



**Region One
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901**

**DECISION NOTICE
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for the**

Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Proposed Acquisition

September 13, 2021

Description of Proposed Project

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase approximately 772 acres of forest and meadows along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat, while providing public recreation access. The property is highly developable and threatened by the rapidly growing city of Columbia Falls, but would be protected as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) under this proposal.

The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC), a subsidiary of Glencore, a multi-national company, has decided to dispose of this property. The property is winter range for elk, moose, and white-tailed deer. Completion of this project would safeguard vital habitat and a travel corridor for bull trout and grizzly bears, Endangered Species Act-listed threatened species found on the property. This key movement corridor is located at a geographic pinch point where the Flathead River flows through the very narrow Bad Rock Canyon. The project is adjacent to a large block of public lands and would add to a 12,000-acre network of conserved land along a 43-mile reach of the Flathead River between Columbia Falls and Flathead Lake.

The property is currently in the FWP Block Management Program and provides a limited opportunity for hunters to harvest elk and white-tailed deer just minutes from Columbia Falls. A trail has been constructed on the property by Gateway to Glacier Trail, Inc., a local nonprofit group granted a revocable license issued by CFAC to allow access for hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, and others. Under FWP ownership, public access would be managed to preserve wildlife presence and hunting opportunities while allowing compatible trail and property use.

CFAC has given FWP and the Flathead Land Trust, our partner on this project, until the end of 2021 to complete this project. If the project fails, the property would most likely be sold, subdivided, and developed into a high-density neighborhood, directly impacting the property's many conservation values.

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Process and Public Involvement

FWP released a draft environmental assessment (EA) for public review on August 10, 2021 and asked for public comment through 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 2021. FWP held a virtual public hearing on August 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. FWP ran legal ads describing the proposed project, the availability of the draft EA, and the public hearing information in the *Flathead Beacon*, *Daily Inter Lake*, *The Hungry Horse News*, and *Helena Independent Record*. FWP also mailed postcards to neighboring landowners. The draft EA was posted on FWP's official website and was also available at the Region One headquarters in Kalispell and online for people with internet access or through internet service at public libraries.

The EA evaluated the potential impacts of the following alternatives:

1. Alternative A: Proposed Action

FWP would purchase the 772-acre CFAC property, and it would become the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. Acquisition of the property would ensure the protection of valuable fish and wildlife habitat and a connectivity corridor and would also allow for continued public use of the property along the Gateway to Glacier Trail.

2. Alternative B: No Action

If no action is taken, FWP would not acquire the CFAC property. It is unclear what would happen to the property in that case, but CFAC has indicated an intention to put the property on the open market. It would likely sell to a residential or commercial developer. If the property were sold, the Gateway to Glacier Trail group could lose their trail license and the public would be excluded from the property. Development would likely result in negative impacts to the riparian and wetland areas as well as disrupting the wildlife movement corridor and degrading the fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, subdivision development in this area would likely result in a significant increase in human-wildlife conflicts.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received 209 public comments with all in support of the acquisition of the property. All comments, in their original form, are included in Appendix A of this Decision Notice. The following is a summary of questions and issues raised by commenters and FWP's responses.

- One comment letter stated the desire to have the property open to the general public with "roaded" access so that everyone would be able to enjoy it.

FWP Response: The purpose of the acquisition is first and foremost to protect fish and wildlife habitat and to secure valuable big game winter range. If the property is acquired, FWP would create a parking area for public access, but the rest of the property would not be open to motorized access. The Gateway to Glacier Trail would allow non-motorized access to the property from mid-May until the start of the general hunting season each year.

- One comment letter stated the desire to see FWP prohibit bicycles on the WMA to protect wildlife habitat.

FWP Response: Non-motorized bicycles would only be permitted on the completed Gateway to Glacier Trail, the rest of the WMA could only be accessed via foot traffic. The entire property, including the Gateway to Glacier Trail, would be closed to public access from December 1 at 12:59 p.m. through May 15 at noon. The trail would also be closed to the non-hunting public during the general hunting season. FWP believes these closures and limiting non-motorized bicycles use to the Gateway to Glacier Trail would protect wildlife and their habitat found on the property.

- One comment stated the desire to have FWP erect some primitive benches along the Gateway to Glacier Trail, especially if they could be paired with educational displays. Another comment stated the desire to see interpretive signage conveying the importance of this unique ecosystem in addition to posting rules and regulations.

FWP Response: Under the proposed management plan, informational signs and kiosks are recommended. FWP is open to working with Gateway to Glacier Trails group to consider signage and potential benches along the trail. FWP is also open to potentially including information on the unique ecosystem benefits of this property as part of a kiosk display.

- One comment asked that FWP consider enlisting volunteers and trail users to remove weeds along the Gateway to Glacier Trail. The comment suggested a weed management brochure or sign could encourage trail users to remove weeds along the trail and that FWP could hold a volunteer weed removal event that would raise awareness and foster local individuals and groups to protect the wildlife values of the property.

FWP Response: Under the proposed management plan, informational signs and kiosks are recommended. FWP is open to including weed management information at a trailhead kiosk and working with volunteers to address weed issues on the property.

- One comment stated the concern that some trail users would not respect the need to stay on the developed trail. "Both bicyclists and hikers can cause damage and I don't think signage is enough to prevent development of unauthorized trails. I would like FWP to consider erecting wildlife friendly fencing along each side of the trail corridor in these sensitive areas."

FWP Response: Under the proposed management plan, bicycles could only be used on the Gateway to Glacier Trail, but the entire WMA would be open to foot traffic, except during the winter/spring closure period. FWP recognizes that use of bicycles off the established trail may be an issue, but also does not want to unnecessarily inhibit foot traffic. The proposed management plan states that one of the management actions, should FWP acquire this property, would be to "locate and document existing two-tract trails on the WMA and decommission areas where appropriate and not necessary for property management to discourage public use" (p. 39 of the EA). This would include existing and any new user created trails. If unauthorized trails become a major issue on the WMA, FWP would look at options to limit their creation, including potentially erecting wildlife friendly fencing.

- One comment stated a concern about weed management on the land and along the trail. "The county is a very poor neighbor when it comes to weed management and I am not sure how good a job they would do as a consultant." Another comment came from a neighbor to the property concerned about

weed management and mentioned that they had worked with the current property owner on weed management and wanted to see the effort continue.

FWP Response: As stated in MCA Section 7-22-2166, it is the legal responsibility of all landowners in the state of Montana to control noxious weeds on their property. According to MCA Section 7-22-2154, “prior to the purchase of real property with public funds or the receipt of real property by a nonfederal public entity, the purchaser or grantee shall have the property inspected by the county weed management district.” To meet this requirement, FWP asked Flathead County for a weed inspection report covering the proposed acquisition, which was completed on August 13, 2021. The county weed report identified the types and locations of noxious weeds currently on the property. FWP would use this inspection report as the basis for our weed management should we acquire this property, but we would also conduct our own weed inventory. FWP would manage noxious weeds on the property either through FWP maintenance staff or a private weed contractor.

- One comment stated that though WMAs need to be seasonally closed “in order to minimize stressing animals, or to conduct various work projects,” they hope “that the proposed Bad Rock WMA will include a network of trails and be kept open to the public for compatible recreational activities for the bulk of any given year.”

FWP Response: The proposed management plan for the property states in the Public Use section that “FWP will manage recreation to mitigate impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat” and that “[l]ike most FWP big game winter range WMAs, this property will be closed each year from December 1 at 11:59 p.m. until May 15 at noon to protect wintering ungulates” (pp. 40-41 of the EA). The property closure would include the Gateway to Glacier Trail. The property is proposed for acquisition by FWP primarily to benefit fish and wildlife and their habitat. Having a network of trails on the WMA would negatively impact both wildlife species and their habitat, as would year-round public use of the WMA. Under FWP ownership, the Gateway to Glacier Trail would be allowed, but there would not be a trail “network.” For public safety, the Gateway to Glacier Trail would be closed to non-hunting use during the general hunting season each year.

- One comment stated support for the Gateway to Glacier Trail continuing through the entire property but thought there should be a “shut off time” in the fall and also possibly in the winter to protect elk and deer using the property. This comment also stated that FWP should consider “how the hunters are going to interact with other people recreating down there at the same time” during the hunting season.

FWP Response: The property would be closed to public use from December 1 at 11:59 p.m. until May 15 at noon. The property closure would include the Gateway to Glacier Trail. For public safety, the Gateway to Glacier Trail would be closed to non-hunting use during the general hunting season each year. The exact details of the hunting opportunity that could be afforded on the property under FWP ownership has not yet been determined. If FWP were to acquire the property, proposed hunting regulations would be part of a separate decision process with opportunity for public comment.

- One comment stated the desire to see dogs restricted from the WMA. The comment expressed concern over dogs off leash pushing wildlife off the property and for people not picking up dog waste.

The comment stated that an exception to restricting dogs would be acceptable for youth bird hunters using the property.

FWP Response: The proposed management plan states that pets must remain on a leash, a rule which would be enforced by FWP game wardens. An exception would likely be made for the purposes of hunting during an open hunting season, but FWP would not determine the hunting opportunity until after property acquisition. If a conflict arises between pets and wildlife use of property, FWP would reassess these rules.

- One comment stated that the number of trails should be limited to one or possibly two and to keep them away from active bald eagle nests. The comment also stated the desire to see camping and motorized use on trails, including electric bicycles, prohibited.

FWP Response: FWP agrees that the number of trails should be limited on the property and be situated as to avoid impacts to nesting bald eagles. As currently designed, the Gateway to Glacier Trail is a single trail that would eventually continue through the property. FWP supports this plan and any unconstructed portions of the trail would have to go through a further decision process if the property is acquired by FWP. As stated in the proposed management plan for the property, camping and motorized use, including e-bikes, are prohibited.

- One comment stated that in “the past the property was fully closed to public access creating a winter range for Elk and Deer. Prior to the FWP allowing access for hunting, I would see an Elk herd of up to 150 animals on the property for the majority of the winter. It is now rare to see Elk using the property.” The comment also stated the concern over a conflict between walking trails and hunters and that they “see how Hunting will fit this acquisition in the near future.”

FWP Response: CFAC has had the property open for a limited hunting opportunity since 2010 through FWP’s Block Management Program. Though not specifically allowed, the public has been accessing this property for decades and with the completion of the first phase of the Gateway to Glacier Trail, there is now even more, allowed, use occurring on the property. FWP recognizes the need to protect wintering ungulates and, as stated in the proposed management plan, would institute a winter closure of the property from December 1 at 11:59 p.m. until May 15 at noon. There are various reasons that elk herd numbers could fluctuate over time, and FWP is not currently aware of all the factors influencing use of this property. FWP recognizes the need to offer only a limited hunting opportunity to avoid driving off big game species. The exact hunting opportunity afforded on the property has not been determined and would be part of a future decision process with an opportunity for public and FWP Commission input. The proposed management plan deals with the potential conflict between trail users and hunters by stating that “[d]uring the general hunting season, the Gateway to Glacier Trail will be closed to non-hunting public use for safety reasons” (p. 41 of the EA). It goes on to state that “[i]f recreational conflicts arise during any hunting season, FWP will prioritize hunting opportunity over other recreational uses for that period” (p. 41 of the EA).

FWP Recommended Alternative and Final Decision

In reviewing all the public comment and other relevant information, and evaluating the environmental effects, I recommend that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the purchase of the

approximately 772-acre Bad Rock Canyon property near Columbia Falls, MT and manage it as a Wildlife Management Area as proposed in Alternative A, the Proposed Action.

Through the public review process described above, the public raised some issues/concerns with the project, but all have been addressed in this decision document. FWP found no significant impacts on the human or physical environments associated with this proposal; therefore, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Noting and including the responses to public comments, the draft EA will become the final EA and together with this decision notice will serve as the final documents for this proposal.

James S. Williams

Jim Williams
Region One Supervisor

9/13/2021

Date

APPENDIX A

Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Proposed Acquisition

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD

From: [Elaine Nelson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: ["ptravis@flatheadlandtrust.org"](mailto:ptravis@flatheadlandtrust.org)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 2:08:49 PM
Attachments: [Flathead County Commissioners Letter of Support - Bad Rock WMA.pdf](#)

Ms. Tempel,

Attached is a letter of support from the Flathead County Commissioners for the proposed acquisition of the FWP Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area.

Best regards,
Elaine Nelson, Executive Secretary
Flathead County Commissioners Office
(406) 758-5501

Flathead County
Board of Commissioners

(406) 758-5503

Brad W. Abell
Randy L. Brodehl
Pamela J. Holmquist



March 31, 2021

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Support for proposed FWP Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:


The Flathead County Board of Commissioners support the acquisition of the proposed 772-acre Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

As our community grows it becomes even more important that we secure and maintain public access and create additional recreational opportunities for our citizens. FWP's proposed acquisition is consistent with community interests in Flathead County. Specifically, county residents will be afforded an area for wildlife viewing and youth hunting only minutes from the City of Columbia Falls.

