

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] "NO" to the hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:39:00 AM

From: Mary Hurd <mary@rentsmartmissoula.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:38 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "NO" to the hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork

Greetings,

I just wanted to reach out and state my opposition to the petition to amend river horsepower limits on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork.

These boats are loud and disruptive. We would like to see our rivers remain safe, calm and peaceful. There are plenty of other boating opportunities for motorized boats such as Seeley Lake, Como Lake, Salmon, Placid, Swan, etc.. Please do not amend the horsepower limits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Hurd
Owner, Licensed Property Manager
Rent Smart Property Management



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Sales Associate
Missoula Realty



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PO Box 1675
Missoula, MT 59806

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From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot hovercraft
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 12:59:56 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Mullan <oldmanriverdan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 11:37 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot hovercraft

If this individual wants to use his hovercraft I suggest he go to a lake that allows this type of use. This motorized craft has no place on the Bitterroot. I live in Stevensville and know the person making this request. No bigger asshole walks the streets of Stevensville. Reject this request.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot River hovercraft proposal
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:27:53 AM

From: Scott Z <scottz.mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:26 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot River hovercraft proposal

Hello, I am writing to express my opposition to allowing the operation of hovercraft on the Bitterroot River. High-speed motorized recreation has no place on a small river like the Bitterroot. Such craft are more suited to large lakes and reservoirs that can accommodate high-speed motorized traffic without interfering with other recreational users or endangering public safety. I strongly urge FWP to deny the use of recreational hovercraft on the Bitterroot River.

Sincerely,
Scott Ziegenfuss
Hamilton, Montana

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot River motorized watercraft restrictions
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:38:10 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: bdmurray11@gmail.com <bdmurray11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:41 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot River motorized watercraft restrictions

I just read online that someone is petitioning the FWP of MT to change the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot River. As a person who grew up floating that river and watching many others fish, this change would negatively impact many aspects of wildlife and people recreating or residing near the river. Tourism would also be impacted as the serenity of this river would dwindle with louder water crafts on the river.

Please do not loosen these restrictions.

Thank you,

Brandon Murray
(406)396-8241

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Cc: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Dockter, Rebecca](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] December 5,2019 agenda item
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:32:58 AM

From: Jim and Estelle Shuttleworth <je@shuttleworthje.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:43 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] December 5,2019 agenda item

Re: Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition cited above that is on the December 5, 2019 agenda.

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot (FFB) is a fishing club of over 150 members .We are a 501-C3 non-profit organization and on this petition we feel very strongly. We urge the Fish and Game commission to reject the hovercraft petition at the upcoming December 5 meeting. We believe it threatens the reason that our club exists: fly fishing the Bitterroot and other Montana rivers. FFB supports existing regulations regarding motor craft on the Bitterroot and the Clark Fork and opposes changing those regulations to satisfy the demands of a minority. Our concerns are based on safety, noise, the probable impact on fishing and the potential impact on the fishery and on the economy based on that fishery. Please reject the hovercraft petition.

Sincerely,

Estelle Shuttleworth, DVM

President, Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] December 5th meeting
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:50:51 AM

From: Jim and Estelle Shuttleworth <je@shuttleworthje.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 8:54 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] December 5th meeting

Re: Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers

As a concerned citizen and frequent user of our local watershed for fishing, birding and other recreational opportunities I strongly oppose an exemption for Hovercraft.

Hovercraft are vessels propelled by machinery..... MCA 23-2-505(&a) defines a motorboat as a vessel propelled by any machinery.

This petition is **about one person seeking personal gain** for use [and abuse] of our watershed.

The public has already spoken. Any deviation from this rule allowing hovercraft use represents both a dangerous precedent as well as negates the public input that was gathered in the 2011 river recreation rule planning process.

Sincerely,
Estelle Shuttleworth, DVM
143 Sleeping Child Dr
Hamilton, MT

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Exemptions to the 20HP Restriction on Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 8:29:51 AM

From: Cody Kenyon <kim01nostrromo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 7:28 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Exemptions to the 20HP Restriction on Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers

I find the idea of making an exemptions to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610. and 12.11.620 for the use of Hovercrafts on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers to be an absolutely ridiculous idea. Firstly, the idea that FWP would alter publicly supported rules to accommodate the desires of one constituent is ridiculous. Secondly, this will open the door for jet ski and jet boat users to solicit FWP for exemptions as well. As it stands currently both rivers are heavily used to recreate on and probably need further restrictions on usage.

Thank you,
Cody Kenyon
Missoula, MT

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:38:17 AM

From: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 6:22 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?

From: Chuck Stranahan [<mailto:chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>]
Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2019 5:36 PM
To: 'fwcomm@mt.gov' <fwcomm@mt.gov>
Subject: Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?

The issue concerning hovercraft – or any other motorized pleasure craft – on the Bitterroot river was settled years ago. Jet ski operators (spurred by one business) tried the same thing – proclaiming their right to do something that was totally wrong.

I remember those hearings, about a quarter century ago. The issue should have been forever settled then.

Today, let's look at hovercraft: Recreational hovercraft run on speeds averaging 35MPH and up to 70MPH.

No argument can be made for pleasure hovercraft operation on the Bitterroot that makes much sense if public safety and the terrain itself is considered. Search and Rescue or other mission-specific use by FWP or local sheriff's offices, maybe – pleasure boating? No.

In my view hovercraft operation by FWP-specific licensure should be limited to water bodies such as Flathead lake, maybe Clark Canyon, or other lakes and reservoirs with large open acres of water can accommodate high-speed pleasure boating that doesn't interfere with other recreational uses or public safety.

I therefore strongly urge the commission to deny the use of recreational hovercraft on the Bitterroot River.

Respectfully submitted,
- Chuck Stranahan

Chuck Stranahan's Flies & Guides
chuck@chuck-stranahan.com
1-406-363-4197 shop, trout season
1-406-961-8848 home office

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Input on 20hp restrictions put in place in 2011
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 9:27:17 AM

From: sandylerickson@yahoo.com <sandylerickson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2019 5:17 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Input on 20hp restrictions put in place in 2011

Subject: Input on 20hp restrictions put in place in 2011

I am writing to provide you with my input on the possible exemption of hovercraft from the 20 horsepower restrictions on local rivers that were put in place in 2011. I feel that exempting hovercraft would endanger our local fish and aquatic insects and their breeding rituals due to noise, water turbulence, increased traffic, noise, and vibrations. These proposed exemptions also may also cause unanticipated negative impact on animals the live in or near the waterways. In addition, many local fly fishing guides rely on the rivers for their livelihood and having hovercraft present while tourists and locals are fly fishing would be a highly negative experience. These hovercraft also pose a safety risk to people recreating on our local waterways due to speed of travel, weight, and size.

I am highly opposed to the proposed exemptions for hovercraft on our local waterways including the Clark Fork and the Bitterroot rivers.

Please pass my input on to the judge hearing this case or those involved in evaluating public input and sentiment.

Thank you.

