biological linkages would facilitate wildlife movement and provide for wildlife habitat requirements including Canada lynx, gray wolf, and grizzly bears. The potential for human-wildlife conflicts would be greatly reduced and resiliency in response to climate change would be maintained.

The Blackfoot Valley watershed is the southern boundary for the NCDE grizzly bear recovery zone. The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan includes most of the watershed as suitable and/or occupied habitat. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project, designed to estimate population size and distribution, confirmed the presence of twenty-nine individual grizzly bears in the Blackfoot River watershed in 2003 and 2004. The USGS estimates that at least forty bears are present during all or part of the year in the watershed. In recent years, grizzly bear activity has increased in the watershed. This area appears to be an important habitat link for grizzly bears that are re-colonizing historical ranges to the south. Maintaining habitat connectivity is critical to sustaining grizzly bear life histories and maintaining sustainable

subpopulations within the southern portion of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem.

Grizzly bears breed, forage, and migrate throughout the watershed and den above 6,500 feet. They move from high mountain elevations to lower valley bottoms to forage seasonally for available food. Lakes, ponds, fens, and spring-fed creeks, common in portions of the valley floor, provide excellent bear habitat. Additionally, the vegetation found along certain reaches of the Blackfoot River and its tributaries provide bears with cover, food and natural movement corridors.

The Blackfoot River watershed is located within the Northwestern Montana/Northeastern Idaho Core Area for Canada lynx. The Blackfoot Valley watershed is a stronghold for the Canada lynx in the northern Rocky Mountains. Based on ongoing research in the upper and middle Blackfoot areas, lynx populations appear stable, although low reproductive rates are characteristic of this population. Since 1998, over eighty lynx have been monitored in the watershed, providing information on habitat use, reproduction, mortality, and movement. This research has shown that the watershed contains some of the most critical habitat for lynx in the continental United States. Large, intact spruce/subalpine fir forests above 4,000 feet in the watershed provide high quality habitat for lynx and for snowshoe hares, the primary lynx food source. Regenerating forest stands are often used as foraging habitat during the snow-free months while older, multi-storied stands serve as denning and year-round habitat.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Recovery Plan established three recovery zones in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. The Blackfoot River watershed is in the Northwest Montana Recovery Area. In August 2010, the gray wolf was relisted as endangered. As of 2009, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has confirmed the presence of four resident wolf packs and estimates that at least twenty-five to thirty-five wolves inhabit the Blackfoot Valley watershed.

Compatible agricultural practices such as livestock grazing or haying would continue, while sodbusting (breaking of native rangeland) would be prohibited. Easements would maximize the connectivity with other protected grasslands and decrease the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation on grassland birds.

Water resources on 80,000 acres would be protected from increased non-point source pollution from residential subdivision, commercial development, and draining of wetlands, all of which are prohibited under the proposed easement program. Protection of wetlands would support conservation efforts for mountain plovers. Conservation easements also focus protection along riparian corridors which are critical for wildlife including grizzly bears and aquatic resources such as bull trout.

The Blackfoot River watershed lies within the Clark Fork River Recovery Unit and the Upper Clark Fork Recovery Subunit for bull trout. Within this subunit, the watershed has been identified as a core recovery area and the watershed has been proposed as critical habitat within the Clark Fork River drainage.

Within the watershed, bull trout densities are very low in the upper Blackfoot River, but increase downstream of the North Fork. Streams that appear to be particularly important for the spawning

of migratory bull trout include Monture Creek, the North Fork Blackfoot River, Copper Creek, Gold Creek, Dunham Creek, Morrell Creek, the West Fork Clearwater River, and the East Fork Clearwater River. Bull trout spawner abundance is indexed by the number of identifiable female bull trout nesting areas (redds). Data indicate that the total number of redds counted in Monture Creek, North Fork, and Copper Creek from 1989 to 2000 have increased. With the onset of drought, bull trout redd counts declined in 2008.

