

Rees, Gareth C.

From: DeFerrari, Gina [gina.deferrari@wwfus.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Farquhar, Ned
Subject: Conservation landscape in eastern Montana

Ned, let me start by reintroducing myself. I work at World Wildlife Fund on the Northern Great Plains program; my colleague Tom Dillon and I met with you in late August to talk about a conservation landscape in eastern Montana, involving BLM lands north of the Charles Russell National Wildlife Refuge. At that meeting you recommended that we talk with Gene Terland, the State Director in Montana. I'm writing to report that my colleague Martha Kauffman, who runs our Northern Great Plains program, met with him and a couple of his staff last week – and said that the discussion was quite positive. She explained to them why WWF considers the area a global conservation priority and opportunity, and gave him a copy of what we shared with you and with Will Shafroth, making the pitch that the landscapes in eastern Montana be included in the Treasured Landscapes initiative, and told him that Tom Dillon and I had met with you.

Gene was glad to be brought into the loop, and the reaction of his staff was one of excitement. He recommended that Martha give the same presentation to Mark Albers, his field manager, and she'll do that next week. He also recommended that we talk to Tom Melius, the FWS regional director in Minneapolis, about the Plains and prairie Potholes Landscape Conservation Cooperative as he wondered whether these two initiatives might come together. I'll be stopping to see Tom week after next, en route to Montana.

We'd heard from Sam Hamilton that the Secretary is interested in this landscape, and Jane Lyder told me that she's planning to organize a meeting with the relevant agency folks to talk about it -- so we're excited about what seems to be some building momentum.

Tom Dillon and I were thinking we'd try to get in to talk to Bob Abbey sometime in December. Let me know if you'd like to join us, ok?