Sandra Erickson
80 Louise Lane
Bozeman, Montana 59715

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] HARD NO TO HOVERCRAFT EXEMPTION
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:47:58 PM

From: Jessica Haydahl Richardson <jessica.haydahl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:06 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: jessica.haydahl@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HARD NO TO HOVERCRAFT EXEMPTION

To Whom this may concern,

I am a resident of Stevensville and an avid user of the Bitterroot River and Clark Fork rivers and also a local member of the Bitterroot Fly Fishers Association. I have read through the proposal by Mr. Crews and several other articles about the Hovercraft Matter. I strongly object to Mr Crews having an exception for his personal watercraft. He himself in the Missoulian article states "there are only seven hovercrafts in the state". So as far as I am concerned this is for Mr. Crews's own personal pleasure and there is not a big demand for people wanting to take their hovercrafts out onto our rivers. I feel that his selfish request should be seen as just that. He doesn't like the current rules that have been set in place in 2011, a meeting that he himself could have attended. But, and I quote, Mr. Crews said: "people like me were working 10,12 hours trying to make a living while those rules were being made". Again over 600 "Working" citizens of Montana had the time to comment on the initial rulemaking process back in 2011.

The safety concerns also fall into play for such a narrow fast-moving river like the Bitterroot. There are ecological areas that boats should not be disturbing that a hovercraft could potentially access. The current time of year that one can use a 20hp engine boat, is set in place to keep all of those hundreds if not thousands of people using the river safe. He also talks about the misconception of hovercrafts but contradicts himself throughout the Missoulian article. Saying "it doesn't go any faster than a motorboat, and they're safer on the river". But then he goes onto say "that the hovercraft would be there and then gone". So who would it be safer for? He or the thousands of other anglers, floaters, and people using the Bitterroot and Clark Fork river daily. Also the sound of the hovercraft is another issue. He claims that its "no louder than a lawnmower" but as soon as he "revs" the engine; which one would do to propel the vessel forward, the hovercraft decibel jumped to over 100-105. Thus disproving the fact that his "hovercraft" makes "no noise."

I could go on with quoting Mr. Cruise and using his own words that are contradicting his own belief of his right for usage of these river systems, but I feel that his request is selfish and pretty ridiculous to assume that we do not use the river in the wintertime or see the need to make an exception for him of the rule.

We cannot appease just one person's request for this incredible noisy, fast-moving, higher-powered boat because it will suit him and his family better. I suggest Mr. Crews sells both of his hovercrafts, buys a 20hp engine boat and then he can enjoy boating on the Bitterroot during Oct 1st-Jan 31st or have a hovercraft made that falls within the current guidelines.

I appreciate your time on this matter.

Regards,

Jessica

--

Jessica Haydahl Richardson
449 North Burnt Fork Road
Stevensville
Montana
59870

www.jessicahaydahlphotography.com [[jessicahaydahlphotography.com](http://www.jessicahaydahlphotography.com)]

jessica.haydahl@gmail.com

979-270-1476

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hover craft and other motorized "boats"
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 4:22:15 PM

From: Rose, Sharon
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Pieske, Shawna <Shawna.Pieske@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hover craft and other motorized 'boats'

Here's a comment I rec'd today.

From: Tom Williams <catrafter@bresnan.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2019 7:24 AM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hover craft and other motorized 'boats'

Please keep the regulations in place that prevent hovercraft from operating outside the permissible dates. Also consider passing horsepower limits on the Yellowstone river to 20HP upstream of Billings to Park County.

Thanks,
Tom Williams
Billings MT

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hover Craft.
Date: Friday, December 6, 2019 10:16:58 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Bradt <billcbradt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:20 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hover Craft.

This idea is insane for several reasons:

- 1) Noise is incompatible with all other existing uses.
- 2) Safety. It's only a matter of time before high speed craft will injure a swimmer, tuber, rafter or kayaker.
- 3) Wake is destructive to the fisheries ecosystem.
- 4) Quality of life;

(I damn near had to duke it out with a jet boater about 30 years ago. near Florence. He didn't come aboard because I had young kids in the raft. Lucky for all that neither of of had firearms.)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Docker, Rebecca](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft - NO
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:34:28 AM

From: Peg Miskin <peg.moonstruck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:22 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft - NO

There is no place for this type of water craft on the Bitterroot River! Dangerous to others in boats or wading in the river not to mention stressful for wildlife and riparians in the area. Can't imagine the stress to fish! These belong in the swamps...not on pristine Montana waters. A bit like allowing 747 jets to land on H-93 and taxi in to Missoula. This is NOT the place.

Thank you. Peg Miskin

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Peg Miskin
Hamilton, MT
707-529-2760

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft - What are they thinking?
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:51:14 AM

From: James Melzer <jamelzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 10:33 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft - What are they thinking?

Regarding the proposal to allow Hovercrafts specifically and higher powered watercraft in general on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers.

NO to the noise.

NO to the disruption it will cause other people using the river, fishing, hiking, or just enjoying a day outside.

NO to frightening riparian wildlife.

Please reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Jay Melzer
jamelzer@gmail.com

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] hovercraft -
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4:28:34 PM

From: Mark Van Loon <mark.inthewoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:40 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] hovercraft -

There is a request to allow hovercraft to access the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers during the restricted time that motorized craft are allowed on the Bitterroot below Florence bridge. I STRONGLY OPPOSE allowing access to hover craft.

- The more motorized watercraft allowed to access the Bitterroot for any reason only increases the chances of an accidental discharge of petroleum product into the river.
- There is also the question of the extra noise from these craft.
- Since hovercraft can also travel overland, it's just a matter of time before someone does so.

We must acknowledge that our outdoor resources are indeed the life blood of our local economy. Any activity that might disrupt or threaten our pristine outdoor lands must be avoided at all costs. In the simplest sense, denying this proposal is a no brainer. The proposal would benefit only a very few but the consequences of their actions would affect every man, woman & child in the area. As well as every animal, wild or domestic, and all the fish in the rivers.

Please DO NOT ALLOW hovercraft on these. rivers.

Thank You, Mark Van Loon, Hamilton MT

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"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water" - W.H. Auden

"... dysfunction is the precursor to reform" - Lee Drutman, author

Henry Adams once called politics "the systematic organization of hatreds."

"Logic can convince but only emotion can motivate" - Jonathan Alter

quote from the 1930's: "When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross." - Sinclair Lewis

Kakistocracy - "government by the worst people"

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former" - Einstein

"If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience" - Woodrow Wilson

"You can fake being serious, but you can't fake being funny" - Billy Collins, poet

"The stone age didn't end because they ran out of stones" - Saudi Sheik to OPEC.

eclogue: a poem in which shepherds converse.

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft and motor boats.
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:04:38 PM

From: Harold Johns <hdjohns72@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2019 2:57 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; Harold Johns <hdjohns72@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft and motor boats.

Commissioners: To allow hovercraft on either river is not desirable. In fact the reasons for allowing less than 20 horsepower motor boats on the Bitterroot river is also unnecessary. The reasons given for such boats is fall access for hunting on the river and access to properties is questionable. That little river would be better off with no motorized craft of any kind.

Harold Johns
1024 Placer
Butte, MT 59701

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft exemption
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019 3:23:53 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Rogers <missouladude@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 1:54 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft exemption

I do not like the concept of an exemption for hovercrafts on any Montana River. There is no place for them here. Too loud. We don't need them. I would like to see all motorized boats banned from Montana waters. They leak hydrocarbons and are noisy.

Dennis Rogers, PG
Student Outreach Coordinator
WestSlope Chapter, Trout Unlimited
(406) 880-1102

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot River
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:40:42 AM

From: Roni Keiser <ronikeiser@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 5:03 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot River

Comment: NO

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Roni Keiser

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From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:36:34 AM

From: Tracy Wright <portage77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:26 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot

To FWP -

A hovercraft is a motorized boat and should not have any exceptions on our Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. This man who is trying to change the rules has a hovercraft that is faster than the 20 horsepower motor restriction in place and will be much louder than a motorized boat. This will ruin many people's experiences on the river and also be detrimental to fish and wildlife.