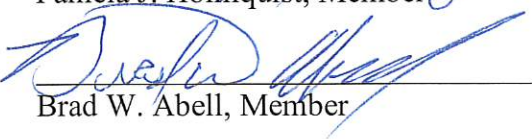
This area will protect important fish and wildlife habitat, while a trail through the property will provide access for hikers, bikers, and other members of the public.

Thank you in advance for considering our support for this project.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA


Randy L. Brodehl, Chairman


Pamela J. Holmquist, Member


Brad W. Abell, Member



130 6TH STREET WEST
ROOM A
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

PHONE (406) 892-4391

FAX (406) 892-4413

August 24, 2021

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn. Kris Tempel, Habitat Conservation Biologist
RE: Proposed Wildlife Management Area
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Sent via email: ktempel@mt.gov

RE: Public Comment Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

Dear Kris:

The Mayor and Council of the City of Columbia Falls unanimously voted in November 2020 to submit a letter of support of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposal to purchase 772 acres currently owned by Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. (CFAC) and turn it into a Wildlife Management Area, known as the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Acquisition, that will protect critical wildlife habitat and provide new public recreation access. The City is submitting this letter during the Draft EA Public Comment to have our support for the project included in the formal comments.

The City has supported the continued efforts by the non-profit Gateway to Glacier Trail, Inc. to develop access for hikers, bikers, bird watchers, and others. Linking the pedestrian and bike trails from Columbia Falls to West Glacier benefits our residents as well as visitors. Gateway to Glacier Trail, Inc., through an agreement with CFAC, has built a trail across this currently undeveloped property.

By creating a Wildlife Management Area, the state is protecting over 700 acres of healthy riparian forest and 80 acres of wetlands while maintaining a wildlife preserve. This is a unique opportunity for the Columbia Falls' community, as well as Flathead County, including providing new public access for excellent hunting for youth and disabled hunters, year round recreation opportunities, bird watching, and 1.6 miles of river access just minutes from the City.

The City worked with the Flathead Land Trust and Fish, Wildlife & Parks on the Columbia Falls Fishing Pond in River's Edge Park and we know that both organizations have the experience and technical expertise to properly develop and manage this property.

Please approve the Bad Rock Conservation Project to provide public access for multi-use year round recreation opportunities while protecting bird and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Mayor Donald Barnhart



September 3rd, 2021
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Attn: Kris Tempel
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Kris:

The Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce supports Flathead Land Trust and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on their Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project, which entails purchasing 800 acres of land, currently owned by Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, to turn it into a Wildlife Management Area.

By creating this Wildlife Management Area, the project allows public access to recreation, excellent opportunities for youth and disabled hunters, and access to the Flathead River within a mile of the City of Columbia Falls. Providing a safe, accessible place for year-round outdoor recreation will in return positively impact the local economy and business community.

The Gateway to Glacier Trail non-profit is also currently working on a bike trail through the property that will provide the public with a primitive trail by the Flathead River. Outdoor recreation is a key component to our local community's success and lifestyle. With the ample number of tourists that visit annually, having a safe location for them to bike, walk and explore close to the city is valuable.

The Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce encourages you to approve the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project.

Sincerely,

Laura Gadwa

Laura Gadwa,
Executive Director, Columbia Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Box 312
Columbia Falls, MT 59912



August 31, 2021

Kris Tempel
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Support for the Bad Rock Canyon Acquisition and WMA

Dear Kris:

Representing the 1200-plus Realtors in the Northwest Montana REALTOR® Association, we would like to wholeheartedly voice our support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project and proposed Wildlife Management Area. Broadly, these comments reflect the importance of trails and natural areas on the economic vitality to a community. REALTORS® strongly endorse your efforts as they will only improve the existing trail infrastructure and become stepping stones for future trails to come!

- The National Association of Realtors has data showing that homes in the immediate vicinity of trails, pedestrian/bike walkways and “Safe Routes to School” command higher prices than homes that are not close to these amenities. Typically these homes increase in value 10-12% than their non-trail counterparts. Homebuyers ranked proximity to walking and bike paths THIRD amongst 42 features they found important.
- A community’s “walkability” starts to drive its economics. As soon as the word gets out that an area has great trails and there is a plan for these places to be connected, it changes the value of every property in-between them. (Moskerintz, 2016)
- Trails create substantial benefits for public health, property values and quality of life. (Policy Director Chris Mehl, Headwaters Economics, 2018 now Mayor of Bozeman, MT)
- An analysis for the area around Whitefish, Montana shows how Strava Metro data was combined with in-person surveys and trail counters to estimate recreational trail use by type (local or tourist) and by activity (pedestrian or bike). The study found that the Whitefish Trail (42 miles with 12 trailheads) contributes \$6.4 million in annual spending by visitors who come to enjoy the trail and by locals who purchase or rent outdoor gear at local stores. Spending by

visitors who use the Whitefish Trail translates to 68 additional jobs and \$1.9 million in labor income in Whitefish.

- Businesses along urban trails benefit from the influx of visitors using the trails then going to restaurants, snack shops and other retail establishments. On longer trails, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters benefit.
- Trails make communities more attractive places to live. When considering where to move, homebuyers rank walking and biking paths as one of the most important features of a new community.
- Trails influence business location and relocation decisions. Companies often choose to locate in communities that offer a high level of amenities to employees as a means of attracting and retaining top-level workers.
- Trails revitalize depressed areas, creating a demand for space in what were once vacant buildings.
- Trails increase property tax revenues for the communities in which they are located (due to higher home values).
- The costs of land acquisition for trails, trail construction and maintenance are far outweighed by the economic benefits generated by trails.

As our little corner of the world has been “discovered”, it is critical that habitats and recreation opportunities are set aside for permanent enjoyment. The Gateway to Glacier Trail has been a gleam in trail-users eyes for many years and it would be wonderful for them to secure yet one more link in the puzzle with the public acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon property. The connectivity of the general trail system in NW Montana will be an important economic driver as well as recreational boon to both permanent residents and short-term visitors.

Thank you,

Erica Wirtala, Public Affairs Director
Northwest Montana Association of Realtors



August 23, 2021

RE: Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area

Kris Tempel,
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell MT

Ms. Tempel,

On behalf of the Flathead Conservation District, I would like to express our strong support for the acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. The proposed project will provide numerous ecological and community benefits such as protection of Flathead River streambanks, providing fish and wildlife habitat, and maintaining undeveloped land near the city of Columbia Falls.

As a conservation district legislatively mandated to protect the soil and water resources of Flathead County, we recognize the value of this project and encourage the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Montana Land Board to approve this proposal.

Thank you for your time and efforts on this project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailey Graf", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hailey Graf,
Resource Conservationist
Flathead Conservation District



Gateway to Glacier Trails

Developing Trails. Fostering Stewardship. Connecting Communities.

August 31, 2021

Attn: Kris Temple
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Subject: Public Comment re: FWP Purchase of Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Land

Dear Kris,

On behalf of Gateway to Glacier Trail, Inc., I am writing to express our full support for the FWP purchase of the 772 acres of Bad Rock Canyon Conservation property along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls. We are advocates for the conservation of this land to protect water quality and vital wildlife habitat from development, while providing public recreation access and stewardship education via our River Trail project.

We support the management of the property to protect the above mentioned variables, including closure during hunting season to ensure no conflict with trail users, and closure during the winter season to protect wildlife. We also support the active management of this property by FWP that would result in fewer conflicts with the neighbors than the slowly increasing use of this property that is currently occurring.

The FWP purchase of this property would help ensure the area is protected and preserved for generations to come, while still being enjoyed and respected by the public via the designated Gateway to Glacier River Trail. We are in full support of the purchase and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Martin
Board President, Gateway to Glacier Trails

www.gatewaytoglaciertrail.com

P.O. Box 2382 | Columbia Falls, MT 59912 | 406-285-1503



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

September 07, 2021

Kris Tempel
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

Attn: Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area EA

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks,

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is our state's oldest and largest state-based wildlife conservation organization. We were formed in 1936 when hunters joined landowners to restore depleted wildlife in Montana, and for 85 years we have worked on key issues affecting wildlife, habitat and access.

MWF is strongly supportive of the proposed establishment of the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) by the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). This property provides protection for important fisheries as well as winter range for elk, moose, and white-tailed deer. This WMA would also protect vital habitat corridors for both bull trout and grizzly bears. Currently, the property yields significant hunting opportunities for both youth and disabled hunters and this protection would continue that legacy. With the rapid development of the area surrounding this property, it is of utmost importance that this piece of land is protected.

MWF commends the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks as well as the Flathead Land Trust and the current owners, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, for working together to protect our great outdoors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and voice support of this project. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Clewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Clewis
Western Montana Field Coordinator
Montana Wildlife Federation



Kris Tempel
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

August 11, 2021

Dear Kris Tempel,

The Flathead Lakers support the acquisition by MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the 772-acre Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project near Columbia Falls for the creation of a new Wildlife Management Area.

The Flathead Lakers is a nonprofit organization founded in 1958, with over 1,500 members. We work to protect water quality in Flathead Lake and its watershed through education, advocacy and stewardship projects. The Flathead Lakers coordinate the Flathead River to Lake Initiative, a collaborative effort to conserve and restore lands and waters critical to maintaining water quality in Flathead Lake and its tributaries, healthy habitat, prime farmland, and quality of life. Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners have collectively protected nearly 6,000 acres of critical lands along the Flathead River corridor, adding to a network of 12,000 acres of protected lands along the river. Protection efforts focus on wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and adjacent uplands essential to protecting clean water, native fish and wildlife habitat, outstanding scenic vistas, and recreation opportunities.

The proposed Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project was identified as a priority target area by Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners in 2002 (CFAC, page 46 in [Critical Lands Status Report](#), 2002). It is a hidden gem between Glacier Park and Flathead Lake that provides incredible benefits, not only for nearby communities, but also within the larger landscape of the Crown of the Continent. It provides a unique blend of healthy cottonwood galleries, wetlands, clean water, spectacular vistas, and recreation opportunities. These benefit all of us, our communities, our economy, and our way of life.

While wildlife conservation is the primary objective for this land conservation purchase, we encourage the development of non-invasive recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages that do not interfere with wildlife needs, discourage potential wildlife-conflicts, and raise public awareness and appreciation for wildlife and water values within the larger landscape. We encourage FWP to continue working with local partners to provide such educational and outreach opportunities for the public.

The Flathead Lakers worked together with MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Flathead Land Trust to fundraise for the land purchase. Wide-spread support for the project came from throughout Montana, with 250 individual donations received by all partners. We also worked

with the Flathead Land Trust to offer tours of the property. Some comments from participants shared with us include:

- Participants most often commented on their desire to see the wildlife habitat and corridor values conserved.
- An older donor expressed interest in seeing some primitive benches along the trail. While recreation is secondary to wildlife conservation, a bench or two earlier along the trail could be paired with educational displays.
- Another participant encouraged the use of volunteers and trail users to remove weeds, including knapweed, which was spreading along the trail. A weed management brochure or sign could encourage trail users to remove weeds along the trail, or volunteer weed removal events could be encouraged to raise awareness and foster local individuals and groups to help protect the wildlife values.

The property is iconic of Montana's recreational opportunities and tourism economy. It provides excellent recreation opportunities near the growing City of Columbia Falls, including hunting opportunities for youth, hiking and biking, and fishing and boating along scenic river views. We understand and support Fish, Wildlife and Parks' goal to manage the property as a Wildlife Management Area to protect the incredible wildlife values the property provides, while providing compatible recreational use.

The Flathead Lakers urge you to support the acquisition of this special property. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Constanza von der Pahlen

*Critical Lands Program Director
Flathead Lakers
406-883-1341
www.flatheadlakers.org*



September 2, 2021

Kris Tempel
Resource Specialist, Habitat Conservation Program
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901.
ktempel@mt.gov

Re: Bad Rock Canyon WMA

Dear Ms. Tempel,

On behalf of Wild Montana, I am writing to express my organization's support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. This project will protect 772 acres of prime wildlife habitat currently owned by the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company by facilitating transfer to Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

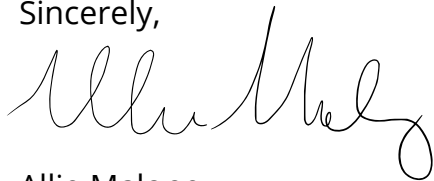
Since 1958, Wild Montana has worked with Montana's communities to protect wilderness and wild place heritage, quiet beauty, and outdoor traditions, now and for future generations. Our mission is to unite and mobilize communities to keep Montana wild. Wild Montana's membership base includes over 4,000 Montana households, including 300 member households in the upper Flathead Valley and 2,000 supporting individuals in the greater Flathead. The Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project will positively benefit our members and supporters, the citizens of Columbia Falls, and the more than 2 million visitors northwest Montana receives annually.

The Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project will protect wildlife habitat from fragmentation and development, preserve unusual and important wetlands, and increase public access along the Flathead River, at the nexus of the Whitefish and Swan Mountain Ranges. This parcel is home to elk, deer, grizzly and black bears as well as a host of different bird species. The spring creeks that exist on this land provide valuable habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The forested acres hold large cottonwoods, larch, Douglas fir and other conifer species.

