

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
Projects Submitted for Funding
to the
Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust requests public comments on project proposals submitted for funding by the Trust in 2015. The Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust was established by the US Congress, and funded by proceeds from the sale of federally leased cabin sites on Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The purpose of this Trust is to provide a permanent source of funding for the acquisition of publicly accessible land in the State of Montana in order to:

- Restore and conserve fisheries habitat, including riparian habitat;
- Restore and conserve wildlife habitat;
- Enhance public hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities;
- Improve public access to public lands.

Two independent oversight Boards, a Joint State-Federal Board and a Citizen Advisory Board, are responsible for insuring the goals of the trust are met. Board meetings are open to the public and public participation is encouraged.

Project applications were received during an application period that began on January 30, 2015 and closed on April 9, 2015. All applications have gone through the first phase of review by the Citizen's Advisory Board. The projects are then moved to the Joint Federal-State Board for review and public comment. Written comments on the projects will be accepted for a 30-day period beginning May 17, 2015 and ending 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2015. The eight projects recommended by the Citizens Advisory Board for funding are: South Hills Habitat submitted by Prickly Pear Land Trust; Jenkins Gulch and Zekes Meadows submitted by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Musselshell River, and Ash Coulee Conservation Easement submitted by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Alvord Lake submitted by Vital Ground; Dillon High Trails submitted by Beaverhead Trails Coalition; and YT Timber Land Exchange submitted by Montana Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation.

Copies of the proposed projects nominated for funding are available during business hours at the Montana Fish and Wildlife Trust Office, located at the Montana Wildlife Federation Complex, 5530 North Montana Ave., Helena, Montana, 59602, 406-458-0389. Requests for copies may also be made by email at fwctrust@mtwf.org.

Following the comment period, the Joint Federal-State Board will review comments and act on proposals at their meeting on June 24, 2015.