Please vote NO on this petition!!!

Thank you,
Tracy & Jon Wright

--

Tracy Wright
JQ Licensing
612 N. First St.
Ste. 2, #504
Hamilton, MT 59840
www.jqlicensing.com [jqlicensing.com]

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot/ Clark Fork River
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:38:28 AM

From: Alexia Kottwitz <alexiakottwitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:40 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Bitterroot/ Clark Fork River

Good afternoon,

I am a resident of Stevensville, MT and I believe that the restriction on hovercrafts should not be lifted. I believe that the ban of such vehicles should stay in place due to the disruption that they may bring to our rivers.

Thank you,
Alexia Kottwitz

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Montana rivers
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:41:14 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: James Santos <jimandstretch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 4:17 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on Montana rivers

I strongly oppose this proposal to allow hovercraft on the river where I wade and fish on a regular basis.

I've seen, having grown up and fished California, how these type of petitions have ruined the rivers and lakes by allowing these fast moving crafts zooming by as you enjoy a pristine quiet afternoon fishing.

I did not move here to Montana to bring those regulations that spoil our experiences fishing our rivers.

Think of "A River Runs Through It". Now imagine a hovercraft running up the middle of that river as this father raises his young sons in the enjoyment of fly fishing.

People that want to ruin our lovely rivers, and lakes, need to move somewhere else. Far away from us. We enjoy the serenity of our experiences on the river whether we catch a fish or not. And it's because of that experience that I joined Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and Trout Unlimited.

I don't know this person who is pushing this petition, nor do I want to know them.

Leave my rivers alone!!

Jim Santos

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:52:58 AM

From: Lee & Carol Hodsdon <gointomontanasoon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 3:05 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers

Sirs:

I do not support any change in rules created in 2011 concerning the 20hp limit on powerboats on these rivers. This proposal should be denied and the current restriction should remain for all power boats on these rivers. Nothing more needs to be said.

Sincerely, and thank you,

Lee Hodsdon
Florence, MT

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Dockter, Rebecca](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot.
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:36:16 AM

From: H Cregg <hcregg@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 4:42 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot.

Please don't make the mistake of allowing hovercraft to operate on the Bitterroot River for lots of reasons. The wildlife in general along the Bitterroot is stressed enough by man already, and those fall/winter months are somewhat of a respite for them. Needless to say, there are plenty of lakes where these craft can operate in much less sensitive areas.

Bitterroot Resident

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](mailto:Pat.Byorth@fwpdistrict2@gmail.com); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](mailto:Tim.Aldrich@mt.gov)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:50:37 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: William Thompson <williamthompson1945@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:16 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

Dear Commissioners,

Please reject this proposal/request to increase horsepower of motorized craft for the purpose of using hovercraft on our Bitterroot River. This would be a case of allowing the pleasure of a (very) few to disrupt the lives of many. I have seen and heard the extremely loud noise created by the use of these machines in Florida. There may be some reason to use them on the waters of Florida, but not on our small river. The fish and other aquatic life are already being subjected of additional stress of warmer water, heavy fishing, and growing recreational usage. Please do not allow the addition of this extreme and unnecessary insult to the river.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

William Thompson
213 Canyon Creek Rd.
Hamilton, MT 59840

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Docker, Rebecca](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Cc: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:33:53 AM

From: brook@brookschoenfield.com <brook@brookschoenfield.com>

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:33 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?

Say it ain't so! Hovercraft to be allowed on the bitterroot river? I want FWP to know that I think that this would be a very poor move, indeed.

You must know that thousands of trips are made down the river in slow moving, manually propelled and guided craft, yes? These craft are often steered by the inexperienced who are negotiating hazards as best that they can. Why would we allow people to zoom by at 35 mph+ and further challenge the typical boating crowd? That doesn't make sense.

The Bitterroot brings significant tourist revenue into the Bitterroot Valley, where every dime is sorely needed. Fishing the famed Bitterroot is one of our biggest attractions. Let these visitors enjoy their scenic Montana river experience in peace and relative quiet so that they will return, again, and again.

The Bitterroot river has enough challenges. The river and those who depend upon it don't need an additional difficulty which on so many levels doesn't make sense. Let the hovercraft and their ilk enjoy our many lakes, not our precious river.

Thank you

brook s.e. schoenfield
Director Advisory Services
IOActive, Inc.
(Title and organization for identification purposes only
I speak solely for myself)
Author, passionate security architect
Curious questioner
www.brookschoenfield.com [brookschoenfield.com]

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:41:36 AM

From: Brent Greenwell <brentjgreenwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 3:34 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

Sirs,

I am writing this to express my extreme objection in allowing hover craft on our beautiful river.

Thank you,

Brent J Greenwell

Missoula

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:40:08 AM

From: Kay Johnson <kdc.johnson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 5:51 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

Hovercraft on the Bitterroot? Hell no, never!

Mike Johnson
Corvallis, MT

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](mailto:Pat.Byorth@fwpdistrict2@gmail.com); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](mailto:Tim.Aldrich@Cartim8@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:38:01 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Spinetta <plspinetta@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:06 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

Strongly agree with Chuck Stranahan! No Hoovercraft on the Bitterroot! Peter Nd Katrin Spinetta (Alta Ranch)

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:52:32 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Pierpont <fscttp@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 6:24 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

You have got to be kidding me! This is a proposal that doesn't fit our pristine waters! Go see the jet boats on the South Fork in Idaho. This is trying to accommodate the "boys with their toys" Flathead Lake is more appropriate for this type of behavior. This is a non starter for this type of use. I can't believe the commission is even considering such a proposal.

Respectfully
F Scott Pierpont
Stevensville, MT

FSP

From: [FWP General](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#)
Cc: [FWP Fishing](#); [FWP Commission](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot-Clark Fork
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 12:21:17 PM

From: mike spenner <mikespenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 11:06 AM
To: FWP Region 2 <fwprg22@mt.gov>; FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot-Clark Fork

I would like to state my **Emphatic Opposition** to the proposal to exempt hovercraft from the 20 horsepower rule on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers.

After much public comment during the rule changes a number of years ago it was obvious that there is no widespread support for high horsepower boating on these rivers and as such that a rule exemption now negates all that public comment.

Having these excessively noisy and disruptive craft on the Bitterroot/Clark Fork can not possibly be in keeping with the sentiment and wishes of the vast majority of the river recreating public.

Just because someone decides to own a particular type of craft does not mean that they should automatically be given a right to use wherever they want, especially when that right goes against the rights and wishes of the vast majority of other river users.

Sincerely,
Mike Spenner
310 Burlington
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal - NO!!!
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:38:57 AM

From: rmwildermuth <rmwildermuth@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:24 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal - NO!!!!

Hello,

Please do not even consider the idea of allowing hovercrafts on the Bitterroot. This is one of the most ridiculous ideas I have ever heard. I do not and will not stand for the idea of having these incredibly noisy pointless contraptions running up and down the river.

We will not stand for it.... and I certainly DO NOT care if it's an ex-mayor's set of toys.

No!!!

Thank you,
Rich Wildermuth
Corvallis, MT

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft proposal
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:42:15 AM

From: Don Patterson <d5357mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:19 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft proposal

Dear Commission;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the hovercraft proposal.