With ever growing pressure to subdivide and develop open spaces in the Flathead Valley, there has been universal support from our members to preserve this key piece of habitat. The threat of land development, subdivision, and loss of access has never been more relevant to the people who live and recreate in northwest Montana.

The Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project is a key puzzle piece in a network of critical lands in the Flathead Valley that is important for sustaining our excellent water quality, abundant fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities, and the quality of life we enjoy. The Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project has been a dream for decades. I can not overstate our enthusiasm for this project. Protecting this land is not only important for sustaining clean water, but also for providing vital habitat and travel corridors for bull trout and grizzly bears, winter range for elk and moose, and a stop for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. Thank you for your efforts to protect this area in our wild backyard. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allie Maloney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Allie Maloney
Northwest Montana Field Director
Whitefish, Montana

Montana FWP

490 N Meridian Rd.

Kalispell, Mt. 59901

RE: Bad Rock Canyon 772 acre acquisition from CFAC/Glencore

August 25, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

I strongly advocate for this acquisition. I am a native of Columbia Falls and know this property's geography well. During my 29-year real estate career, I attended every course I could on the known science and hydrology of the Flathead Valley aquifers. We know that a large portion of the Flathead River goes into the groundwater in the Bad Rock area where the river flows into the valley. It then feeds the vital flowing shallow water table that underlies most of our developed valley; its farms, forests and towns.

Protecting this aquifer from the inherent pollution that impermeable ground cover and even leaky municipal systems can cause, let alone the inevitable degradation that non-municipal private septic systems would portend, is of critical import. Missing this opportunity and opening the door for intensive development would be a woeful outcome. This is a fortunate opportunity to take a huge visionary protective step to keep the valley's water table as pristine as possible. The benefits to all of us, and to future generations, will add to the proud legacy of the State in safeguarding our healthful environment.

This chance to proactively act for the benefit of everyone cannot be missed! I also urge it to protect and enhance the use of the property for the Gateway To Glacier trail system, and for the excellent program you already conduct for utilizing the property to enable disabled hunters to safely experience their sport.

This is the kind of opportunity that, taken, will be a 'win' for multiple uses and multiple benefits now and for as long as the rivers flow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Dakin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

Bill Dakin 477 E. Village Dr., Bigfork, Mt. 59911

(406) 837-5512

Bill Dakin
477 E Village Dr.
Bigfork, MT 59911-6144



RECEIVED
AUG 30 2021
MT FWP
REGION 1

Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Mx. FWP Parks.
Attn: Lisa Temple
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Harpell Mx. 59901
590123654



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF LAND TRUSTS



Glenn Marx, Executive Director 406-490-1659
P.O. Box 892, Helena MT 59624
Email: montanamalt@q.com
Website: montanalandtrusts.org

MALT MEMBERS

**Bitter Root
Land Trust,
Hamilton**

**Kaniksu
Land Trust,
Sandpoint, ID**

**The
Conservation
Fund,
Missoula**

**Five Valleys
Land Trust,
Missoula**

**Flathead
Land Trust,
Kalispell**

**Gallatin Valley
Land Trust,
Bozeman**

**Montana Land
Reliance,
Helena**

**The Nature
Conservancy,
Helena**

**Prickly Pear
Land Trust,
Helena**

**Rocky Mountain
Elk Foundation,
Missoula**

**The Trust
for Public Land,
Bozeman**

**Vital Ground
Foundation,
Missoula**

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Missoula County
Community and
Planning Services

Land Trust
Alliance

Ducks Unlimited

Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks,
Lands Program

Heart of the
Rockies Initiative

August 30, 2021

Kris Tempel
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Letter of Support for Bad Rock Canyon Acquisition Project

Dear Kris,

The Montana Association of Land Trusts is a statewide organization comprised of 12 nonprofit land trust members committed to voluntary land conservation, outdoor recreation and access, trails and community service, and open lands, and we would like to voice our strong support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project, a proposal that encompasses virtually all the cooperative conservation and community goals land trusts seek to achieve.

The proposed project benefits wildlife and wildlife habitat, protects water quality and fisheries, creates new local economic opportunities and an impressive array of permanent outdoor recreation (including youth hunting). The project would also maintain the wild and open land status and character of the property.

It is no wonder the proposed project enjoys vocal broad support from local governments, organizations, and residents. That support includes the Flathead County Commission, City of Columbia Falls, Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Realtors in the Northwest Montana REALTOR® Association.

The vision for the management of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project's 772 acres demonstrates a remarkable commitment to local residents and adjacent communities, and repurposes former Columbia Falls Aluminum Company property into a true community recreational asset that will serve the public now and for generations to come. The proposal calls for permanent managed public access as an FWP Wildlife Management Area, which benefits the public and a broad suite of wildlife that includes bull trout, moose, elk and many more species.

We commend Flathead Land Trust and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks leadership and cooperation on this proposal, and view this as a rare opportunity for not only the Flathead area but anywhere in Montana to achieve dynamic conservation and outdoor recreation results on such a key parcel of land with such a distinctive ownership history. We also commend Glencore and CFAC for their willingness to work with Flathead Land Trust, Montana FWP and project partners and funders on this proposal and this potential transition of the property into public hands for public benefits.

Thank you for considering these comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Marx".

Glenn Marx
Montana Association of Land Trusts

NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

77 Moose Creek Rd, Polebridge, MT 59928

Dear Kris Tempel and the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I am writing you today to voice our support for the Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area Acquisition. It would help to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat, while providing free public recreation access. The property is highly developable and threatened by the rapidly growing city of Columbia Falls. Public access and green space are a necessary compliment to the growth of the "Gateway to Glacier" community.

The property is winter range for elk, moose, and white-tailed deer. The completion of this project would safeguard vital habitat and a travel corridor for bull trout and grizzly bears, Endangered Species Act-listed Threatened species found on the property. This is one of many small pieces of the puzzle that makes up the Crown of the Continent ecosystem. This is an historic and essential move for future generations.

Thank you for your work on this, Kris.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Flannery Coats, President
North Fork Preservation Association
flannery.e.coats@gmail.com
406.407.3863

August 13, 2021

Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Attn: Kris Tempel
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks:

I write to strongly support the acquisition, by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP), of 772 acres of forest in the Bad Rock Canyon area along the Flathead River.

The acquisition furthers two major objectives that have been important parts of my life. The first relates to the connectivity of habitat over large landscapes. I worked for a number of years with the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservations Initiative (Y2Y). Y2Y, working with multiple partners, has worked to protect lands enabling large carnivores and ungulates to migrate distances to mix gene pools and find sufficient habitat to thrive. The Bad Rock Canyon lands provides critical connectivity in the Crown of the Continent area. Acquiring and protecting this land is a rare opportunity to connect valued landscapes critical to the well-being of many species.

A second major objective to which I have given major effort is the protection of clean water in the Flathead watershed. Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) research has done much to enhance our understanding of the importance of protecting the water flowing into Flathead Lake. This involves protecting and restoring riparian areas in the Flathead stream, lake, and river systems. It involves understanding underground stream flows and the extensive shallow ground water systems at the north end of Flathead Lake. The 772 acres are a critical part of the system affecting the quality of water in the Flathead River, Flathead Lake, and waters to the south.

Residential, commercial, or industrial use of the 772 acres would be most unfortunate. We know what is required to protect water quality and habitat for plant and animal life, and to increase the connectivity of large landscapes – all to maintain a quality environment that we can pass to future generations.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. I'm pleased to add my strong support for the acquisition of the 772 acres in proximity to Bad Rock Canyon. Those advancing this project have my admiration and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Smith, 32344 Skidoo Lane, Polson, MT 59860



The Vital Ground Foundation
20 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804
406.549.8650
www.VitalGround.org

September 2, 2021

Kris Tempel
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT
59901

Re: Bad Rock Canyon WMA

Dear Ms. Tempel,

I am writing to express our support for the Bad Rock Canyon WMA project. As proposed the project will protect habitat critical to wildlife, including grizzly bears. In 2018 the Vital Ground Foundation completed our Habitat and Conflict Inventory and Prioritization Assessment. In that assessment area biologists identified these lands for their value to grizzly bears and the high potential for development.

Approval of this project will ensure protection of lands within a linkage area where Grizzly Bear populations are considered threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Security of habitat in this connectivity area is critical to the long-term sustainability of those populations. The Vital Ground Foundation recognizes the myriad benefits these projects provide not only to wildlife, but for the communities that rely on these lands for jobs, water quality and recreational opportunities. Any future development of these lands puts those key values at risk.

The Vital Ground Foundation strongly supports the Bad Rock Canyon project and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks acquisition of these lands.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lutey, Executive Director

To: Kris Tempel
WDP Habitat Conservation Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
ktemel@mt.gov

From: William Tomlinson
22 Southwest Pass
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Re: Memorandum in Support of the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

Background:

While I currently reside out of state, I am intimately familiar with the areas proximate to the site of the Anaconda Aluminum Smelter/Superfund Site. I am a University of Montana graduate, a former employee of the Montana Environmental Quality Council, Falls Creek Foundation and served as Director of the Environmental Library at U of M. I also served as a member of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences Comprehensive Health Planning Committee. In my capacity as Director and Research Associate with the Environmental Studies Graduate Program, I coordinated numerous research projects that pertained to the environmental impacts related to residential wood burning in western Montana, mining operations, coal and energy development and a Montana Joint Water Resources Research Center (2 volume) report on the Biohydrology of Mountain Fluvial Systems: The Yellowstone. I have traveled and worked extensively throughout Montana and I have spent considerable time in the Flathead Lake, Columbia Falls, and Whitefish areas.

Position Statement:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area, and attended the recent Zoom hearing. Based on the materials referenced, staff presentations and my personal knowledge of the area I endorse the recommendation that the 772 acre property fronting on 1.3 miles of the Flathead River be procured by FWP as a Wildlife Management Area.

Rationale:

As is stated in the draft EA this parcel of land and its adjacency to the Flathead River provides a critical wildlife corridor and winter habitat for a diversity of wildlife including Endangered Species Act-listed Threatened Species. Furthermore, the fact that this property is adjacent to a large block of public land and adds to the 12,000-acre network of conserved land along the 43-mile reach of the Flathead River between Columbia Falls and Flathead Lake significantly amplifies the ecological significance of this acquisition. Contiguous properties are significantly more valuable as wildlife corridors than standalone parcels.

Acquisition of this WMA property is also critical for the maintenance of both surface and ground water quality in the immediate and downstream reaches of the Flathead River. Much of this property is poorly suited for residential development, given the near surface ground water levels. Since this area is not served by Columbia Falls waste water treatment, residential development would of necessity rely septic systems. Even if the most sophisticated septic technology were to be employed, ground and surface water contamination is inevitable from the leaching of biological and chemical contaminants from residential waste water. These leachates may additionally lead to nutrient enrichment and subsequent degradation of critical downstream aquatic and riparian reaches of the Flathead River and Flathead Lake. Furthermore site disturbance attendant to such development has the potential to increase sediment loading in the river.

The proposed plans for the Bad Rock Wildlife Management Area are entirely consistent with applicable portions of the FWP WMA Operations and Maintenance Funding Prioritization Guidelines – particularly Guidelines 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11. Under Guideline **1 a failure to act on this acquisition** would constitute a breach of the Good Neighbor statute, with residential development impacting adjacent lands with increased trespass, litter, ground and surface water pollution, air pollution from vehicular traffic and residential wood burning, streambank erosion and sedimentation. Per Guideline 5, acquisition is urgent given the CFAC's deadline of the end of 2021 to complete the purchase. Per Guideline 10 the outside funding/partnership commitments have been confirmed and funds committed pending an acquisition recommendation by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, approval by the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Montana Land Board. Per Guideline 11 the project improves habitat and critical corridors for multiple “priority species (game species, species of concern and endangered species)” as evidenced by Relevant Documents cited in the Draft EA.

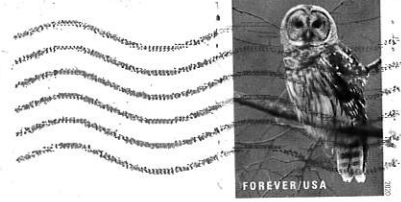
Finally the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area should additionally be recognized as an environmental legacy site serving as a benchmark for well-considered resource conservation values, hosting research and formalized environmental educational opportunities. This site stands in contrast to and as a reminder of the wide spread damage caused by the Anaconda Company's smelter to area farmers, livestock, wildlife and forests –from the greater Columbia Falls area into Glacier National Park.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on and express my support for acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Managements Area.

Butler
P.O. Box 1105
Kalispell, MT 59904

MISSOULA MT 598

19 AUG 2021 PM 1 T



Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
Attention: Kris Tempel
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2021

MT FWP


REGION 1

RE: Badrock Canyon Project
Dear FWP,

I support the State's purchase
of 772 acres of forest and
wetlands from CFAC to
protect and preserve all
wildlife, fish habitat, and
land, and to provide a
safe corridor for all
wildlife to travel.

