



Protecting Montana's wildlife,
land, waters and hunting & fishing
heritage for future generations.

Nov. 2, 2018

Lewis and Clark County Commission
County Courthouse
Helena, MT 59804

RE: Proposed Falls Creek land purchase

Dear Lewis and Clark County commissioners,

The Montana Wildlife Federation is our state's oldest and largest wildlife conservation organization. We were formed in 1936 when hunters joined landowners to restore depleted wildlife in our great state. For over eight decades we have worked to ensure abundant wildlife, healthy habitat on public and private lands, and public access to enjoy our public fish and wildlife resources. MWF has a strong record of finding practical solutions to the difficult issues surrounding wildlife, habitat and access.

That's why MWF strongly supports the proposed purchase of the 442 acre Falls Creek property by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This property in northern Lewis and Clark County offers incredible wildlife values, stunning scenery and would open up to public access roughly 26,000 acres on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest that is difficult to get to.

The purchase would also secure permanent access to roughly one mile of the Falls Creek Trail No. 229. This project would help conserve and improve public access to a roughly two mile stretch of the Upper Dearborn River, Falls Creek and several intermittent streams in the area, with protection of 44 acres of buffer habitat along those waterways. And it would help improve wildlife management in an area where Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is struggling to keep elk at the desired objective population. It's a stellar project with immense benefits for all Montanans.

MWF commends the landowners and RMEF for working on this project. We understand the tremendous work and patience that goes into putting together a land deal. That's why we fully support the use of Lewis and Clark County Open Space Bond funds to help complete this project that will have lasting benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Geer".

Bill Geer
President