I would recommend denial of the petition put forth because hovercraft by definition is a motorboat and can be

afforded no fewer restrictions than others under this category. Furthermore the 20 horsepower rule in place is no more restrictive on hovercraft than any other watercraft with a rating to exceed 20 horsepower. Any deviation from this rule allowing hovercraft use represents both a dangerous precedent as well as negates the public input that was gathered in the 2011 river recreation rule planning process. The majority of support was to restrict motorized use of the river with particular concerns of safety and noise.

--

Sincerely,
Don Patterson
358 Whispering Willow Way, Corvallis, MT 59828,

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:38:30 AM

From: Ken Quinn <tarq46@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 8:47 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal

As a weekly fisher of the Bitterroot I think entertaining the use of hovercrafts on the Bitterroot/Clark Fork is a non-starter. Just one factor to consider is the loss of a tremendous amount of money for our local economies and the State if the pristine nature of our river(s) is destroyed. If approved, why not allow them on Rock Creek? Keep the regs as they are

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:20:50 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Plumb <splumbtx@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 9:13 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal

Dear Sirs:

As a resident of Darby and a landowner on the river, I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to allow Hoovercrafts on the Bitterroot and Clarkfork Rivers.

I have read and am in complete agreement with the BRTU position on the proposal.

I urge you to deny it.

Respectfully-
Steve Plumb

Steve Plumb
713-594-7092

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft,
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:35:04 AM

From: warren johns <ichthyologist55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 7:18 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; FFB Board <ffb-board@googlegroups.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft,

Hovercraft on the Bitterroot?
Ever heard one of these things up close and personal?
Do they really belong on the Bitterroot or anywhere else in Montana?
The Bitterroot is not some backwater swamp in Georgia.
In my opinion they simply do not belong here.

Thanks, Warren Johns.

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](mailto:Pat.Byorth@fwpdistrict2@gmail.com); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](mailto:Tim.Aldrich@Cartim8@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:37:08 AM

From: maddwolf_1 <maddwolf_1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:04 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft

I am not an immediate "neighbor" of the Bitterroot River but I live in western Montana and do not like the idea of "opening the door" to louder and louder watercraft on our Montana rivers. I think hovercraft would interfere with the majority of people's enjoyment of the river and their reason for being there. Just like other forms of recreation are enjoyed in only certain places, this form of recreation has places where it is allowed and appropriate. As someone stated in social media in regards to this, he should have moved somewhere where this was allowed. And despite the petitioners excuse that he worked long days (I work a minimum of ten hours a day), he could have made time to show up to a meeting back in 2011. Please do not approve this.

Thank you,
Michael Wharton

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:28:23 AM

From: jshoushouse@aol.com <jshoushouse@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:01 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft

OH, HELL NO! The Bitterroot is not for hovercraft. I live in Corvallis and spend a lot of time on the Bitterroot fishing and walking the bank to spend time in nature. We moved here for the peace and quiet and to spend time in the outdoors. If I wanted to spend time around fast, loud boats I would have moved to the Flathead Lake.

The Bitterroot River has built a reputation for fishing, so much so that a restriction has been placed on days for guided trips. Part of the reason for this kind of demand is the environment and I feel that making a change to allow this type of activity will impact that aspect of the river. I believe that it will also create an opening for vessels of other kinds, perhaps, a more destructive type. I feel that this type of impact is too great.

Thank you,
Julie Shoush

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:42:02 AM

From: Richard Davis <dickdavis342@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:42 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft

Totally Unacceptable!

Richard Davis
Hamilton

--

Richard Davis
217 Canyon Creek Road
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-4704
Mobile - (805) 459-1263
dickdavis342@gmail.com

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Dockter, Rebecca](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] HOVERCRAFT
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:35:53 AM

From: Edward Gannon <edandck@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 7:03 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOVERCRAFT

Sir/Madam,

PLEASE. Just NO. Do not allow them.

Edward and Christina Gannon

--

God Bless America.

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 8:23:18 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Hunter <timothyhunter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 10:14 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft

My name is Tim Hunter. I live in Stevensville. I am writing to register my opposition to allowing hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. These machines are too loud and disruptive to other uses of the rivers. I believe hovercraft use would also threaten not only human fishing opportunities, but the fish and wildlife that occupy the valuable riparian habitat afforded by these beautiful rivers. Please do not allow any changes to existing regulations that would make it possible for hovercraft to be operated on the Bitterroot or Clark fork Rivers.

Thankyou

Tim Hunter
1407 Creekside Dr.
Stevensville, MT 59870

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](mailto:Pat.Byorth@fwpdistrict2@gmail.com); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](mailto:Tim.Aldrich@cartim8@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Hovercrafts on the Bitterroot
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:39:38 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Jenny West <gowestoutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 8:20 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercrafts on the Bitterroot

Dear FWP,

I am writing to deny the petition for the exception for hovercrafts on the Bitterroot River. I have been a Flyfishing outfitter on the Bitterroot River for over 18 years. There is no way a hovercraft should be allowed. The Bitterroot river is too narrow and dangerous to allow such a watercraft. There has been a drowning on the river almost every year. There are plenty of obstacles, wood debris, and dams that would be dangerous to navigate. Between wade fisherman and rafts, there are plenty of users on this river. It would deter from the quality of fishing and sight seeing if a Hovercraft buzzed by. This sort of exemption will set a bad and dangerous precedent and should not be allowed.

Thank you,

Jenny West
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Hovercraft request
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:05:09 PM

From: Scott Holtzmann <sholtzmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2019 6:10 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Hovercraft request

Sirs:

As you prepare to consider whether or not to reopen the decided rule-making on hovercraft on our rivers and streams I'd like to encourage you to retain the current regulations and not move ahead with adding more interference on our waterways. Under the current regulations hovercraft are not prohibited from all Montana waters, and they are not themselves specifically prohibited from the waterways that are being requested to be changed. The requestor is merely stating that he does not want to spend the money to acquire a hovercraft to suit the existing regulations:

"I'm trying to get the Bitterroot River and Clark Fork River rules changed to allow hovercraft to operate on the river during the motorboat months, which are October 1st through January 31st," Crews explains. "They have a 20-horsepower limit on motorboats, which you can't meet with a hovercraft. Not without expending about \$11,500 to have a special one built." (KPAX news article Nov.29, 2019)

Because the requestor chooses not to comply with the regulations when that option is clearly available to him is hardly an indication that there is public benefit to accommodate the request.

Furthermore, allowing this request would seem to put other rules in jeopardy as anyone can claim that because the rules prevent their particular form of enjoyment of the public lands that the rules should be changed to accommodate their specific desires - e.g. there is good reason that many of the public land areas prohibit motorized vehicles. The requestor is not claiming that he is denied recreational access, only that he be provided special access for his desired purpose. If existing regulations are changed to accommodate this request, it would serve only to expand his desired access as there is existing access available for this recreational pursuit. The fact that such desired access may not be in the location, during the time periods, or within his financial preferences does not seem sufficient to grant this request and thereby deny the collective preferences of many of the current waterway users that relish the current environment - despite the existence of the currently allowable small motorized craft.

Respectfully

Scott Holtzmann

5527 Riley Lane
Florence MT

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Power craft on Bitterroot R
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:27:23 AM

From: Doc White <docwhitemt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:55 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: chuck@chuck-stranahan.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Power craft on Bitterroot R

Sirs: It is my understanding that your commission is considering allowing hover-craft for recreation on the Bitterroot River. I would disagree, no, heartily oppose any such motorized recreational activity on a beautiful natural wonder such as this beautiful trout river!