Conserving native land cover is an important component of maintaining ecosystem structure and function. Under the proposed action, native forest habitats would remain intact, continuing to provide ecosystem goods and services to landowners and local communities. Ecosystem services include: soil erosion control, water supply, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

VIII. Effects Determination and Response Requested

A. Listed Species / designed critical habitat

No Effect / no adverse modification

Concurrence

May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species / modify critical habitat

Concurrence

May affect, and is likely to adversely affect species / modify critical habitat

Formal Consultation

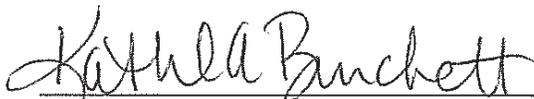
B. Proposed Species / proposed critical habitat

No effect on proposed species / no adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (species: mountain plover)

Concurrence

Is likely to jeopardize proposed species or adversely modify proposed critical habitat (species: mountain plover)

Concurrence



Kathleen A. Burchett, Project Leader
Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex
National Wildlife Refuge System
Region 6

IX. Reviewing ESO Evaluation

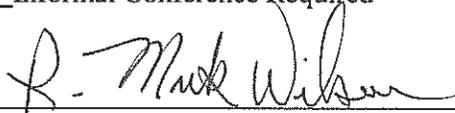
Concurrence

Non-Concurrence

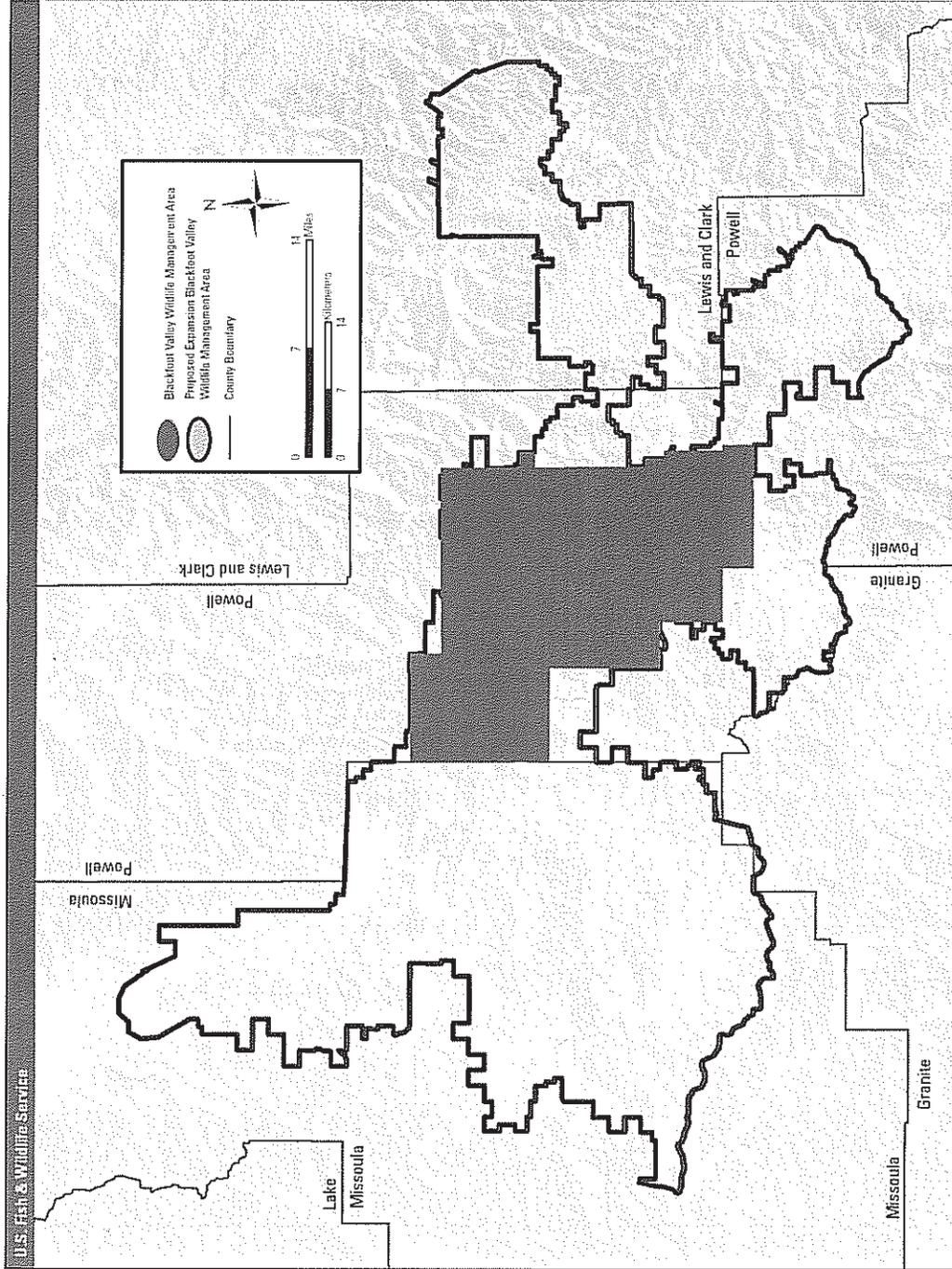
Formal Consultation Required

Conference Required

Informal Conference Required

 9-7-10

Mark Wilson, Field Supervisor
Ecological Services Montana Field Office
Region 6



Appendix I

Director's Approval to Expand the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS: STREET LOCATION:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC 134 Union Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486 Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

SEP 27 2010

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director, Region 6 

Subject: Transmittal of Decision Document—Crown of the Continent: Expanding the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area and the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area

The Decision Documents to expand the Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area and the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area, in Montana have been approved. With the approval of these projects, the Service, in cooperation with our partners, will be able to conserve up to 205,000 acres of native habitat.