Thank you!

Cheye Ann Butler
Cheye Ann Butler

 Paul Murphy
207 Stonefly Way
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

MISSOULA MT 59801

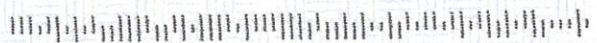
AUG 20 2021 PM 1 L



RECEIVED
AUG 19 2021
MT FWP
REGION 1

mt dep. of Fish, Wildlife + Parks
490 north meridian Rd.
Kalispell, mt. 59901

Kris



NOTES

Fish, Wildlife + Parks
Kris Tempel
The 772 acre property near
Bad Rock canyon should be
preserved + made into a Park!
It's a nice area that should
not be commercialized + ruined
like so many other areas in our
once nice valley.
yours,
Paul Murphy



8/23/21

Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Montana FWP
Attn: Kris Tempel
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed acquisition of 772 acres of land to be designated as a WMA.

As a long-time resident of the Flathead area I see this project as an extremely beneficial one for the people and wildlife of the area. Given the rapid increase of human population in Flathead County this is by

151/80/8

for the best use for the former
CFAC land.

Thank you for the chance
to make my opinion known
on this matter.

Sincerely,
Karen Feather
Karen Feather

Ms. Karen Feather
PO Box 130009
Coram, MT 59913

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2021

MT FWP
REGION 1

ATTN: Kris Tempel
AMWM

Bad Rock Canyon WMA
MT FWP
490 N Meridian
Kalispell MT
59901



5990163854



Proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Acquisition Environmental Assessment Public Hearing

Held via Zoom

August 26, 2021 – 6:00 pm

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

Commenter 1:

“My name is Peter Metcalf and I'm a resident here in Columbia Falls. I live just in downtown area not far from the river and across from where the land proposal purchase is and I'm very excited to thoroughly endorse this wildlife management area acquisition. I think it'll be a great boon both to wildlife conservation in our valley at a time when we're seeing pretty rapid development of a lot of open space and so trying to maintain particularly high quality riparian corridors for wildlife and seasonal habitat and winter range, I think it's just very critical, and so I applaud FWP for moving forward with this project. I also think it'll be a boon to our Community. There's limited opportunity for kind of these wonderful valley bottom open space recreation, like the Gateway to Glacier Trail will facilitate for running and walking and biking and just enjoying being in kind of these mixed forested areas and open grasslands that aren't in the mountains, so I think it'll also be a really nice addition to some of the recreational opportunities that we have here in the valley and it's fairly unique, especially on the northeast end of the valley up here near Columbia Falls, so very grateful to for everybody's been part of this project and hundred percent endorse FWP moving forward with it for the benefit of our wildlife in our community. Thank you.”

From: [Linda Engh-Grady](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Easement
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:02:27 AM

Kris,

I am writing to you in support of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Easement with Flathead Land Trust. I have toured parts of this land twice now along the Flathead River and believe the preservation of this vital headwater area is critical to our watershed and wildlife protection. The water problems and drought conditions seen all over our state demonstrate why more conservation projects like this are needed to preserve our lands and environment for future generations. The Bad Rock Canyon runs along the Flathead River with several springs flowing through it. This is critical waterflow into Flathead Lake and should go undisturbed by development.

Whitefish Community Foundation recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to Flathead Land Trust to assist with the closing costs of this project. I urge you to proceed with the conservation easement on this critical property that is vital to the future of the Flathead Valley.

Sincerely,
Linda Engh-Grady

Whitefish Community Foundation

Giving Together For the Flathead Valley



Linda Engh-Grady
President
PO Box 1060
214 Second Street W
Whitefish, MT 59937
O: 406-863-1781
C: 406-253-0488

whitefishcommunityfoundation.org [whitefishcommunityfoundation.org]

Join us for the 2021 **Great Fish Community Challenge** August 5th through September 17th. You can give to numerous charities with just one transaction and your gift will be multiplied. Giving together creates impact!

Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this message, including any attachments, may be confidential/privileged and is for the sole use and the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution of this information is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this communication in error, please notify the sender (Linda@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org) immediately and promptly delete the message. Thank you.

From: [Julie Stetter](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 10:42:40 AM

Yes, this project should move forward in protecting this area. It will only enhance the value of all adjacent lands and communities. As well as preserve it for future generations of people as well as animal and plant ecosystems. Thank you.

From: [Kim Richards](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:33:01 AM

Sure sounds like a good idea to me.

Kim Richards
mt_kim@icloud.com

From: [Stephen Walter](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:59:54 AM

Greetings,

I wanted to submit a public comment. I got the chance to tour the project a month ago. This piece of land will be a great addition to our state lands and for public use. Families will get to enjoy the peaceful and scenic area. This will give some great options to those in Columbia Falls and will help ensure we don't have a development on this property where more millionaires can live and not the average Flathead valley residents. It's important to our water and keeping the valley looking as natural as possible.

Thank you,

Stephen Walter

From: [Doug Karper](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bedrock Canyon Wildlife Management Area
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:48:35 AM

The opportunity to purchase this land near Columbia Falls is not to be missed. This will reap benefits for the entire Flathead valley for generations to come. I support this with no reservations.

Doug Karper
PO Box 1209
Columbia Falls MT

From: [Peggy](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bad rock canyon
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:42:52 AM

Hello,
1000% Yes to acquiring the Bad Rock Canyon land! Why would anyone not want to save this beautiful piece of land and protect it!?
We walked it with Flathead Land Trust and loved the area. Thank you for all your work!
Peggy Brewer
Bigfork MT
406-837-0714

From: [Nate Thompson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:36:05 AM

Hello,

I write in full support of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA. From an environmental assessment standpoint, I don't see how conserving such a place is anything but the ideal path forward and the best environmental solution that could occur to such an area.

My only concern is chatter I have both seen and read associated with biking trails. Biking trails should be completely prohibited in this area. We shouldn't turn ideal animal habitat into a biking park. That would completely alter the animal way of life in the WMA. So, please prohibit the use of bikes in the WMA.

Thank you,

Nate Thompson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Verne House](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock WMA
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:15:51 AM

To: Kris Tempel

I just read the EIS for the Bad Rock WMA. It answered my questions; no need to defer commenting. I hope this WMA is approved. It appears to me that it would protect the environment and enhance the Columbia Falls economy. If the area were developed for housing, it is likely that taxes on town properties would go up because housing development does not pay its own way.

Most important to me is that the WMA area provides wildlife corridors and riparian habitat for migrating birds. The EIS identifies many more benefits but I just want to be on record in support of the proposed WMA.

Thank you,

Verne W House, Prof. Em., Bzn

From: [Gregg Jones](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CFAC purchase
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:23:45 AM

As a former employee of CFAC I fully believe that this land belongs to the public as it was with Anaconda Aluminum Co. This land used to have a nice picnic and camping area, accessibility to the Flathead River and other recreation opportunities until the 1964 flood. I can only hope that this land will be opened up to the general public with roaded access so that everyone will be able to enjoy it and not just a few people who think they have to protect everything from the public instead of for the public. Thank you.

From: [Steve Robitzski](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:09:44 AM

Please move forward with 772 ac purchase at Bad Rock Canyon!!! I want my kids, grandkids and great grandchildren to enjoy

Steve Robitzski

From: [Aundrea Eaton](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Approval Comment | Badrock Canyon Purchase
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:30:02 AM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the purchase of the Badrock Canyon land, formally known as the home of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant.

I am Aundrea Eaton, my family of 6 and I are long term residents of Columbia Falls. My husband and I both grew up down the street from the property of interest, currently own a home and raising our children in Columbia Falls.

I would like a moment to share why I feel this decision is good for our community, land, and the future of Columbia Falls, Montana.

1. Great for the wildlife. With recent changes in town, along the North Fork, and Glacier National Park, our wildlife need a place like this. It's close to home, and currently is home to a large number of our wildlife. Leaving this property up for potential subdividing would be detrimental to our ecosystem and way of life; not something we should risk.
2. Positive health and educational experiences for the residence/ youth year round.
3. This property is part of the towns history.
4. Revenue / Economic benefits

In summary, I agree that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should be approved and move forward with the purchase of Badrock Canyon lands.

Sincerely,
Aundrea Eaton
Lifelong resident of Columbia Falls

From: [Lynn Bertane](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:19:23 PM

YES ABSOLUTELY PURCHASE THE PROPERTY TO PROTECT THE MONTANA WE LOVE
FROM COMMERCIAL AND SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bert Otis](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 7:40:07 PM

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks Commission,

I support the Bad Rock Canyon project that would protect the land as a Wildlife Management Area. The purchase of this land from The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, is another example of what great companies do for the public in Montana. Please let them know their donation towards this project is greatly appreciated.

Please don't let anything get in the way of this purchase, as opportunity's like this don't come along everyday.

Once again I support the purchase of these lands for the Bad Rock Canyon WMA.

Thank you

Bert Otis

PO Box 60

Emigrant, MT 59027

otisranch@wispwest.net

From: [Jacob Bell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 772 acres Badrock canyon
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 6:55:53 PM

I am in favor of preserving this land for wildlife and public use.

Jake Bell
Coram, MT

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Laura Reynolds](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bedrock canyon land purchase comment
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:12:02 PM

Hi Kris,

I very much support the FWP purchase of this 772 acre parcel for habitat conservation and because it helps a great deal with connecting blocks of habitat. I also think the recreation potential will help Columbia Falls and the rest of the Flathead Valley. I have personally enjoyed seeing a variety of wildlife including elk and bald eagles as I drive past the area on the highway. I am a financial donor to the fund raising drive for the project; that shows I am a real believer in the value of this project.

Laura Reynolds

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: [Alex Moore](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:45:20 PM

Hi Kris,

I don't have a whole lot to say but I fully approve of the project to purchase the CFAC property and maintain open space/public access. I think this is a great deal.

Alex Moore
Olney

From: [Pam Clark](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:53:38 PM

Hi Kris -

I am tremendously in favor of the purchase of the 772 acres of land in Bad Rock Canyon. We really need a dedicated area for hiking and preserving the area for wildlife. The *last* thing we need is more housing.

Please let me know what I can do to help with this project.

Thank you,
Pam Clark
171 Columbia Range Drive
406.224.7485

From: [Great Northern Dental Care](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CFAC property
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:21:59 PM

I'm writing to express support for the State of Montana's plan to acquire the former CFAC property near Columbia Falls, MT. This is vital wildlife habitat and its preservation would be an enormous benefit to the State of Montana.

Thanks for your kind attention.

Ronald Jarvis
126 Winchester St.
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Becky Petrashek](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support Badrock Canyon Wildlife Management Area
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:50:13 PM

Please support the purchase of the Badrock Canyon Wildlife Area. This property would safeguard vital habitat and travel corridor of endangered and nonendangered wildlife. With the dramatic increase in the Flathead population and summer tourists, it's imperative to protect what we have before it is gone and too late.

Thank you!

Becky Petrashek
Kalispell, MT

From: [Fran Rehn](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bedrock Canyon Purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:32:06 PM

GO FOR IT, PLEASE!!!

We need to protect wildlife habitat whenever possible. Keeping some recreational access makes it even more appealing. Seasonal restrictions during key wildlife activity would be acceptable.

Please go forward with this purchase and manage it with your experience and compassion.

Thank you!!
Fran Rehn
Marion, Montana

From: [Ryan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment RE: BAD ROCK CANYON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACQUISITION
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:24:07 PM

Kris,

I strongly support the acquisition of this land by the state to be spared from development and utilized for wildlife conservation.

Thank you.

Ryan Kiefer
Whitefish, MT

From: [Ben Long](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock Canyon WMA
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:04:07 PM

Kris and all at FWP

Please make note that my family is strongly in favor of FWP purchasing the Badrock Canyon WMA. In fact, we made donations to support the conservation effort from our own pocketbook. Here's why we think it's not just a great investment, but an opportunity that can't be missed.

We have lived in the Flathead Valley for 30 years, basically all our adult lives, choosing to settle here, make a living, contribute to the community and enjoy the outdoors. For 30 years we have watched access and valuable habitat be lost to relentless development pressure. Of course, we cannot begrudge anyone for wanting to live here. We made the same decision! But we can think ahead and try to make sure this place stays as special as it has always been.

Access to the outdoors should be a birthright to all. But it won't be if more and more land is lost behind no trespassing signs, strip malls and subdivisions. Plus our wonderful wildlife resources need habitat for all seasons. We need to maintain winter range and connections between seasonal habitats. Once it is gone there is no getting it back.

One more thing. We very much appreciate that this land supports access particularly for people with disabilities. Our son was born with severe epilepsy. While he loved fishing and took pride in my hunting and ate a lot of game, he could not join us on the backcountry trails because of his disability. Places like Badrock Canyon offer rare opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the very best of what Montana has to offer. These habitats and opportunities are priceless.