Years ago, I became actively involved with the successful effort to deny jet-skis and other motorized craft access to this river. (I took a photo of a jet-skier actually running over and cutting my new fly line! When published in the local newspaper, it alerted the concerned public to the potential problems of motor craft on confined fishing waters.)

I strongly support your denial of hover-craft or any other motorized water vehicles for recreational use on the Bitterroot River!

~Marshall W White, MD

Roundup, Montana (former resident of Hamilton, and still fishing on the Bitterroot)

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:40:40 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: FWP Webmaster
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Pieske, Shawna <Shawna.Pieske@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **

Hi Shawna,

Can you pass this on?

Thanks!
Missy

-----Original Message-----

From: Donald G Stevenson [<mailto:donvicki79@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 2:22 PM
To: FWP Webmaster <FWPWebMaster@mt.gov>
Subject: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **

Name: Donald G Stevenson
Phone Number: 4065438989
Email: donvicki79@gmail.com

Please pass this message along to the Mt. Fish & Game Commission. The last thing we need on the Bitterroot & Clark Fork Rivers is more disruption of wildlife and people seeking solitude. Mr Crews petition should be denied. Motor size should be reduced. Out-of staters don't come Montana to have noisy motor craft of any kind go zipping by. Think of the long term effect of more hovercraft on all Montana rivers.

**** BrowserHawk Information (general)*****

AOL: false
AOLVersion: 0.0
ActiveXControls: false
AuthenticcodeUpdate: 0
BackgroundSounds: false
Beta: false
Browser: Safari
CDF: false
CharHeightAvail: 0
CharWidthAvail: 0
ColorDepth: -1
CompressGZip: true
ContainerBrowser: null
ContainerFullversion: null
ContainerVersion: 0.0
Cookies: true

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019 4:52:38 PM

See below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Tadej, Joleen On Behalf Of FWP Education
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Pieske, Shawna <Shawna.Pieske@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **

I know we aren't taking comments yet but this one's for the Commission.
Jo

-----Original Message-----

From: William Engler <englerwr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 4:19 PM
To: FWP Education <fwpedu@mt.gov>
Subject: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **

Name: William Engler
Phone Number: 406-381-3829
Email: englerwr@yahoo.com

PLEASE---no hovercraft on the Bitterroot river.

Please direct my comment to the proper person or committee.

Thank you, William R. Engler, Corvallis Mt

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: comment on hover craft
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:03:36 PM

One more...

From: Kujala, Quentin
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Pieske, Shawna <Shawna.Pieske@mt.gov>
Subject: comment on hover craft

Shawna—

In reviewing public comments for Wildlife items, I notice this one speaking to hover craft. Thought you may want to forward to the commission for this coming Jan 6 meeting.

Regards,

Q

Dear FWP Commission & Director,

Regarding Shoulder Seasons:

1) In Hunt Districts 411, 511, & 530 These seasons are not working to decrease populations, but rather moving elk to safety zones, and leaving less elk on the landscape during the archery, and general season. I would ask that you immediately remove the shoulder season from these districts, and resurrect the hunt roster for problematic areas. 2) Please immediately remove shoulder seasons from all public lands. This is not the intent of these seasons, and Sportsmen in this area (411, 412, 511, & 530) are seeing less and less elk on the public landscape due to these seasons. 3) Please immediately amend artificially low objectives that are causing landscape shoulder seasons and their recommendations. There are several areas that would justify an increase, and this will immediately preserve opportunity for sportsmen. 4) Do not allow shoulder seasons in Hunt Districts that are at or below objective already.

Regarding the Hovercraft Petition:

Please do not consider allowing hovercrafts on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. These waterways are high use, and conflict will surely outweigh any benefits. I strongly suggest you disregard this petition. I strongly oppose.

Regarding Changes in the Youth Hunter Companion Rules:

Allowing accompanying adults to hunt during the youth hunt is ridiculous. I strongly oppose this rule change, and already disagree with the current youth hunt. Hunting is a rite of passage, and I believe the youth hunters should earn their stripes like everyone else. Hunting isn't supposed to be easy. I

strongly oppose.

Thank you for your time,
fax

Doug Krings Project Manager (406) 538-2374 x 120 (406) 538-7347

From: [Kilbreath, Phillip](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#)
Cc: [Pieske, Shawna](#)
Subject: FW: Crews Hovercraft petition
Date: Friday, December 6, 2019 10:17:40 AM

I don't know if you are keeping these things for the commissioners but here is another.

From: Lynnet/Craig Thomas <ckyber@bigsky.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 9:00 AM
To: Kilbreath, Phillip <PKilbreath@mt.gov>
Cc: ckyber ckyber <ckyber@bigsky.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Crews Hovercraft petition

Phil Kilbreath:

Montana FWP Commission 5 December 2019

Helena, Montana

RE: Crews petition for hovercraft use on restricted rivers:

A bit of history:

I have been a professional forester in the valley since 1971. I participated in many forestry changes during this time. I met Jim Crews when he was mayor of Stevensville. As airport board chair we ended up working together on the airport activities, and it was a very positive relationship. This relationship has been continued and reinforced by succeeding Mayor Brandon Dewey. The airport is blessed to have this great sponsor support.

Crews introduced me to hovercraft, and frankly I thought this little thing was a joke. We did a pull test with it, and its thrust is around 143 pounds. My Cessna 185 has about 1146 pounds of thrust for comparison. But, I welded up a jet boat to use in shallow water. I used an "old man motor" a four stroke which has a muffler on the intake and exhaust for quiet operation, because I wanted as little disturbance as I could get and good mileage. Target was the lowest noise signature possible, resulting boat is very quiet, and does not go as fast as others. A jet boat was picked to go in shallow water specifically for hunting purposes.

I immediately discovered that you can get your boat stuck in shallow water, and since I operate alone this is a small problem. Actually it is pretty big problem, alone and in the dark and cold. I'll bet the deer and elk were having a laugh as I waded around in the mud in the middle of the river with a shovel after unloading all my camping stuff. Was not very much fun and I was so cramped up from shoveling and pulling for many hours that I couldn't sleep for the next two nights. Lesson learned watch the shallows! Later I end up designing and building a hovercraft trailer for Crews. Now I also have a hovercraft too. First drive was in my yard and hayfield and it just motors along. Kind of like driving a hockey puck as it floats on air and follows gravity. Next drive was on a lake. First thing that is immediately apparent is the small wake-almost nonexistent compared to my jet boat. Steering is similar to the jet, but noise is less. Took it to the "river of get stuck" and found that I can just motor over places where I would be Sooo stuck in the jet. Actually this thing is amazing at the small impact it produces, and all the jet boat drivers were really looking as I drove off the grass shore over the rocks

and mud to proceed on the river in shallow water that they must avoid. Great Fun!! This tool has a large potential for aquatic research as its footprint is so benign combined with the ability to enter and exit the shallows with literally no disturbance. Anyway, the reason for this note is to support Crews petition for the following reasons:

1. The Bitterroot valley is no longer a backcountry. Like it or not a lot of people have discovered our paradise. This is now forever a residential area.
2. All rivers are receiving more use.
3. Some methods of protection will need to be modified to provide society with acceptable uses.
4. Current regulations are heavily biased to Fishing and hunting while basically ignoring the beautiful scenery of which we live. A permit for a scenic river ride would be a benign utilization of our rivers. Place a few of view points below the high water areas and a new industry is born.
5. Resource protections will continue to become a more critical component for management.
6. Water conservation-clean water-becomes more important and the fishery is the best indicator of clean water. We are blessed with clean water now and it must be retained.
7. Low river flows and warm waters will become even more important to our fishery and limits of use projecting such will be necessary. This will occur as more social demand is being placed on the fishery.
8. As fishing is curtailed to protect the fishery an opportunity for other uses will be able to fill the gap and one of those is hover crafting. It is well suited, in the absence of fishing, for benign river management/travel/sightseeing. This could support the existing infrastructure with an alternate opportunity while engaging more public in our wonderful scenic views.
9. Hovercraft should be considered for aquatic management/research/weed control on our waterways because of the benign impacts compared to other motorized vessels.

