



**Flathead Audubon Society**

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Flathead Conservation District  
133 Interstate Lane  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Web site: [www.flatheadcd.org](http://www.flatheadcd.org)

March 7, 2010

Dear Sirs:

**FL2010005 Burton Permit**

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources. We are aware of the proposal for additional development in the floodplain on Goose Island to be considered under FL2010005. Of the 8 items listed in the request for work to be added under Permit # FC2008082 (now under new permit FL2010005), there is no description of the purpose or need for these items in the floodplain and riparian habitats. Especially troubling is the proposal to “deepen existing pond and widen existing access.” The “pond” referred to is a slough connected to the Stillwater River and as such is already accessible to boats at high water and up to the high water mark at all times for public recreational uses under Montana Stream Access law. Excavations such as proposed would only increase the sediment delivered to the Stillwater River and adversely impact the aquatic and riparian habitats disturbed.

Additional development in the flood plain is unwise and it is unclear how any of these proposals would be in compliance with existing regulations. Flathead Audubon Society strongly encourages you to not approve any development the floodplain and especially any that would violate regulations.

Lewis Young  
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