Let's keep momentum going and get the deal done. Future generations will thank us for Badrock Canyon WMA.

Thank you

Ben Long
Kalispell

From: [Bo Downen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 1:17:58 PM

Ms. Tempel,

I am writing in support of FWP purchasing the Bad Rock Canyon project from the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company. This land provides a critical refuge and travel corridor for a number of large species. Maintaining this property as wildlife habitat is essential in protecting overdevelopment of the Flathead Valley's natural habitat. Further, this property comes at a very reasonable price to the State of Montana and will create local revenues from nearby citizens and visitors alike, who want to continue to use this parcel as it has been used during its time in the Block Management Program.

Please do not let this opportunity to protect property for all Montanans pass. Please recommend the purchase of the Bad Rock Canyon project.

Sincerely,

Bo Downen
2339 Nordic Loop
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: EKozar@whitefishcu.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:38:13 PM
Attachments: [wf_2a371f5f-2b8b-4838-9031-069e1ad85141.png](#)

Hello Kris,

Please accept this as my recommendation for the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks to purchase the 772 acres of forestland along the Flathead River. We need to preserve that land for the wildlife, and for the community that uses the river and lands around us. Developing that land into more houses would create increased stress on our already shifting environment.

Thank you for your consideration,
Elizabeth Kozar



Elizabeth Kozar

Brand Marketing Director
Kalispell Operations Center
1845 US Highway 93 S, Kalispell MT 59901
Ph. (406) 758-3098 | Fax (406) 758-0483 | www.WhitefishCU.com
[\[whitefishcu.com\]](http://whitefishcu.com)

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From: [michael.morton](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:46:06 AM

Terrific idea. Get er done. Thx for ur good works

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Stephen Roth](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:44:08 AM

I absolutely support this purchase and any other parcels that protect wildlife habitat or stream stability. The Flathead Valley is under an unprecedented development boom altering wildlife habitat and converting agriculture land into housing subdivisions. All of which not only provides habitat for local wildlife species but migrating bird's as well.

Thank You
Steve Roth, Kalispell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John shigo](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:25:49 AM

Please persue all avenues available to purchase this land. Keeping this in the publics hands is vital for the presevation of this valley and the state of Montana.

Thank you.
John Shigo
725 Somers Ave
Whitefish, MT 59937

406-270-7477

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

From: [Karin Kirk](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Bad Rock Canyon WMA!
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:22:10 AM

Hello,

The purchase of land along the Flathead River sounds like a wonderful idea with many benefits. The natural environment needs all the help we can give it.

I'm in favor of this purchase so I'm just writing to make my comment 'official.'

Thank you!
- Karin Kirk
Bozeman, MT

Karin Kirk
Science Journalist: Geology - Energy - Climate
Bozeman, MT
www.karinkirk.com [karinkirk.com]

From: [Kathy Kimmet](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 772 acres in CFAC
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:50:06 AM

I agree with this purchase. Kathy Kimmet Missoula, MT

772 acres of forest along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat, while providing free public recreation access. The property is highly developable and threatened by the rapidly growing city of Columbia Falls, but would be protected as a Wildlife Management Area under this proposal. The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC), a subsidiary of Glencore, a multi-national company, has decided to dispose of this property. The property is winter range for elk, moose, and white-tailed deer. Completion of this project would safeguard vital habitat and a travel corridor for bull trout and grizzly bears, Endangered Species Act-listed Threatened species found on the property.

From: [Robin Pleninger](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Management Area Public Input
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:28:58 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hello Kris,

My husband and I would absolutely love to see this purchase happen. I have spoken to my parents and they are both in favor as well.

Thank you,

Robin Pleninger
Documentation Manager
800.353.8829 (press 1 for Support)
www.blackmountainsoftware.com [blackmountainsoftware.com]



[\[blackmountainsoftware.com\]](http://blackmountainsoftware.com)



[\[facebook.com\]](https://www.facebook.com)



[\[linkedin.com\]](https://www.linkedin.com)



[\[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com)



[\[blackmountainsoftware.com\]](http://blackmountainsoftware.com)

From: [Karen Chickering](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:33:04 AM

Kris,

I'd like to communicate my hearty support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. My husband and I have walked the area with Laura Katzman and are impressed with the beauty of the land and diversity of wildlife that call this area home, or important for migration. Because of its proximity to urban areas in the valley, I am concerned that it will be over-run by humans, actually, so it is my hope that MFWP will carefully manage and monitor the area as it is opened up. We have financially supported the purchase of this land for conservation, and would love to see expansion, even, if opportunities arise in the future with neighboring lands.

All the best,
Karen Chickering

From: [Mary Knotts](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 7:06:34 AM

Dear Mr. Temple:

I am in full support of the above project and acquisition as a tremendous asset for habitat, water quality, especially along the Flathead with the increased use and opportunities for public access.

As the valley grows, these types of projects are invaluable for the preservation of our Montana way of life. I encourage WFWP to support this project. Thank you.

Mary Knotts
Kalispell

From: [Brady Hylton](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cfac acquisition
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 6:34:54 AM

I would like to express my full support of FWP's purchases of the cfac property in Columbia falls. Aside from he benifit to wildlife and their habitat, this ground needs to be conserved from development. With the way the valley is growing, it won't be long until all the farm fields and open spaces have been turned into subdivision. In 20 years, if this land is not protected, we will all look at it and "wish we would have". My almost 1 yr old son will feel the same way.

Please protect this property
Sincerely,
Brady Hylton - Columbia Falls

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

From: [Matthew Lamberts](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment: yes to the land purchase
Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:45:41 AM

I'm in favor of buying and protecting the land / habitat along the river near Columbia Falls. Be sure to give it great access / accessibility for the public.

Matt Lamberts 1236 4th Avenue W., Kalispell, MT 59901

406-253-0129

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: [Franny Thrasher](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:29:55 PM

Yes, I believe you should buy it. And the land across the river if you can!

From: [Davis Bothe](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:13:27 PM

I support the purchase of the bad rock area. Old-timers talk of how good the elk hunting used to be in the area. Development has taken up much of the wintering range. If purchased, this land acquisition would support increased hunting opportunities. More land needs to be set aside in the valley before elk hunting in the area becomes a thing of the past.

Davis Bothe

From: [Evan Swanson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon WMA
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:00:15 PM

As a Columbia Falls resident, I am in full support of the initiative to purchase the 772 acres adjacent to the flathead river.

From: [Ann LePage](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock canyon land purchase
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:55:23 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the purchase of the old aluminum plant land. What an opportunity and gift to the valley to add to the public lands and to protect for the enjoyment for future generations.

Ann LePage
Bigfork, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deborah Eunpu](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:34:35 PM

Dear Ms. Tempel,

I am writing in support of the proposal to purchase land along the Flathead River near Columbia Falls. I would love to see that area preserved as a wildlife management area.

Best regards,

Deborah Eunpu
1955 Bluestone Dr
Kalispell, MT 59901
Debe324@live.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Drew Glascock](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock Canyon WMA, public comment
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:30:37 PM

Dear Kris,

I want to express my enthusiastic support for the Badrock Canyon WMA proposed purchase of 772 acres. I strongly believe that the preservation of this critical wildlife corridor is very important. Especially, as more people move into this area and more pressure is on land owners to sell and or develop properties for housing, the loss of accessible public land and wildlife habitat makes this type of project more needed. I truly hope this purchase goes through and this project is completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback.

Sincerely,

Drew Glascock

From: [Carrie Thiel](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock project
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:00:06 PM

I am writing in support of the MFWP purchasing the 772-acre Bad Rock project land to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area to protect public recreation access, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality.

I am a native of the Flathead Valley and as such I believe it is imperative that we protect all the land we can for safe, shared, and protected uses, rather than for private development.

Thank you,

Carrie Thiel
1082 Rocky Meadows Trail
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-212-2016

From: [Nicholas Satovick, MD](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock canyon purchase comments
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:50:49 PM

Kris,

I emphatically support the FWP purchase of the CFAC property in Columbia falls. This is an outstanding opportunity for FWP to lock up an absolute gem for public access. This property is so beautiful and provides great wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities so close to town. It is property such as this that make the flathead valley and region 1 what they are, destinations for outdoor recreation opportunities.

May I also say that I would wholly support maintaining big game hunting access as lottery youth and disabled hunter access only. Our WMAs receive a large burden of pressure during rifle season and I could see the bad Rock WMA quickly overrun.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for all FWP has done thus far regarding this property. And thank you to Flathead valley Land trust.

Sincerely,
Nick Satovick
(801)-712-8721
185 labar lane
Whitefish, MT 59937

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From: [montanapos](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Land by Columbia Falls
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:48:47 PM

Please purchase land outside Columbia Falls. We need to save all land we can for the people to be able to hike and enjoy.

Thanks for listening.

Regards

Patricia Posedel

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Erik Peterson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon wma
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:24:42 PM

Hi Kris,

Yes, I support purchasing those 772 acres along the flathead river! That gateway area is important for the local elk herd and it sits in prime area for grizzlies that seasonally use the river corridor for intact riparian vegetation resources. This is the exact type of parcel the habitat montana program was intended to conserve, rather than let be developed. The Flathead has plenty other areas that can be paved over and built on.

I hope the commission will approve this purchase.

Regards,
Erik

From: [Heather](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:02:26 PM

Please approve and move forward with the Bad Rock Canyon wildlife management area!

Thanks,
Heather Ellsworth
Whitefish, MT

From: [Ken Welch](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Land purchase near C Falls
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:26:06 PM

I worked on a little cabin over in the flat back twenty years ago and was impressed with the ecosystem of all the critters over there. It's like a little national park over on the flat. It would be an amazing area for a trail system along the river and on to the bench circling back. I would be in favor of the purchase with the future of generations of outdoor kids in mind.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Woody](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:22:31 PM

Dear Ms. Tempel,

I understand that MFWP is taking public comments on the Black Rock Canyon Conservation Project. Herewith is mine.

That this unique, beautiful parcel, so critical to sustaining native fish and wildlife, and so dangerously close to population sprawl, can be preserved in it's natural state for the quiet and respectful enjoyment of this and future generations is remarkable, and an opportunity that cannot be missed. It will be one of the most significant environmental success stories of our time if its purchase and management by MFWP is approved.

I urge you to complete the acquisition. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,
Woody Nedom

From: [Brian Schott](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: [Tabish, Dillon](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FWP seeking public input on proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area near Columbia Falls
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:47:46 PM

YES!

Please purchase and protect and conserve this land - what a wonderful gift!

Brian Schott
708 Lupfer Ave.
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Daniel Lilja](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock WMA
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:33:12 PM

10August21

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to add my voice of support to the proposed WMA near Columbia Falls. I am familiar with this area and would like to see it remain as it is, in an undeveloped state.

Thanks for your consideration.

Daniel Lilja
PO Box 357
Plains, MT 59859

Sent from Dan's iPad

From: [Debra Reeves](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:56:51 PM

Dear Kris,

I am writing in support of the proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA Project.

As a child, my family spent countless hours enjoying this area and I have very fond memories of the times we spent there. More importantly, I am supporting this proposed project for the myriad of benefits it will provide our wildlife population and the health of the Flathead River. With the current population explosion in the Flathead Valley, we need to stay vigilant to safeguard the way of life we all love. There is no doubt that if this property is sold, it will go to the highest bidder and the development that would most likely ensue would be devastating to this beautiful area.

I encourage you to secure and safeguard this area for the benefit of wildlife, the pristine Flathead River and the well being that areas like this afford our local communities.

Regards,
Debra Reeves
4065 260 5001

From: [Holly Moore](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Corridor purchase near CFalls
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:10:53 PM

Good Day,
I fully support the purchase of 772 acres near Columbia Falls.
Thank you.
Holly Moore
1931 34th Street
Missoula, MT 59801

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nicho Hash](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Purchase
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:10:37 PM

Please purchase the property to secure the access for us and generations to come! Thank you
Nicho Hash

From: [Tim & Charlotte Engleson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA comment
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:07:06 PM

Please pursue the acquisition of this valuable property before it is sold to the highest bidder and becomes subdivisions full of CA transplants.

You have my full approval for this project. Thanks,

Tim Engleson
Eureka, MT

From: [Paul House](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:42:26 PM

Kris Temple
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Kris,
I am writing to voice my strong support for the land acquisition outlined in this Draft EA of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA. Now, more than ever, we need to protect lands from degradation through preservation and conservation avenues. It's as simple as that.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, the USFS Legacy Program, and FWP Habitat Montana programs were designed to do just what is proposed, which would help protect wildlife, a wide range of habitat for ungulates as well as many other species, water quality, and much more.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Paul House
Bozeman, MT

From: [Craig McIntyre](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CFAC Purchase
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 1:05:24 PM

Dear Kris,

I am strongly in favor of the FWP plan to purchase the CFAC property. This provides animal shelter, green space and recreation opportunities in a very accessible location. It seems to me that these are indeed the goals and charter of the FWP.

Go for it.