I worked for Champion International for many years and when my friends and peers, Denny Farnsworth, Wayne Mathews, and Gary Swanson perished in a plane crash surveying our forest, Champion donated to FWP a small piece of land on Salmon Lake to be used as access to and a park on that lake. FWP has done an outstanding job of honoring my friends for their management of this property is excellent.

This was repeated when my friend Russell Gates perished in a logging accident with the Russell Gates Park and Blackfoot River access. May you find peace and happiness in the mountains he loved. Again the FWP has/is completing excellent management of these properties. The guys are proud!

To keep **The Outside in us All** will require careful changes. Good Luck.

Yours in restoration and communication, I remain,

Sincerely,

Craig E. Thomas

Forester

Stevensville, Montana 59870.

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: December 5th meeting-Hoovercraft Horsepower exemption
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:51:02 AM

From: sylvia miller <bobnyslmiller@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 7:43 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] December 5th meeting-Hoovercraft Horsepower exemption

I am writing to ask you to deny this exemption for more horsepower. The rules were established in part so we could enjoy the Bitterroot and the Clark Fork w/out being subject to engine noise, pollution, etc. which comes from all these motorized vehicles.

Please vote against this.

Thank you Bob Miller

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft absurdities
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:20:12 AM

From: Robert John <Robjohn86@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 5:22 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft absurdities

As a citizen of montana and an individual that has grown up in the bitterroot valley I do not agree with or support this man's proposal to allow hovercrafts on the river. Not at all. There are plenty of places he can go and use that craft. Please do not let this go through. We do not need loud crafts coming through our prestigious valley and interrupting local business owners that depend on the river maintaining it's current status as a place to relax and get to enjoy the fine things in life. That industry which is a critical piece to the backbone of this valleys economy. Should not be hindered or have to suffer because an individual "wants to take his boat out". There are plenty of other safer places to have a craft like that able to use it's full potential. Just because a bull can fit through the door of a China shop does not mean that it belongs in there !

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: hovercraft on Bitterroot and Clark Fork
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:52:02 AM

From: Ellis, Richard <Ellis_R@fortlewis.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 9:25 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] hovercraft on Bitterroot and Clark Fork

Are you people insane????????????? You really will consider allowing hovercraft on our local rivers? That's just what I need on a quiet winter day at Bell Crossing or Victor Crossing or Wally Crawford access sites. And for your information Jim Crews is widely regarded as the behind the scenes cause of all the political troubles in Stevensville as he, the former mayor who lost re-election, seems to have manipulated some buddies on the town council. I fish the Bitterroot in the winter and sure don't want a hovercraft on the river. Do you idiots realize how low the river gets in the winter? Or how many people fish the river in the winter?

Dick Ellis
Stevensville

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Dockter, Rebecca](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft on the Bitterroot or Clarks Fork River
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:37:01 AM

From: Dave Seeley <dseeley406@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 10:53 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot or Clarks Fork River

Greetings:

Please take my comment of concern about the request to allow hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clarks fork rivers.

I am so opposed to this. The Bitterroot is my home river, I so enjoy floating and fishing on this River from just below Painted Rock down to Florence. My wife and I will sometimes just tube down with our grand kids.

Respectfully, there is more and more pressure on these rivers just with human powered craft. The thought of a multi engine crafts would destroy the whole floating / fishing activity. These craft have the lake and reservoirs to enjoy.

The noise, the possible pollution, the danger, it is a risk that we can't afford.

Please consider my thought and feelings when making a discussion. Please don't allow this

Thank You

David and Audrey Seeley
5287 White Cloud Drive
Florence Montana 59833

406-652-0205

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows 10

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft on the Bitterroot
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:32:14 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Betty Chilcott <bettychilcott@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 5:55 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft on the Bitterroot

Mr. Commissioner:

I live right along the Bitterroot River and I do not at all support this man's request to allow Hovercrafts or any such motorized watercraft on our Bitterroot River.

Any such watercraft would wreak havoc on this river not to mention noise pollution. It is already busy with other types of personal use watercraft in the busy summer months.

Please DO NOT even consider this request to allow Hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.

Thank you,
Betty Chilcott
Stevensville

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: HOVERCRAFT PETITION DENIAL
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 1:05:29 PM

From: John MUMMA <jmmumma@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2019 7:49 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOVERCRAFT PETITION DENIAL

Good am commissioners.

As a long time resident and user of the rivers around Missoula, I urge you to

"DENY"

the petition for the approval of Hovercraft.

John W. Mumma

Retired
Director of Colorado Division of Wildlife
and
USFS Reginal Forester

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [FWP Fishing](#); [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft proposal - Vote no please.
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:40:28 AM

From: Paul G <wetrock84@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 5:43 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft proposal - Vote no please.

I live in the Bitterroot valley. I also float, fish and just enjoy the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers. Please do not allow any amendment's to the existing 20 horse power rule. Many enjoy the river year around. Including between Oct. 1 to Jan. 31. Thank you.

Paul Gilbertson
613 All View Lane
Corvallis, MT 59828
irpabkind@outlook.com

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft Proposal
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:20:27 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: keith mullan <keithcmullan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:37 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft Proposal

I am writing in opposition to hovercraft proposal.

This proposal does not benefit the Bitterroot river or Clark Fork river economically or environmentally. It does not benefit fishing, hunting, or recreation. It does not benefit our fish or wildlife.

Thank you,

Keith Mullan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft use on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:40:55 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Bogle <bogleconst@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 4:48 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Jim Bogle <bogleconst@hotmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft use on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers

I am completely against the use of hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.
I have been near running hovercraft and strongly believe the noise they generate is far too loud to be allowed.
I also believe the speed that hovercraft can achieve is far too dangerous on these rivers. There are many people floating these rivers, and allowing unlimited horsepower hovercraft to zip around is an accident waiting to happen.
Thank you,
James Bogle
Hamilton

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Hovercraft use on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:52:16 AM

From: David Schultz <schultz_dv@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 7:14 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hovercraft use on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to not increase the horsepower limit on powered watercraft used on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. Allowing Hovercraft use on these river sections seriously degrades the peaceful enjoyment of these wonderful resources. I believe hovercraft activity on these rivers would negatively impact the economic value these resources provide to our local economy by reducing its attraction to hunters and fishers.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I am an avid fisherman.

Sincerely,
David Schultz
218 Rose Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: hovercraft
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 8:22:39 AM

From: MICHAEL WEST <michaelwest888@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11:13 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] hovercraft

Hovercrafts do not belong on any river in Montana. Our rivers are busy enough .
I have seen hovercrafts at George Town Lake in Stuart Mill Bay, disrupting everything! They don't belong there either!

