



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Ref: DO522-06

November 9, 2006

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RECEIVED  
MONTANA STATE OFFICE  
BILLINGS MONTANA

Fax: 406-896-5292

Karen L. Johnson, Chief  
Fluids Adjudication Section  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, MT 59101-4669

REF: BLM MTM 96204, Notice of Oil and Gas Lease Sale, November 28, 2006

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

The Mission of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) is to provide for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations. To carry out its mission, FWP strives to proactively engage in processes or activities that could have significant consequence to the public's fish and wildlife resources and their associated habitats.

We are in receipt of your notice of competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled to occur on November 28, 2006. Following our examination of the proposed properties and their attached stipulations, we believe that we have reason to support a protest for one or more of the properties the Bureau of Land Management intends to lease.

For example, included in these parcels are two locations that we identified that are known to support active sage grouse leks (parcels 11-06-11, and 11-06-14) that do not have any controlled surface use or timing stipulations attached. In addition, there appears to be other discrepancies such as parcels you have failed to identify for game range timing restrictions.

Our staff would welcome the opportunity to meet with you prior to the November 28 sale in order to discuss our fish and wildlife information in relation to the lease program and to explore methods for advancing our coordination prior to future lease sales. If we cannot meet prior to the sale date we would like for you to consider temporarily postponing the sale on the two above referenced parcels, and for the parcels occurring within the important wildlife areas in the Helena valley and Monida Pass areas so that we can have an opportunity to conduct a full discussion with your staff prior to sale.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Larry G. Peterman  
Chief of Field Operations

c: Dale Tribby