Regards,

Craig

--

Craig R. McIntyre, Ph.D.
McIntyre Associates, LLC
PO Box 220
Dayton, MT 59914-0220

Phone: 406-849-9925

Mobile: 901-277-1771

gooddrmc@gmail.com

From: [FWP General](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 2:01:50 PM

From: Connie Poten <rattlefarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 1:58 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

This is a wonderful opportunity to protect land and wildlife near Glacier Park. Buffer zones are essential to protect rare and endangered species. I am wholeheartedly for the Bad Rock Canyon purchase. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,
Connie Poten

--

Constance J. Poten
4175 Rattlesnake Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-549-4647

From: [Brett Svetlik](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:12:36 PM

Hi Kris,

I just wanted to share my support of the proposed Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project and the importance of keeping critical areas like this intact. As a resident of the Whitefish area, I regularly use our public land resources throughout the valley and beyond. It's places like these that keep me healthy, happy and proud of our open spaces. When these places protect my views, my health and my happiness, I strive to protect more of them every day and share my views with others. Big thanks to your crew and all of the organizations working to protect places like Bad Rock.

--

Brett Svetlik
Dog Creek Lodge

From: [Bruce Sterling](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:27:10 PM

Hi Kris,

Well this is a no brainer, of course you should!!

What a perfect place for a WMA that will provide open space, quality habitat and winter range for many big game species.

Good luck and I hope it becomes reality.

Take care,

Bruce Sterling

Thompson Falls

Retired FWP Wildlife Biologist

From: [Tom Gignoux](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] purchasing the Columbia Falls riverfront wildlife habitat is exactly what the FWP was organized to do
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 4:38:38 PM

Please purchase the Columbia Falls riverfront land now being sold by the old smelter. It is a good idea on many levels and is exactly what the FWP was organized to do.

Thank you, Tom Gignoux

From: [Bret Serbin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:45:36 PM

Hi Kris,

I'm writing in support of the Bad Rock Canyon project. I'm a Columbia Falls resident at 405 Bills Lane and I run every day around Columbia Falls. This would be a great addition to our community!

Thanks for your time on this project.

Best,
Bret

From: [Todd Spangler](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 7:48:39 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage the Montana FWP to continue the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project and purchase the property. I've hiked and biked part of the property and this is a unique opportunity to protect wildlife habitat and provide recreational access to land along the Flathead River. Also, as a high school science teacher I foresee great educational opportunities for this area.

I support this project completely.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Spangler

23 Sunrise Drive
Kalispell, MT
59901

From: [Gina Benesh](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Bad Rock Canyon Conservation
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 8:21:15 AM

Hello Kris,

Please purchase the 772-acre project. Some people may say it is too expensive to purchase, I say it is too expensive not to. We must do everything within our power to preserve and conserve our habitats and natural environments. I urge you to approve purchase of this land.

Sincerely,
Gina Benesh
805-895-7090

From: [Carol Fifer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 8:35:02 AM

Kris,

Please pursue purchase of the land at Bad Rock Canyon on behalf of all of us. Wildlife needs this land and so do we. At the current rate of growth for Montana we are losing prime land to developers which will forever be lost to enjoyment by the public and destroy yet another home and migratory route for our precious wildlife.

Please preserve the Bad Rock Canyon land.

Thank you.

Carolyn Fifer
1007 Buckrake Ave
Bozeman, Mt. 59718

406.451.3880

C

From: [Justin slobuszewski](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:28:19 AM

Good morning Kris,

I want to comment and say that I fully support this acquisition. In light of the development currently taking place in the valley these purchased areas for hunters and other recreational activities are more important than ever before and I look forward to seeing the WMA in the future.

Justin.
Flathead County

From: [Sally Cameron-Russell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:20:41 PM

Dear Ms Tempel,

We are writing in support of the Bad Rock Canyon project and have contributed financially to Flathead Land Trust to help bring this to fruition. As so much of our open lands come under development, this project seems like a no brainer in conserving and connecting important portions of the wildlife quarter. In addition, the project affords an opportunity to set aside an area for hiking, cycling, fishing, bird watching and other recreational activities, as well as protecting water quality. I hope MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will do all it can to support this important project.

Sincerely,
Sally Cameron-Russell
Mike Russell
595 Howard DR.
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Joel Vignere](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 1:00:57 PM

Worst case scenario here would be to let this golden opportunity slip through our hands. With the growth rate in the valley seemingly having no end, it would be criminal to allow this parcel to be lost to development. With each passing year, the wisdom of retaining the area as a wildlife management and recreation area will be more and more appreciated. Hard to believe that there would be any debate at all about this purchase.

Joel Vignere

Lakeside, MT

From: [Robert Cole](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Cons. project
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 3:07:11 PM

Dear Mr. Tempel,

Please do everything you can to move the purchase of the Bad Rock Conservation Project forward and to completion.

I have been in the area several times and doubt if there are but few areas so close to any town with so much potential

public use as this one.

I highly endorse the purchase.

Robert Cole, Kalispell, Mt.

--

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https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.avast.com/antivirus___!!GaaboA!419iVE8zifvHhfEAcdOpUIS1o0Mrc_LKO9FXWqAvk8MZEWPitotEpOIEKZnjjwOS

From: [Linda Walthers](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 6:58:26 PM

Subject: Bad Rock Canyon

I heartily support the purchase of the 772 acres of forest and wetland at the mouth of Bad Rock Canyon for a proposed wildlife management and recreation area.
Having lived in New England for 70 + years I have experienced Urban Sprawl ad nauseam. Once pristine forest is gone it's gone.
People seek places of quiet contentment only to bring in all of their creature comforts. Soon enough, family and friends join them creating the same place that they had to get away from.
Yep. I'm 'From Away'.
The Wild West continues to try to 're-invent the wheel' in matters of land use and abuse. The problems have already been addressed.
Look at the settlement patterns all over the East and more populated parts of this country, where urban sprawl has grown unchecked, and learn from that.
Don't let the Flathead valley follow this same pattern.
Let us preserve and protect the 'Last Best Place'.
Linda Putnam
Bigfork, MT

Sent from my iPhone LW

From: [Gayle Graf](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Dick Canyon Trust
Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021 9:42:42 AM

I am very much in favor of this acquisition! Wildlife habitat, recreation and land left in trust is more important than ever. The last thing we need is another high density development on one of the last good pieces of river frontage going up to the park. The donations will come through; let's make this happen. It's a win/win!

Gayle Graf,
Somers, MT

From: [Alison Young](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021 2:44:30 PM

Dear Ms. Tempel,

I am writing in support of acquisition by FWP of the approximately 772 acres being sold by CFAC along the Flathead River just above Bad Rock Canyon and near Columbia Falls.

I have toured the property so can say firsthand that it is beautiful land and very desirable and appropriate to become a Wildlife Management Area administered by FWP. It is a prime area for wildlife and also for enjoyment by the public. It must be saved from development!

I have donated to the project via the Flathead Land Trust. I am impressed that the non-profit has been able to raise \$590,000 in a relatively short amount of time. I believe this shows the public's interest in preserving such a truly gorgeous piece of land.

I wish you the best of luck in securing the property.

Alison Young
1025 Hodgson Rd.
Columbia Falls, MT
406-407-1706
aliyoung17@gmail.com

From: [Tom Moldovan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Comment
Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021 4:54:09 PM

Kris,

I would like to express my support for this wonderful idea. The Bad Rock Conservation Project is supported by my family and friends as well.

Thank you,

Tom Moldovan
850 Bailey Dr
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
678-296-5009

From: [John Donovan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 3:56:36 PM

I strongly believe this purchase should be completed. It helps fill in an important wildlife corridor. John

JOHN A. DONOVAN

Law Offices of John A. Donovan
14850 U.S. Hwy 2E, Essex, MT 59916
(406) 888-9099
2060 Stradella Road, L.A., CA 90077
(310) 476-0430
johnadonovan@gmail.com

From: [Andrea Getts](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Land Purchase
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 8:08:54 PM

I live in Columbia Falls and it would be awesome to have a trails system closer to town! More public land, especially by the river, would be awesome as long as it is accessible and open to the public. I'm also happy that this would protect wetlands and animals that use the area. Please purchase it to protect it, our area, and our way of life.

Thank you,
Andrea Getts

From: [Kim](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:40:43 PM

In response to the purchase of Bad Rock Canyon, it is my belief that the state should purchase the canyon rather than have it but up by private developers.

Thank you,
Kim Moon
Columbia Falls

From: [Matthew Bowser](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Comments
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 1:15:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

Yes - absolutely, MT FWP should purchase the 772 acres known as the Bad Rock Canyon WMA.

My wife and I have been walking on the road in the Bad Rock WMA for years. Over that time we've seen the following list of critters in those woods:

- elk
- black bear
- deer
- fox
- too many birds to list!

The area also provides valuable wetlands that aid in water quality. I am not against development in Columbia Falls - but not in the Bad Rock WMA - it just provides way too many positives for wildlife.

Thank You,
Matt Bowser
522 1st Street EN
Col. Falls, MT

From: [Lisa McKeon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock purchase
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 11:19:30 AM

Dear FWP Representative,

I would like to express my approval of the purchase of the Bad Rock Canyon acreage to be used as wildlife management and recreation area. It's a fabulous idea and the land would be a priceless asset to Columbia Falls and the valley as more land is developed. Please secure the future of that ecologically important land by making the purchase.

Lisa McKeon

From: [d.pier](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock acquisition
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 12:48:20 PM

I absolutely wish to go on record as supporting the Bad Rock land acquisition by the MT FWP. As a lifelong resident, and living just a few miles south of the area, I have witnessed the relentless decrease in open space, and quality wildlife habitat as the valley population increases exponentially. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to help mitigate the human impact on our local wild areas, and provide a big boost to local wildlife, and provide for the local residents an area to appreciate our heritage.

D. Pier
Columbia Falls, MT

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

From: [Douglas Sloan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Project
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:50:36 PM

Kris,

I am VERY much in favor of the purchase of this 772 acreage for wildlife preservation. I also support it being managed as a Wildlife Management Area. We need this portion of the river protected for public recreation access, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality – both in the Flathead River and lower down, the Flathead Lake.

Thank you,
Douglas & Patricia Sloan
37114 Fjords Ln
Polson, MT 59860

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

From: [Dawn Oehlerich](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:36:10 AM

Please add our names as “overwhelmingly in favor” of completing the purchase and acquisition of this 772 acre easement for conservation. We have toured the property, and consider it a unique and high value asset to the community of Columbia Falls and the county of Flathead.

Thank you,
Michael and Dawn Oehlerich
606 Masters CRT
Whitefish, Mt 59937

--

Dawn Oehlerich, RIA,CFP
KilterHowling, LLC
Registered Investment Advisor
309 Wisconsin Ave
Whitefish, MT 59937
406 261-1834 cell
doehlerich@gmail.com

From: [Tony Powell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bedrock Canyon WMA
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 1:45:28 PM

Hi Kris

I support the proposed acquisition of the Badrock Canyon WMA. The project would protect fish and wildlife habitat and public recreational access. I am a Columbia Falls resident and we float that section of the river often and I would hate to see it developed. I also know that many of my fellow cFalls folks are excited about this opportunity who may not necessarily take to time to submit a comment.

I suspect that in the beginning it would take a concerted effort to enforce the winter closure but it is worth the effort.

Thanks for all your hard work on this.
Tony Powell
Columbia Falls.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [McClain, Kammi](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Easement
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:19:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Good Morning Kris,

I think the comment below is in regards to Bad Rock Canyon WMA Acquisition and should go to you.

Thank you

Kammi McClain

Administrative Support Supervisor
Wildlife Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 444-2612
fwp.mt.gov



From: Pieske, Shawna <Shawna.Pieske@mt.gov> **On Behalf Of** FWP General
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:15 AM
To: FWP Wildlife <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Easement

From: Roger Sherman <rlsherman614@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:03 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Easement

The proposed conservation easement near the old aluminum plant is a win win for all of us Montanans. It offers wildlife, wilderness as well as protecting te beautiful area from development. Let's make it happen.

Roger Sherman280 Brimstone Dr.
Whitefish MT

From: montanadawg62@gmail.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:02:05 PM

Kris –

I am totally in support of this conservation project. I walked the area a week or so ago and was amazed at the amount of birds and even beavers that I saw walking the road. It was awesome! The wetlands are especially important and my favorite part of the area. I did walk the Glacier to Gateway “trail” but was unimpressed with it due to the amount of brush and weeds along the trail. It needs maintenance.

As much as I know we need affordable housing in the Flathead and Columbia Falls, if you allowed that area to be developed it would most likely end up with high priced homes and large lots. We don’t need that kind of development. The wetlands themselves are too precious to allow any kind of development back there.

Thanks,

Alan Gregory
Columbia Falls

From: [Caleb Fossee](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CFAC land Acquisition
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:51:47 PM

Just writing to say I support MT FWP acquiring this land for conservation and recreation purposes. Get it done!