Thank you,
Mike West
502 Snowberry Lane
Hamilton, Montana 59840

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Jim Crews' Hovercraft Petition
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:27:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Chris Kelly <PrairieChick91@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:09 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Jim Crews' Hovercraft Petition

I am writing in opposition to Jim Crews' petition to allow hovercraft on the Bitterroot River, for the following reasons:

The 11/27/9 KPAX interview states:

The rules were originally enacted for prevent noise and improve safety, especially from much faster water-jet powered craft. But Crews argues the limits also restrict some small motor boating during the late fall and winter.

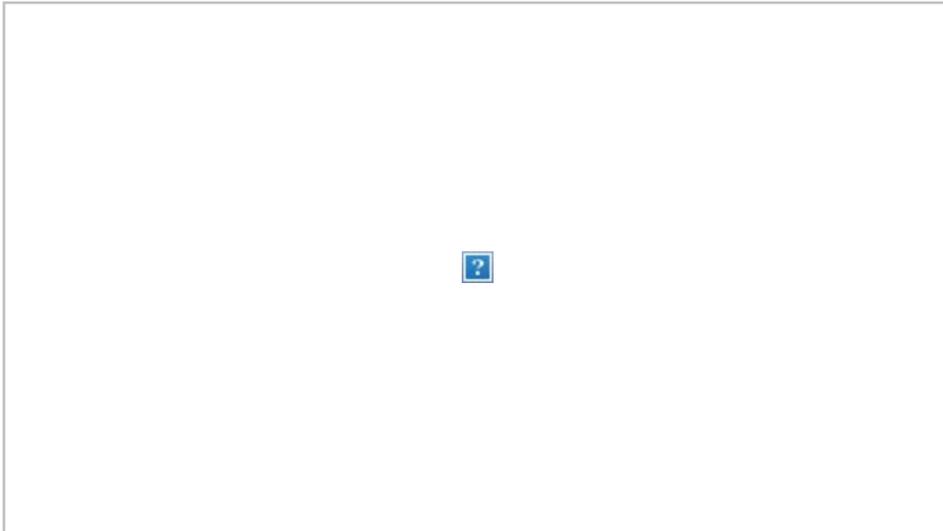
"I don't think that's fair to families, not to allow them to get out on the river at least one day a week during the summer months to do a little family recreation. It's just basically all fishing and hunting," Crews says. "That's it."

However, Jim's petition does NOT address small motor craft, only hovercraft. So, unless he's going to advocate that families all get hovercraft so that they can "get out on the river at least one day a week during the summer months to do a little family recreation," his petition is completely self-serving.

It is my understanding, as provided in the December 1, 2019 Ravalli Republic article, "[Motorized boats already are allowed on the Bitterroot and the section of the Clark Fork River that runs through Missoula, but only from Oct. 1 to Jan. 31. \[missoulian.com\]](#) During that time, they're also required to use motors that are 20 horsepower or less. The main reason for that rule, adopted in 2011, centers around the motors' noise."

Jim's petition centers on the fact that hovercraft cannot operate at that low of horsepower. If,

in fact, the rule is in place due to concerns about motor noise, Jim himself must share those concerns about hovercraft noise as he wears ear protection when operating his unit (see photo below), despite the fact that he has noted publicly during Town of Stevensville Council Meetings that he is hard of hearing (and therefore isn't capable of fully hearing the noise his hovercraft creates.



Jim also notes that " "There's only about" — he paused to count on his fingers — "about seven hovercraft in the state, so it's not like we're opening the floodgates."

The petition states he owns 2 hovercrafts (approximately 28% of those in the state), which means changing this rule would be primarily benefiting him. Another way to look at it is that he's asking the rule to be changed to benefit potentially just 6 people (assume each of the remaining 5 hovercraft are owned by different individuals); and it's probably safe to assume that not all 6 people live near the Bitterroot River, so, again, the rule change would benefit a limited number of people.

Jim's petition is myopic and self-serving; there are plenty of waters in which he can legally navigate, many close to his home in Stevensville.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Kelly
Stevensville Resident

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Regarding the Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 8:24:00 AM

From: Cheryl Korcala <CherylKorcala@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:59 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Cheryl Korcala <cherylkorcala@hotmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding the Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620

Dear Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners,

I would like to offer my comments regarding the Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.

As a homeowner on the Bitterroot river and a user of the river, I have a vested interest in the recreational use of the river. I would recommend the denial of the petition for the following reasons:

- A hovercraft is a motorized boat no matter the engineering specifications, and thus should be restricted to the same rules as other motorized watercraft. A larger engine would just increase the noise level of the craft.
- The use of a larger than allowed horsepower rule would cause other motorized users to petition the same.
- Expanding the period of allowed motorized use would also cause others to do the same and then would endanger the use of the river for other people by putting a motorized craft on the water at the same time of wade fishermen, floating fisherman, and all recreation users that have control or no control of their crafts (intertubes, etc).
- The Bitterroot is not a wide river and in some places is quite narrow due to channels and log jams. A hovercraft would endanger other users. Imagine have a motorized craft coming upstream when a rafter or floater is coming through a log jam.

I strongly as the Fish and Wildlife Commission to deny the petition.

Thank you,
Cheryl Korcala

5776 Ellison Lane
Florence, MT 59833

From: [Pieske, Shawna](#) on behalf of [FWP Commission](#)
To: [Gangstad, Kaedy](#); [FWP Fishing](#); [Logan Brower](#); [Pat Byorth \(fwpdistrict2@gmail.com\)](#); [Rich Stuker](#); [Shane Colton](#); [Tim Aldrich \(Cartim8@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Regarding the Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:17:31 PM

From: Les Korcala <leskorcala@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:38 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Les Korcala <leskorcala@hotmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding the Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620

Dear Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners,

Please deny the petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.

I live on the Bitterroot and fish it nearly every day. I noticed that in the Missoulian article that there was a claim made that people didn't fish during the winter months. That is not true, I fish very regularly, my wife fishes quite often and I have many friends who fish through out the year.

Hovercrafts should be restricted to the same requirements as any other motorized watercraft. They are more mobile, can go into lower water and can be very disruptive to the water, the fish and anyone standing in the water as well as other boaters. I'm still seeing drift boats and fishing rafts in the water and the water levels are low enough that there are restrictions in channel size due to log jams.

There were also claims made that other water ways allow hovercraft - Salmon was mentioned -where jet boats are allowed, the Salmon wider than the Clark Fork by St Regis; upstream from St Regis the Clark becomes greatly reduced and the Bitterroot is smaller still. There is no valid comparison. The Salmon doesn't have restricting log jams and allows motorized watercraft with engines greater than 20 horsepower. Additionally the use of jet boats is restricted on the Salmon:

*While jet boats are allowed on the Salmon River near Salmon, ID, it is not recommended during much of the year. Low water levels and other hazards make some sections very hazardous.
In addition, a permit is required year round for all types of approved watercraft to be*

on the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon River. The permitted area begins at the Corn Creek Launch Site and ends at Long Tom Bar (about ½ mile above Vinegar Creek boat ramp) for a total of 77.6 miles. Non-commercial powerboats are limited to no more than six (6) boats on the Main Salmon River at one time, with a maximum length of 7 days per boat.

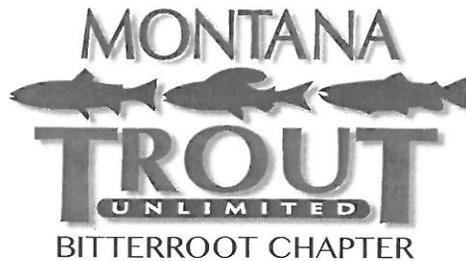
There isn't room on the Bitterroot nor most of the Clark for hovercraft to co-exist with other users of the river safely.

