

APPENDIX. Comments on the proposal for FWP to accept assignment (delegation) of the “right of public hunting access” component of a conservation easement (to be held by the Five Valleys Land Trust) on the Buxbaum-Boulder Creek Ranch, received by FWP during the comment period. Comments received via E = email, M = mail, Ph = phone, PM = public meeting. (If someone submitted comments more than once, the ID# for this person's successive comments are numbered as #a, #b, etc.)

Com- men- ter #	Via	Para- graph	Comment
1	E	1	I support Alternate B, to accept, the assignment of the rights of public hunting access on the Buxbaum Ranch from FVLT. <u>I see no reason not to accept this gift of assignment, and lots of reason to accept it!!!!</u> Good for everyone.
		2	Thank You
2	E		<u>Look like smart purchase. Looks like wintering area for wildlife. Costs are not disclosed? Go for it if investment pens out financially!</u>
3	E		Great project! <u>I am proud of the hard work all of these organizations and FWP have done to continue enhancing Montana outdoors and public access.</u>
4	E		I am in support of this permanent easement as <u>it will assure public access and insure access to public land. I am recommending the partial use of NRDP monies to acquire this easement.</u>
5	E	1	"Easement would provide access for hunting" was presented by the Missoulian today by writer Rob Chaney.
		2	This <u>appears to be a very good plan as garnered between the land owners and Five Valleys Land Trust---for hunting access.</u>
		3	<u>I note so many of the times the conservation easements are reported, very few if any reports by media inform any other access other than for hunting.</u>
		4	My question is this, <u>does this include access for hiking?</u>
6	E		I was <u>born and raised in the Drummond/Hall area. This is the last person that needs a sum of \$700k + for a conservation easement. The rich getting richer. Why not just purchase land outright so it belongs to the state? All that will happen is money will flow to a rich guy, then he will continue to buy up more of the valley. Half the area he has does not have very good hunting. Waste of money. Not to mention, who would subdivide this area anyways? That is a far fetched idea.... Look at the boulder patch across the road. They have been trying to sell lots there for over 10 years.</u>
7	E	0	Please see the attached letter from the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers encouraging FWP to accept the public hunting access component of a conservation easement on the Buxbaum-Boulder Creek Ranch.
		1	The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers highly encourages the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks to accept the public hunting access component of a conservation easement on the Buxbaum-Boulder Creek Ranch. <u>We are thrilled that this project would secure significant permanent public hunting access on and through the property in a popular hunting district where game damage problems have become a significant issue on private lands.</u> The access to nearby USFS lands that would be gained by this project is an exceptional aspect for our members. Preventing the subdivision of this private property is of extremely high value, as well. <u>The various habitats on this property such as wetlands, grasslands and aspen stands are highly valuable to wildlife and protecting these place also highly benefits the opportunities to hunt their inhabitants.</u>
		2	The 2,000 MTBHA members advocate to protect large parcels of fish and wildlife habitat as well as the opportunity for traditional non-motorized hunting and fishing experiences. Our organization advocates for healthy, connected habitat for wildlife, open spaces, and the continuity of Montana’s heritage of working lands. The primary benefits of this property are highly aligned with our organization’s values.
		3	Please inform us of any additional activity on this proposed project and how we might continue to support this and other such efforts.
8	E	1	Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, Anaconda Sportsmen’s Club and the Montana Wildlife Federation represent hunters and anglers across the state of Montana. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Buxbaum-Boulder Creek Ranch conservation easement located in Granite County.
		2	We are pleased to support this conservation easement as it will protect diverse wildlife habitat including important winter range for big game, native grasslands, forested draws, pocket wetlands, and aspen stands. We are also pleased that the easement will secure public hunting access in perpetuity on 1,193 acres that are also adjacent to other public lands. We fully support the department accepting the administering of public access hunting rights on a portion of the easement.

Com- men-ter #	Via	Para- graph	Comment
		3	Many of our respective organizations' members hunt in the areas adjacent to the proposed easement. Securing new public hunting access will open new sporting opportunities and access to the adjacent USFS lands for future generations to enjoy. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed easement.
9	E		[Same letter as #8]
10a	E		[Same letter as #8]
10b	PM		[Publig hearing commenter #1] The Club is in support of FWP taking assignment to manage this access. We support the access to game and maintenance of hunting values.
10c	PM		[Publig hearing commenter #1] Always in full support of an easement like this in Anaconda and surrounding areas. We are out there fishing for everyone involved. We are supporting this to the utmost.
11	E		I am writing to convey my support of the conservation/access easement. Montanans are losing more and more opportunities to access land for hunting. This protects habitat for nongame wildlife in addition for hunting opportunities. This is a great opportunity for the state of Montana.

# people represented
# gov. agencies, NGOs, groups, etc. represented

Support: Yes, No, Unk? Questions or suggestions?									
# people represented	Y	N	Contingent	Unk	Q?	Issue/suggestion	Name	Location	spokesman [unofficial and/or member of]
1	x						Otis, Bert	Emigrant	
1	x					x	Stone, Robert	Eureka	
1	x						anonymous 1 (Allison)	Helena	
1	x						Stone, Dave	Anaconda	
1				x	x	x	Pepion, Michael	Hamilton	
1				x	x	x	Cochrell, Tyrel	Drummond	
0	x						Nikonow, hannah J	Missoula	Montana Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (board member)
0	x						Shaw, Adam (president)	Missoula	Hellgate Hunters & Anglers

# people represented	Y	N	Contingent	Unk	Q?	Issue/suggestion	Name	Location	spokesman [unofficial and/or member of]
0	x						Chadwick, Dave (executive director)	Helena	Montana Wildlife Federation
0	x						Ouldhouse, Gary (president)  Stone, Dave	Anaconda	Anaconda Sportsmen's Club
1	x						West, Bill	Georgetown Lake	

7	9	0	0	2	2	3
4	yes	no	contingent?	unknown		
support proposal?						
11				total		

1	Georgetown Lake	
2	Anaconda	
1	Drummond	4
2	Missoula	
0	Butte	
1	Hamilton	
0	Stevensville	3
2	Helena	
1	Emigrant	
1	Eureka	4
0	Redmond, WA	0
0	unknown	0
11	TOTAL	11

[https://missoulian.com/news/local/acre-ranch-easement-would-provide-hunting-access/article\\_458ab564-f366-5a19-a645-627682c1cb2a.html](https://missoulian.com/news/local/acre-ranch-easement-would-provide-hunting-access/article_458ab564-f366-5a19-a645-627682c1cb2a.html)

Chaney's article 1~2-2019 ↑

He's probably referring to Greystone subdivision (2 phases, approved ~2005 & 2006). It's W side of Hwy 1 & ~1 mile N/NW of Buxbaum. 23 lots; 6 are owned by Lone Pine Land Company. Original owner/ developer was Flint Creek Ranches, LLC or Inc. Looks like Lone Pine was set up to just deal with land sales; Tom Rue assoc w/ both. [Like many MT subdivisions, very little property sold during the recent recession/aftermath ~2007 through 2012 or later.]

Granite County & nearby
Other Region 2 areas
other FWP Regions
Other States
Unknown
<b>Total</b>