Thanks,
Caleb Fossee
Kalispell, MT

From: [Pam Ader](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Public Comment
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:14:04 PM

I was able to tour this special area last May. It was very apparent to me that this acreage must be protected as a Wildlife Management Area.

We saw deer, elk and signs of bear activity. The extensive above ground and underground watershed is critical to wildlife throughout the Flathead valley.

I would like to someday take hikes through this beautiful area and not see it lost to more development. We must work to preserve the wild lands of Montana that we love for our children and grandchildren.

Please approve this critically important conservation project.

--

Pam L. Ader
PO Box 1269 Polson, MT 59860
406-890-8533

From: [Christian Schultz](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:57:01 PM

Dear MTFWP,

I am writing in support of the proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. This is such a rare opportunity for the public to set aside undeveloped land. The Columbia Falls, greater Kalispell area is under intense development pressure. I grew up on Foothills Road, not far from Kalispell and Creston. The entire area has changed so much with development that I hardly recognize many places. We have to jump on opportunities like this. Let's take advantage of this opportunity and set it aside for the wildlife and future generations.

Thanks for your time!

Sincerely,

Christian Schultz

3895 Baxter Ln E
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-581-8411

From: [CDR L. PRESCOTT](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BAD ROCK CANYON CONSERVATION PROJECT
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:07:43 PM

Our public comment: **We are in full support of this acquisition and hope that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will send it on to the Montana Land Board with a very positive recommendation.**

Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Prescott, Polson, MT

From: [sheilahmccormick](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:35:58 AM

I think the proposed plan to acquire Bad Rock Canyon land for a wildlife management area is Brilliant. I totally support it.

Sheila McCORMICK
430 Columbia Ave
Whitefish, Montana 59937

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS \[apps.apple.com\]](#)

From: [Candy Fralin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 1:22:49 AM

Oh please purchase, I would love to see it protected.
We float and really enjoy the area and it would be awful to see it get developed.
Save it for future generations.
Thank you,
Candy Fralin

From: [Dow Stephens](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 1:15:14 PM

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks,

As a Flathead Valley resident, I strongly support the acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon property by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks for the establishment of a WMA. As is clear, this type of valley habitat is very limited and it should be preserved.

Frederick Dow Stephens
720 1st Ave E
Kalispell, Mt

From: [Sarah Dakin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA Acquisition
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 1:22:33 PM

I wish to support FWP's acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon project.

This property offers Gateway to Glacier communities unique front country protections from urban sprawl. It also will safeguard vital habitat as well as provide a travel corridor for wildlife species such as grizzly bears, elk and bull trout.

The land is adjacent to a large block of public land and would add to a 12,000-acre network of conserved land along a 43-mile corridor of the Flathead River.

As a member of Gateway to Glacier Trails I also support the continued construction of a shared use path through the property. Access to all is an all important aspect of this property. We have all experienced the importance of outdoor recreational opportunities for our health and well being.

Thank you,

Sarah Dakin

From: [David Martin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 3:29:46 PM

Hi,

My wife & I are IN FAVOR of funding this Project. We recently took a walking tour of the area with a Flathead Land Trust leader that was most illuminating. It's a beautiful area and deserves to be protected from the commercial intrusion which surrounds the area. Protection will provide much needed habitat and a migration corridor for our wildlife.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

David Martin & Lynne Metcalfe

From: [Pat Simmons](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 8:05:44 PM

I totally support this proposal to acquire the Bad Rock Canyon acreage from CFAC for a new FWP WMA. Everything I would be concerned about has been addressed in this Draft EA. I very pleased that you are protecting wildlife habitat for so many species including non-game. Great you are closing the WMA during the winter to benefit wildlife. Hopefully you can manage hunter vs. hiker trail usage possible conflicts.

Thank you.

Patricia Simmons
357 Pine Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
Psimmons100@gmail.com

From: [Gil Jordan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project comment
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021 5:16:55 AM

Absolutely! Montana FWP should purchase the 772-acre Bad Rock project land to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area to protect public recreation access, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality!

We've seen the area, toured it on foot, and it is a remarkable, lush wilderness area. To not purchase and protect the area is unthinkable! To allow this area to be opened for development would deprive our valley of an essential buffer between wilderness and commercial development. The water and wildlife habitat alone are so precious and so worthy of protection.

So much effort and community fundraising by so many groups has gone into making this project happen. PLEASE do not waste this effort. Close the deal. For the healthy future of the Flathead Valley, let's get this DONE!

Thank you,

Gil Jordan & Kimberly Pinter
Coram, MT

From: [Helen Weems](#)
To: [Joel Christiansen](#); [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021 9:21:07 AM

I am writing to express my support for the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Project. Protecting this land is critical to wildlife preservation and outdoor recreational public access. We only get this chance once. The funding is in place. Opening the land to development is not best use of this wild land resource. We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into making this conservation happen.

From: [Robert Moore](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021 4:35:54 PM

Dear Kris, I would like to cast my vote for the purchase of the 772 acre parcel known as the Bad Rock Canyon project.

Bob Moore
30463 DeVoe Lane
Polson, MT 59860
406-883-0187

From: [Jim Vashro](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Bad Rock Canyon Management Area Acquisition
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:39:43 PM

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. (FWI) gives its full support to Alternative A, Proposed Acquisition, in the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area Acquisition. Flathead Wildlife, Inc. is northwest Montana's oldest and largest sportsmen and women club with the goals of protecting our hunting and fishing heritage, protecting fish and wildlife habitat and involving youth in the outdoors. The proposed Bad Rock Wildlife Management Area meets all those goals.

The 772 acres in the proposed WMA are strategically located to provide a wildlife migratory corridor between the Whitefish and Swan Mountain ranges. The cottonwood and moist and dry mixed conifer forest, along with the wetlands and spring creek, provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and fish including a number of Threatened Species and Species of Special Concern. The proposed winter closure would provide secure winter range.

The area, now owned by CFAC, is already used for hunting by youth and hunters with disabilities. The proposed Gateway to Glacier footpath will make the area accessible to hikers and wildlife watchers in season. The proximity to both Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse will provide economic and intangible benefits to both communities.

Funding is available to complete the \$7.26 million purchase including funds from Habitat Montana, paid by Montana hunters, and \$590,000 raised by the Flathead Land Trust from a variety of sources including the largest land purchase donation ever given by Flathead Wildlife, Inc. in recognition of the special values of this property. Flathead Wildlife thanks CFAC for making this opportunity available.

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. urges Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Montana Land Board to move with due haste and consideration to complete this purchase by the end of 2021 to secure this property and its values for the people and wildlife of Montana. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim Vashro, President
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.



[\[avast.com\]](#)

Virus-free. www.avast.com [[avast.com](#)]

From: [Frederick Erick Robbins](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Favor of FWP Proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA Acquisition
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:13:15 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to state that I am strongly in favor of FWP's proposed acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA near Columbia Falls. I have had the pleasure of walking this property, and its relatively untouched nature is entirely unique to an area of the north Flathead that is currently experiencing unprecedented development pressure. The opportunities to preserve and conserve large parcels of undeveloped land are becoming fewer and fewer. Let alone those lands that are riparian areas and wildlife corridors. Not to mention the ability for nonmotorized recreation in such close proximity to town. The funds are available, and the public support is there. Please consider setting aside this gem for present and future generations. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Frederick "Erick" Robbins
PO Box 2650
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Sent from [Outlook \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: [Steve Rosso](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 11:14:08 AM

Dear Kris Tempel,

I strongly support the purchase and management by FWP of the proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. The purchase will protect this important area from development that would negatively impact the water quality in the Flathead River and Lake. Protecting the existing wildlife habitat and public recreation access, that are so important to our quality of life in the Flathead Valley, is also very important.

I would like to suggest one change in the management plan. I am concerned that some users of the Gateway to Glacier Trail won't respect the need to stay on the developed trail. Too often trail users venture off the trail and begin establishing other unauthorized trails risking damage to sensitive land (wetlands, stream banks, wildlife nesting areas, etc.). Both bicyclists and hikers can cause damage and I don't think signage is enough to prevent development of unauthorized trails. I would like FWP to consider erecting wildlife friendly fencing along each side of the trail corridor in these sensitive areas.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Steve Rosso

PO Box 1032

Lakeside, MT 59922

406-890-8566

From: [Paula Schlotfeldt](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 12:21:43 PM

I would like to submit this email in support of the Bad Rock Canyon purchase. As we watch more and more development expand in our county, the loss of the views and land we all love and recreate on becomes more and more precious.

Please continue the progress you've made in protecting our public lands.

Thank you.

--

Paula Schlotfeldt

From: [Katrina Larsen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of: PROPOSED BAD ROCK CANYON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACQUISITION
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 4:18:26 PM

Hi Kris.

I am a fourth generation Montanan, third generation Flathead Valley resident, and a Columbia Falls local. I am strongly in favor of preserving the slice of nature across the banks of the Flathead River that embodies the natural way of life in Montana. My hope is that it can be accessed and enjoyed by many generations of Montanans to come.

These acts of preservation are more important now than ever been before. Thank you to all those involved in this visionary undertaking. It is important work!

Katrina Larsen

From: [Jeff Tuttle](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: [Constanza von der Pahlen](#); lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of the Proposed Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:30:47 PM

I would like to enthusiastically voice my support for the proposed Bad Rock Canyon conservation area. With the out-of-control growth in the Flathead, we need to be protecting as much public land as possible, particularly along our waterways, in critical wildlife migration corridors, and in the headwaters of the Flathead watershed. As a Flathead Lakers member and Flathead Land Trust supporter, I applaud their efforts, along with FWP, to secure such a unique and important piece of property. My wife and I had the opportunity to participate in a kayak tour of the property in summer 2020. The property's location, size, and pristine natural setting make for a rare opportunity to preserve one of the few remaining large tracts of undeveloped land along the Flathead River. LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!

From: [Poppy Wilson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Support for FWP acquisition of Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:41:59 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my support for FWP to pursue the purchase of the 772 acres deemed as the Bad Rock Canyon Project. In this time when pursuit of outdoor activities by many with many more people coming to the Flathead area to enjoy nature, it only makes sense to try and protect land access for people to do just that. It will also benefit wildlife as their habitat seems to be getting cut back as more forested areas are being developed for homes.

Please continue to pursue this purchase to protect land for humans and animals to continue to have access to such important wildlife areas for many years to come.

Thank you,

Poppy Wilson
306 Mannington Street
Kalispell, MT 59901
poppytoeckes@yahoo.com

From: [donetta.antonovich](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BAD ROCK CANYON
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:45:50 AM

We heartily support the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project.
Donetta and Tom Antonovich
100 Garland Street
Kalispell, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tabish, Dillon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 772 acres: please purchase them!
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:57:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Fyi

Dillon Tabish

Regional Information and Education Program Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 1

490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Ph: (406) 751-4564 | C: (406) 381-2292

[Montana FWP](#) | [Montana State Parks](#) | [Montana Outdoors Magazine](#)



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

From: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Tabish, Dillon <Dillon.Tabish@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 772 acres: please purchase them!

From: Barbara Schroeder <etherstreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:25 AM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 772 acres: please purchase them!

Please purchase 772 acres along the Flathead River, near Columbia Falls; if I can more directly influence this purchase, please let me know how to do so. Montana Public Radio provided some details about this land and your partnership with the Flathead Land Trust. Thank you for moving ahead in the purchase of 28,000 acres near Libby!

Sincerely,
Barbara Schroeder
132 Ranchetts Road
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [Margaret](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thrilled to support the Bad Rock Canyon project!
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 9:58:37 AM

Short and sweet: I am thrilled at the prospect of this project coming to fruition, and voice my full support.

Thank you!

Margaret Notley

Bigfork, Montana

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

From: [Jana Goodman](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:20:49 AM

I totally support this much needed conservation project. Thank you for taking care of it.

Jana Goodman
Kalispell

From: [Darcy Thomas](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:28:13 AM

Hi Mr Tempel,

Bad Rock Canyon just be saved. I suppose you had the opportunity to tour it with Laura Kauzman. It is beautiful. I was lucky to tour it earlier in the year with the Board of Directors for Flathead Audubon. This place has basically been untouched for sixty years and is an important bird and wildlife habitat. I would hate to see it developed. With our huge decline in birds in the past years we need areas like this for breeding birds. Also, with all the development elsewhere in the valley it would seem wise to set aside a pristine area like this for our wildlife. I hope you approve the completion of the project for which Flathead Land Trust and other stakeholders have worked so hard to bring to pass. They have the money and I can't think of a better place for these dollars to go.

Thank you,

Darcy Thomas
612 Sylvan Court
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Sean Hinchey](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:34:05 AM

Please, please, please approve this project.

Sean Hinchey

Hinchey & Hinchey, P.C.
705 Main Street
Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 756-7004
(406) 756-7024 facsimile

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From: [David Marx](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MFWP Should Purchase The Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:58:18 AM

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks,

I am writing today to urge you to purchase the 772-acre Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. This parcel of land is critical habitat for wildlife along the Flathead River corridor. Recreational access would also greatly benefit the Columbia Falls community.