Added to my concerns is the noise generated by the hovercraft. At low idles, the noise might be low but under power the noise levels reach jet engine levels - jet engines close up are quite loud and a boat going by you as you are standing in the water would be hard to handle. Never mind what that would do for fishing.

If you allow hovercraft in our river, kiss off the fly fishing industry - particularly if it was year round. We had a period of comment for use, he missed it. Maybe he didn't have a hovercraft then.

Making a change for a few will impact the use of the river for many. I strongly urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission to deny the petition.

Thank you,
Les Korcala
5776 Ellison Lane
Florence, MT 59833



PO Box 262
Hamilton, MT 59840

November 29, 2019

Martha Williams, FWP Director
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers

Dear Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition cited above that is on the December 5, 2019 agenda. In lieu of comments presented at the meeting these written comments are being submitted by the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Our chapter would recommend denial of the petition put forth because hovercraft by definition is a motorboat and can be afforded no fewer restrictions than others under this category. Furthermore the 20 horsepower rule in place is no more restrictive on hovercraft than any other watercraft with a rating to exceed 20 horsepower. Any deviation from this rule allowing hovercraft use represents both a dangerous precedent as well as negates the public input that was gathered in the 2011 river recreation rule planning process. Those groups/individuals, including Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, voiced their concerns in that process and have a vested interest in recreating on the Bitterroot River. The majority of support was to restrict motorized use of the river with particular concerns of safety and noise. Our chapter does not approve of an exemption for hovercraft to the existing rules.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Anderson
President, Bitterroot Trout Unlimited
Mtwildtrout1@gmail.com



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
MONTANA**

1295 Lena Lane
Missoula, MT 59804
November 25, 2019

Montana FWP Commission
Helena, Montana

Dear Chairman and Commissioners

Re: Petition to allow hovercraft on Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers

Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers opposes any modification of ARM rules that might modify current restrictions on motorized uses on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers, as included in the current Petition by Mr. Crews.

Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers has 3000 active hunters and anglers across Montana who want to maintain traditional hunting and fishing uses on Montana's waterways. We believe the public weighed in heavily on the subject of Bitterroot and Clark Fork motorized uses in 2011 which resulted in the current regulations. Frankly, the use of 20 hp motors on watercraft was intended only to allow continuation of a history of waterfowl hunters accessing waters. Such 20 hp or less outboards are relatively quiet and, while they may disrupt waterfowl to a degree, their occasional presence during fall would not be objectionable to most other river users. Given the common shallow riffles and horsepower restrictions, most waterfowlers use them primarily in a downstream direction.

In contrast, hovercraft are noisy, very disruptive and would greatly disturb nearly all aquatic and terrestrial wildlife in the river corridor, as well as residents along the river and river recreationists. They are an example of watercraft technology creep gone wild.

As some of you are aware, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers filed a petition commonly referred to as Quiet Waters in 2016 and 2017. The Petition's intent was to basically draw a line in the sand to recognize most existing motorized watercraft uses while maintaining nonmotorized conditions on streams without existing motorized uses. It also would have placed some restrictions on motorized watercraft where conflicts were present or likely in the foreseeable future. Its intent was to maintain the current balance of motorized and non motorized streams in the face of technology creep of watercraft. We presented examples of hovercraft along with numerous other types of new emerging



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MONTANA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG



watercraft. Unfortunately FWP maintained no such restrictions were necessary, and the FWP Commission denied our petition.

It is our interpretation that currently hovercraft are usable on all Montana streams with no motorized restrictions in place. That is the majority of Montana streams. MT BHA pointed out in our Quiet Waters Petition that once motorized uses are established, these motorized uses on streams are difficult to reverse. MT BHA suggests that FWP and the Commission reexamine the need for motorized use restrictions on Montana streams, and take action to maintain the current balance before that opportunity for balance is foregone.

Sincerely,

s/greg munther

Greg Munther, Conservation Director



Paul Kretschmer
32201 Mann Rd
Sultan, WA 98294
937-763-2833
kretszoo@juno.com

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2019

**FISH, WILDLIFE PARKS
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

Martha Williams
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission
1420 East 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing this letter to help others interested in hovercraft to be able to enjoy the panoramic scenery and fishing on the Bitterroot River.

Currently Montana regulations limit watercraft to 20HP. There is no hovercraft commercially available less than 29HP. It is not technically feasible for our commercially manufactured hovercraft to meet the 20hp limit imposed by the Commission, nor is it affordable. Most commercially available hovercraft can carry from 2 to 6 passengers and have a useful load from 400lbs for a 2 person hovercraft to 800lbs for a 6 person hovercraft. This means more tourists and fishermen could fly over shallow areas of the river, where boats with motors, including jet boats, can't go, for sightseeing or fishing those hard to get to holes. Fishermen using hovercraft can fish in any season of the year since they travel over ice as well. There is no need for a fishing boat or kayak for spring, a jet boat or jet ski for summer, a duck hunting boat or canoe for fall, and a snowmobile for winter. Hovercraft meet the Montana's noise regulations and tend to be transient, unlike PWCs. We leave minimal wake, even at top speeds. At cruise speeds, the wake is small enough not to topple local paddle boarders.

Hovercraft can fly smoothly over land; still or swift water; shallow, flooded or frozen rivers; sandbars; swamps; snow; and thin or broken ice. They fly on a cushion of air leaving the hull several inches above the surface. That surface can either be water, pavement, dirt, gravel, or ice. Hovercrafts have no propellers or motors in the water that can contaminate the water with oil and fuel nor hurt fish or get tangled in underwater vegetation. We hovercraft pilots are more skilled than boat drivers since we train with our craft on land and water for personal use as well for local flooding and rescue support.

I live in Washington State and would love to come visit Montana to fly up the Bitterroot and visit with friends. I would have to stay in a local hotel, buy food and amenities from a local store and eat at some of your local restaurants (such as the Lolo Steakhouse) or maybe the Mission Bistro in Stevensville. I would have to purchase fuel for both vehicle and hovercraft at local gas stations. My wife could do shopping in Missoula. I do not own a motorized boat since my 4 person Neoteric hovercraft suits all my aquatic needs here in Washington State. There are several other hovercraft owners here in Washington that would love to spend a weekend (or longer) enjoying your wonderful Bitterroot River.

If you any questions on the ownership or operations of hovercraft, feel free to contact me at 937-763-2833.

Sincerely,



Paul Kretschmer



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DEC 04 2019
FISH, WILDLIFE PARKS
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

December 2, 2019
Martha Williams, FWP Director
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Petition for amendments to ARM 12.11.330, 12.11.610, and 12.11.620 to exempt hovercraft from the definition of a vessel and to exempt hovercraft from the horsepower restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers.

Dear Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition cited above that is on the December 5, 2019 agenda.

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot (FFB) is a fishing club of over 150 members. We are a 501-C3 non-profit organization and on this agenda item we are strongly united against it. We urge the Fish and Game commission to reject the hovercraft petition at the upcoming December 5 meeting. We see it as a direct threat to fly fishing the Bitterroot and other Montana rivers and believe it threatens the reason that our club exists. FFB supports existing regulations regarding motor craft on the Bitterroot and the Clark Fork and opposes changing those regulations to satisfy the demands of a miniscule minority. Our concerns are based on safety, noise, the probable impact on fishing and the potential impact on the fishery and on the economy based on that fishery. Please reject the hovercraft petition.

Sincerely,

Estelle Shuttleworth, DVM
President, Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

**PO Box 692
Victor MT, 59875**