

Public Meeting Announcement

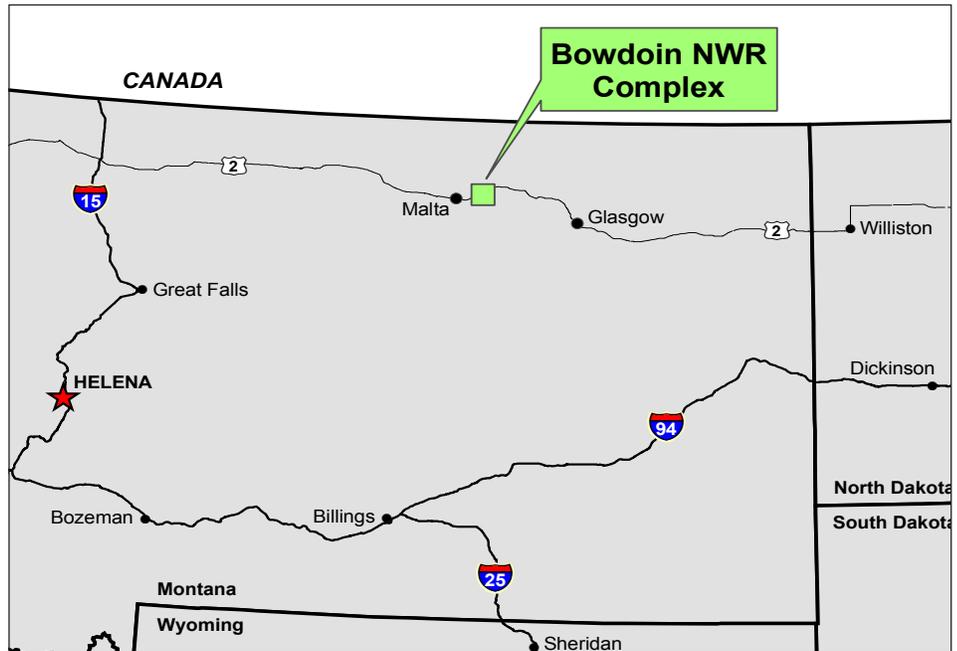
Alternatives for addressing the elevated salt concentrations and blowing salts on Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

PUBLIC MEETING

October 22, 2009

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Bowdoin National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
Great Northern Hotel
Malta, Montana



The planning team for the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge Complex (complex) invites you to an upcoming public meeting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been dealing with the issues of elevated salt concentrations and blowing salt as part of preparing the complex's comprehensive conservation plan, a 15-year management plan. At this October 22 meeting, we will present the evaluation we did to help us solve these problems. The Service and the state of Montana worked closely together to develop four alternatives that address the feasibility of improving water quality by reducing elevated salt concentrations (salinity) and blowing salts on Lake Bowdoin and Dry Lake.

The alternatives that the Service and the state of Montana evaluated follow:

- Construct evaporation ponds and physically remove saline residue.
- Promote flushing of the lakes when Beaver Creek overflows its banks.

- Inject saline lake water underground and promote flushing of Lake Bowdoin when Beaver Creek naturally floods.
- Pump water from Lake Bowdoin to the Milk River through a pipeline.

In addition, the Service contracted with a company that specializes in this type of analysis to determine the effectiveness and cost of each alternative. The planning team would like to present the findings of these studies and hear the public's opinion on the results.

This meeting's objective is to present information on the salinity issues only and to discuss your ideas or concerns. The remainder of the planning effort is still underway, so there will *not* be any presentations or discussions on other aspects of the complex's comprehensive conservation plan.

We need your input to complete our analysis and proceed with the development of the complex's 15-year comprehensive conservation plan. Next summer, the Service will publish

a draft plan for the public to review, and we will hold a second public meeting to present and discuss all aspects of the draft comprehensive conservation plan.

If you have questions about this October 22 meeting, including directions to the meeting place, please call the refuge office at 406/654 2863.

The Service and the state of Montana have put considerable effort into addressing these most important issues. We look forward to sharing this information and hearing from each of you.



Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge Complex
194 Bowdoin Auto Tour Road
Malta, MT 59538

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

