

July 14, 2020

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC: Joshua Sizemore, Dan Stusek, Holly Hinojosa

Dear Senator Daines,

Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) in the Senate is cause for celebration during a trying time. Thank you for your work in the Senate advancing this public lands and outdoor recreation bill. The full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund included in this package will benefit Montana communities for generations to come, and is something to be proud of.

Now that the Senate has passed the GAOA, we request that you support the bipartisan, locally-crafted Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA). Like GAOA, BCSA recognizes the value of outdoor recreation and public lands in sustaining healthy communities and economies.

The BCSA achieves balance by focusing on three areas: timber management and restoration, outdoor recreation, and conservation. This balance was carefully considered and achieved by a coalition of local community members representing a wide range of interests, including timber, ranching, conservation, hunting, angling, and local businesses. The coalition members committed themselves to finding common ground, and they found it.

The BCSA will create recreation areas specifically designated for mountain bike and winter motorized use, initiate a five-year period in which other outdoor recreation proposals can be presented to the local district ranger for consideration, and will designate additions to the Mission Mountains, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas.

Expansion of these wilderness areas will serve to keep the Blackfoot watershed and fishery vibrant and healthy, which in turn will help ensure the fishing economy – the Blackfoot River sees nearly 10,000 guided outfitter days annually – remains healthy as well. That expansion will also help ensure that elk, deer, and other big game populations remain abundant, and that hunters will continue returning to the area and supporting local businesses, including guides and outfitters.

Almost 160 businesses and other organizations currently support this legislation, and the list grows each week. We have attached the BCSA endorsement list that demonstrates that breadth of support for the legislation, support that resounds in a

recent bipartisan survey conducted by the University of Montana that shows 75% of Montanans support the legislation.

The dedicated, hard-working Montanans who crafted the BCSA have committed 14 years to this bill that will benefit not only the Seeley Swan and Blackfoot Valley communities, but also our state's outdoor recreation economy at a time when it is struggling as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now is the time to honor the hard work and dedication of so many Montanans by supporting the legislation they developed to keep their community healthy for current and future generations.

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we ask you to secure a positive hearing and mark-up for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act before the August recess begins. Please let us know a time when we can meet via telephone or video conference to discuss this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ben Gabriel, executive director
Montana Wilderness Association

Marne Hayes, executive director
Business for Montana's Outdoors

John B. Sullivan III, board chair
Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Frank Szollosi, executive director
Montana Wildlife Federation

Becky Edwards, executive director
Mountain Mamas

Scott Brennan, Montana state director
The Wilderness Society

Jim Klug, director of operations/founder
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures/Yellow Dog Community and Conservation
Foundation



BLACKFOOT CLEARWATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

SUPPORTERS

JULY 2020

TRIBES & GOVERNMENT

Bob Brown, former MT Secretary of State
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation
Lewis and Clark County Commission
Missoula County Commission
Powell County Commission
Rep. Mike Hopkins (HD 92)
Sanders County Commission
Sen. Sue Malek (SD 46)
Seeley Lake Community Council

BUSINESS AND LABOR

Action Realty
Bad Goat Forest Products
BearPaw River Expeditions
Birds and Beasleys
Blackfoot Angler
Business for Montana's Outdoors
Clearwater Montana Properties
Crazy Creek Products, Inc.
Cory's Valley Market
dig this chick
Double Arrow Lodge
Ecosystem Management Research Institute
FireTree Wildland Fire Sciences, LLC
Great Divide Cyclery
Great Bear Properties
Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop
Headwaters Montana
Hi-Line Climbing Center
Hub Coffee
iFlyFishMontana

BUSINESS AND LABOR CONTINUED...

Iron Fly Angling LLC
KettleHouse Brewing Co
Lake Country Builders
Lary's Fly Shop
Lewis and Clark Trail Adventures
Lindey's Prime Steak House
Lolo Peak Brewing
Majestic Montana Properties, Inc.
Missoula Central Labor Council
Missoula Chamber of Commerce
Missoula Economic Partnership
Montana Angler Fly Fishing
Oboz
onX Maps
Paws Up
Pyramid Mountain Lumber
RealEstateAuctions.com
Red Mountain Yoga and Massage
Rocky Mountain Outfitter
Rolling Stone Ranch
Rovero's Ace Hardware
Seacat Creative (Mark Seacat)
Seeley Lake Chamber of Commerce
Six Pony Hitch
Sustainability, Inc.
Tamaracks Resort
Ten Mile Creek Brewing
The Bridge Pizza
The Missoulian Angler Fly Shop
The Notorious P.I.G. BBQ
The Trail Head
Taco Del Sol - Helena

BUSINESS AND LABOR CONTINUED...

Thirsty Street Brewing Co.
TOMIS
Top Hat Lounge
Watershed Consulting LLC
Wisetail LMS
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Yurt Ski Montana
Zoo Town Surfers

COLLABORATIVE GROUPS

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group
Clearwater Resource Council
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
High Divide Collaborative
Kootenai Forest Stakeholder Coalition
Lolo Restoration Committee
Mineral County Resource Coalition
Montana Forest Owners Association
Ravalli County Collaborative
Sanders County Collaborative Committee
Whitefish Range Partnership
Seeley-Swan Fuels Mitigation Task Force

SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN

Anaconda Sportsmen's Club
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper
George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Helena Hunters and Anglers
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
Hilary Hutcheson
Magic City Fly Fishers Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Montana Bowhunters Association
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
Montana Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Waterkeeper Alliance
WestSlope Chapter of Trout Unlimited

RECREATION

International Mountain Bicycling Assoc.
Seeley Lake Driftriders Snowmobile Club
Missoula Back Country Horsemen
Montana Back Country Horsemen

RECREATION CONTINUED...

Montana Mountain Bike Alliance
MTB Missoula
Seeley Lake ROCKS
The 'Club' (Ovando OHV Community Organization)
The Montana Outdoors Foundation
Yellowstone River Parks Association

OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES

Blackfoot River Outfitters
Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters
Brant Oswald Fly Fishing Services
Clear Creek Outfitters
Dropstone Outfitting
Fly Fisher Adventures
Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
Fishes Eddy O Outfitter and Guide Services
Glacier Guide and Raft
Go West Outfitters
Latitudes Outfitting Company
Missoula Fly Fishing Outfitters
Missoula On the Fly
Montana Fly Fishing Connection
Montana Outfitters and Guides Association
Montana Trout Outfitters
Pro Outfitters
Professional Wilderness Outfitters Assoc.
Rich Ranch Outfitting
Smoke Elser
Thunder Hammer Fly Fishing
Wolf Creek Angler LLC

CONSERVATION

American Rivers
The Conservation Alliance
Great Burn Conservation Alliance
Mission Mountain Audubon Society
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund
Montana Wilderness Association
The Wilderness Society
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Yellow Dog Community and Conservation
Foundation

OTHERS

Artemis Common Ground
Assoc. Students of the Univ. of Montana
Business for Montana's Outdoors

OTHERS CONTINUED...

Montana Association of Christians
Seeley Lake Community Foundation
Seeley Lake Elementary School
Seeley Lake Rural Fire District