In order to strategically conserve habitat within the Blackfoot Valley, the Service focused on the threatened grizzly bear, bull trout, and Canada lynx. High priority grizzly bear habitat was identified using expert knowledge of current bear linkages and priority lynx habitat was identified using a spatially explicit model developed by the U.S. Forest Service. For the bull trout, critical habitat has been designated and explicitly mapped in each recovery unit (RU) by the Service. There are approximately 365,000 acres of unprotected private land and 75,000 acres of commercial timber company land in the Blackfoot Valley WMA. With the current levels of development and fragmentation within Blackfoot Valley, bull trout populations appear to be increasing while the pressure of human-cause mortality on grizzly bears for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) population is higher than acceptable for recovery. Conservation easements provide an opportunity to prevent further development and fragmentation that might reduce or reverse the positive trends in bull trout populations or increase human-grizzly interactions, putting further negative pressure on the NCDE population. Given that conserving all remaining private land with easements to prevent additional development is not a reasonable or desired goal, the Service has set a goal to protect 80,000 additional acres of existing private lands. Long-term monitoring of grizzly bears, lynx, and bull trout will be conducted and the acreage goal and acquisition priority will be periodically reevaluated, as additional scientific information is obtained collaboratively with Service partners and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

In order to strategically conserve habitat within the expanded Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area, the Service selected the grizzly bear as a key focal species. Focusing on grizzly bears is likely to capture the habitat needs of several of the other key trust species. High priority grizzly bear habitat along the Front was identified using a spatially-explicit model developed by a multi-agency working group. Currently, grizzly bear populations appear stable; however, the pressure of human-caused mortality on grizzly bears is higher than acceptable for recovery across the NCDC. How much more fragmentation or development could occur without

affecting population stability or significantly affecting grizzly bear mortality is unknown. Given that preventing development on all of the remaining 600,000 acres of unencumbered private land along the Front is not a reasonable or desired goal, the Service has set a goal to protect 125,000 additional acres of private land with conservation easements. Long-term monitoring of grizzly bears will be conducted and the total conservation goal of 295,000 acres and acquisition priority will be periodically re-evaluated, as additional scientific information is obtained collaboratively with Service partners and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

Attached are the following documents, in accordance with land acquisition planning requirements, submitted for the Director's concurrence.

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Environmental Compliance Certificate
3. Environmental Action Statement
4. Finding of No Significant Impact
5. Land Protection Plan
6. Realty Feasibility Report

An Engineering Assessment was not completed, because these projects involve only conservation easements; and, therefore, no fee-title interests will be acquired and no structures will be built by the Service on any land acquired through this project. A Conceptual Management Plan was not completed, because daily management rights and responsibilities will remain with the private landowners. The only Service management responsibility will be annual monitoring for compliance with the terms of the easements.

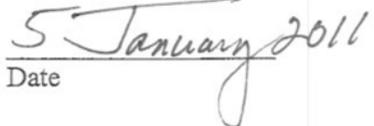
Concurrence

Non-concurrence



 Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Attachments

Acting Deputy



 Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS-NRCP/046481

FEB 1 2011

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region 6
Deputy

From: Director *Caroline Ashe*

Subject: Approval to Proceed with Publication and Distribution of the Final Planning Documents for the Expansion of Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area and Blackfoot Valley Wildlife Management Area

I concur with the September 27, 2010, request by the Regional Director, Region 6, and authorize the expansion of these units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Congratulations on a thorough job with the Environmental Assessment and FONSI for these two units of the System. I am extremely excited about landscape projects such as this that strive to protect large areas for the conservation of fish and wildlife species.

You have proposed two expanded acquisition projects that define the principles of Strategic Habitat Conservation. Prior to land acquisition pursuant to the Land Protection Plan please link your priority areas to spatially explicit data. As these data become available, please assure that priority tracts are pursued that will provide measurable outcomes related to biological goals identified in the Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan.

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