



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
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Ref: GB014-06
Date: September 5, 2006

EI-2538
KB

Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N. W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 444X)

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Fish, Wildlife, & Parks staff have reviewed the proposal by BNSF Railway Company to seek authority to abandon 0.42 miles of railroad line near Kalispell, Montana (STB Docket No. AB-6). The environmental review appears to be accurate, and we believe there should not be any significant negative biological or recreational effects associated with this proposal.

We support the efforts by the city and others to pursue rail banking or acquiring this section of railroad for the purposes of a bike/pedestrian trail. It is an important section that connects to other segments of bike/pedestrian trails or proposed trails in the area. This would be a great addition to the transportation network.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gael Bissell
Wildlife Biologist

Mark Deleray
Fisheries Biologist

Dave Landstrom
Parks Operations

/s/ Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.