Thank you for seeking citizen input on this issue.

David Marx
PO Box 4241
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Barbara Lancaster](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock land
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:37:48 AM

I've toured the 700 acres twice this summer and am so happy to have a wild space amidst all the development in the valley. My well is downstream of the land so I am also thankful for the protected clean water above me. Please support the protection of this land and fight off big money to save such an important corridor for our wildlife. Can't wait to see the migration thru there this fall taking advantage of the warm creek waters...really rare in our area. Do the right thing - support keeping this land wild!!

Barb Lancaster
531 painted Mtn drive columbia falls
310 995 7068

Please use my new iCloud email address!

From: [Rick](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:41:58 AM

We support MT Fish Wildlife and Parks acquiring the aluminum plant land along the Flathead River just outside of C-Falls.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick and Linda Robbins

West Glacier

From: [Max Laughlin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting the Bad Rock Canyon purchase by MFWP
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:48:53 AM

Greetings,

My name is Max Laughlin and my wife and I own a house in Columbia Falls and have a young daughter who is loving growing up in Columbia Falls.

We fully support the purchase of the 772 acres along the Flathead to preserve the wildlife habitat and population there, especially given the growth of Columbia Falls and the surrounding tourism. It is so important for Montana to stay as wild and environmentally healthy as possible and we so appreciate the efforts from the Montana FWP to maintain this land. Thank you so much and keep up the good fight.

Max Laughlin
406-407-3159
1325 Riparian drive
Columbia Falls, MT

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Managenebt Area Acquisition
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:21:55 PM

Dear Mr. Kemple ,

My husband and I (Thomas W & Sharon B Kennett) are writing to voice our support of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks proposal to acquire the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area.

We have been full time residents here in Flathead Valley for 16 years. During that time we have witnessed the explosive growth in the Valley, particularly in the Kalispell – Whitefish – Columbia Falls areas. We live on Whitefish Stage Road about a mile south of Highway 40. White tailed deer, turkeys, pheasants, and black bears wander through our property to go to the alfalfa fields and Whitefish River to the east. This spring, for the first time, we even had a fully grown mountain lion casually walk through our property . There are now houses on some of what had been alfalfa fields, and the increased traffic on Whitefish Stage creates additional hazards for the local wildlife. I realize that we have contributed to the growth, but we try to maintain our 5 acres as a natural wooded habitat for the visiting animals who were here long before we arrived.

My husband and I walk nearly every day around the River's Edge Park in Columbia Falls. We appreciate Columbia Falls for having the foresight to purchase this property. We like to sit on the benches facing the Flathead River and watch the River as it flows through the seasons as well as the many kinds of birds that fly along there. Some of our favorites are the eagles and ospreys that we see sitting in the trees across the River on what hopefully will be the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. It would be great to be able to sit or walk along the eastern shore of the River and look across at River's Edge Park.

We agree that the 772 acres with Flathead River frontage in the MFWP's proposal to purchase and manage would be highly desired property for development, and we agree that this property should be protected to ensure continued habitat and safe movement corridors for fish and wildlife.

Large tracts of land that could be used for wildlife protection and public use are becoming increasing rare and should be purchased and protected whenever possible. We applaud the MFWP and all the agencies and conservation organizations involved in the effort to purchase and protect this valuable property .

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas W & Sharon B Kennett

PO Box 1868
Whitefish, Mt 59937
(406) 862-4696

From: [Marilyn Roberts](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: [Lamb Roberts Marilyn](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:15:34 PM

Dear Kris --

The Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management area is a critical piece of a larger puzzle that helps sustain clean water downstream. I toured the property last fall, and it cemented my passion for it.

We are lucky that most of our lake's water comes from protected public lands, including Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. However, once the water reaches Columbia Falls, we must work to keep it clean. These undeveloped lowlands also provide a safe crossing area for grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, wolverine, and other wide-ranging carnivores that move north and south between the Whitefish and Swan Mountain ranges. A herd of elk is known to winter there.

Please do not let this valuable property slip through our fingers. If allowed, it will certainly be purchased by developers, and could potentially have hundreds of homes on it.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Roberts
29284 Lost Quartz Rd.
Polson MT 59860

From: [Andrew Briefer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon DEIS
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:17:13 PM

I applaud and fully support the preservation of the Bad Rock Canyon property. It is a critical habitat link between forest units of the Whitefish and Swan ranges and represents a critical water quality protective buffer between the urbanizing areas and the Flathead River.

Please continue your excellent work in preserving this unique and critical property.

Andrew Briefer
1503 Berne Rd
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: jdenton@gci.net
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments Regarding Bad Rock Acquisition
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:19:22 PM

I would like to offer my support for the Bad Rock acquisition and management followup by ADF&G. This project is a ray of hope in the Flathead County and Flathead Valley region where the rampant and uncontrolled development, nearly total disregard for wildlife and habitat by County and State government, and wholesale loss of Montana quality of life and values by outside interests are devastating crucial wildlife habitat. This Bad Rock project is token to the amount of conservation actions needed here and sets a valuable precedent for the need for this type of conservation activity. This project is but token mitigation for the damage being done on a grand scale in the Flathead region without appropriate mitigation and regulatory controls or even conscientious development. Thank you.

From: rmdolak@gmail.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:39:12 PM

Dear Kris,

I am in favor of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks purchasing, from the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant, the 772 acres of beautiful forest and wetland at the mouth of Bad Rock Canyon, in order to preserve it for wildlife management and public recreation. I have lived in Kalispell for 45 years and am very familiar with the Canyon, because I have passed through it many times on my way to Glacier Park, where I have hiked and backpacked hundreds of miles over the years. It would be a disaster if the Canyon were developed into a high-density area of houses and shops threatening this habitat for grizzly bears, elk, moose, and other wildlife who roam there, as well as bull trout in the Flathead River, which runs through the area. Please enlist my vote as a “yes” for purchasing those 772 acres. Thank you.

Roxanne Dolak
835 2nd Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901-5410
755-6765

From: jeaolson@cyberport.net
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Bad Rock WMA project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:42:46 PM

Like many other residents of the Flathead Valley, we strongly support the Bad Rock Canyon project, especially since it is adjacent to already protected land. It will protect a large piece of wildlife habitat, as well as helping protect the water quality of the Flathead River and Flathead Lake. If this project should fail to be approved, that 700 plus acres on the river would almost surely be developed rather quickly. We must not lose this opportunity.

Thank you.

Dan and Jeanne Olson
160 West Valley Acres
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Bonnie Katzman](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:58:36 PM

With the increase of population and the construction explosion it is even more important than ever to preserve all the natural areas available. Animals need areas like this to survive as do humans. So much of our wild areas are being cleared and we are seeing the effects of this on our climate and overcrowded parks. It's crucial to maintain these as natural areas when their availability is presented and open to purchase. Don't let this beautiful area get filled with condos, etc. Do the right thing for the present and future generations.

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

From: hikemontana@gmail.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:58:03 PM

Hello Ms. Temple,

Please consider my comment in support of the Badrock conservation project. I have spent time on that land in the past, and participated on a recent tour in which the Wildlife Management Area proposal was explained. I am strongly in favor of moving forward with this. This recent influx of growth and non-resident land grab in Flathead County certainly reinforces the need for protection of public land access and wildlife conservation areas.

Thank you,
Leslie Dillon
221 Shelter Valley Dr
Kalispell

Sent from my iPhone

From: mtgal88@gmail.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon project
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:12:45 PM

I strongly recommend FWP purchase the acreage with the resources delineated in the project documents. This area is a prime riparian area and provides habitat for many species close to Columbia Falls. If this land is not acquired by a government or non-profit agency, it will be swallowed up by the massive expansion of building occurring all over the county. It is highly desirable river front close to the airport and the entire valley..

This type of large pocket of wildland is critical to maintain species being pushed out by construction.

My only concern is the proper management of weeds on the land and along any trails and paths, The county is a very poor neighbor when it comes to weed management and I am not sure how good a job they would do as a consultant.

Barb Jeffs

From: [Coby Gierke](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:39:22 AM

Kris Temple,
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks,

I am writing to you today to express support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. Specifically, the Montana State Parks Foundation supports the proposed action described in Alternative A of the Draft Environmental Assessment.

Thank you,

Coby R. Gierke

Executive Director
Montana State Parks Foundation
400 W. Broadway Ave
Suite 100-424
Missoula, MT 59802
406.370.9868



From: [Rosemary McKinnon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon project
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:34:49 AM

Dear Kris,

I have had the opportunity to walk through the land at Bad Rock Canyon which is currently under consideration for board approval by the Fish Wildlife Commission and Land board approval. This opportunity sponsored by the Flathead Land Trust is an extraordinary chance to preserve open land adjacent to wilderness and the Flathead river in a rapidly growing urban area. It would be sheer folly not to make use of this opportunity.

With advance appreciation for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Rosemary McKinnon
Kalispell

From: [Shirley Folkwein](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 1:29:08 PM

Dear Kris,

This is a note in support of the planned Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area.

This 770-acre area rich in natural life is just north of my family's farm which lies along Highway 2 and south. Our farm is the south end of the wildlife corridor that extends north all the way to Bad Rock Canyon and beyond. If this CFAC property were to be developed into a subdivision it would have drastic consequences for the whitetail deer, grizzlies, black bears, elk, and the little guys like the birds and small mammals that frequent our farm and the open spaces to the north.

There is already a 55 acre subdivision being developed in this area just south of Highway 2 with 48 houses and individual septics, in the middle of the wildlife corridor. Hundreds of trees have been removed and the natural habitat frequented by the large & small animals has been destroyed. The 48 septic systems will adversely affect the water quality of the neighborhood and the Flathead River because of the shallow groundwater in this area. The CFAC property is all in the natural flood plain with shallow groundwater and should not be developable. With Fish, Wildlife & Park's acquisition of the property the land, water, wildlife and open space of this area would be protected as well as the health and well being of all living things in this neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Shirley Folkwein
285 Shooting Star Drive
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: diana@flathead.com
To: kris@flathead.com
Subject: "Flathead Lakes" [mailto:kris@flathead.com]
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 1:28:25 PM

Name: Diana L. Gray
Phone Number: (414) 540-1106
Email: gray.diana@gmail.com

Dear Kris,

I am a part-time MT resident near Lakeside and a member of the Flathead Lakers organization. At the Lakers' annual meeting last week in Polson, we learned more about the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. I am extremely supportive of this effort to purchase the 772 acre plot as a wildlife management area in order to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and public recreation access. If you wish to reply my email address is gray.diana@gmail.com.

Thanks for your efforts to protect this area and the Flathead's water quality.

Sincerely,
Diana L. Gray, M.D.
130 Blacktail Heights Rd
Lakeside, MT 59922
and 1619 Missouri Ave
St. Louis, MO 63104

From: [Scott Yeats](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 3:00:46 PM

Kris

I wanted to take the time to write and let you know that I fully support the acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA and look forward to having it be a special place in the Flathead for generations to come. As you know this is a critical piece of land for insuring good wildlife corridors and breaking up some of the current and future development areas. Thanks so much!

Scott Yeats

From: [Muffie Thomson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 9:55:14 AM

Good Morning Kris,

We would like to comment on the MFWP draft environmental assessment for the proposed Badrock Canyon Conservation Project. The assessment provides compelling arguments for the adoption of the project, which we firmly support.

We have enjoyed floating/fishing the 1.3 miles of Flathead River bordering the project for many years and were curious to explore the interior of the 772 acres. One July 22, we took advantage of a guided tour and were amazed by the diversity of the landscape and the importance of the wildlife habitat. After reviewing the draft EA, we have concluded that MFWP ownership and management is necessary to protect the river for critical Flathead Lake bull trout as well as the riparian areas of the river and spring fed creek.

We look forward to a successful outcome that will provide refuge for wildlife as well as two-legged nature enthusiasts.

Best regards,

Jack & Muffie Thomson
16 Wheat Grass Ln
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-249-3136

From: dblank1@cyberport.net
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:19:11 AM

When I visited the proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA in May, the amount of bird song was impressive! This is a rich wildlife area and an important corridor, both along the river for riparian species, and crossing the river for upland species. Crossing the river is especially fraught. Any creature trying to move from the Swan Range to the Whitefish Range needs to cross a highway and a railroad as well as a river, and get through increasing human development. This proposal would help maintain a linkage important to healthy wildlife.

People love it! Even though few knew that the trail is open, there were a surprising number of folks walking, running, and birding that morning, all of them with a smile on their face.

Please acquire this irreplaceable area and approve the proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA.

-- D. L. Blank
PO Box 953
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Fred Flint](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Conservation project
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:52:57 AM

I fully support the department's proposal to acquire the Bad Rock Canyon property. I have seen first hand it's importance as place for wildlife in a ever developing Flathead Valley. It also offers a unique opportunity for recreation. I encourage you to go forward with the proposal.

Fred Flint

From: [Courtney Stone](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:40:53 AM

I live just down the river from this project, and I offer 100% support! Very hopeful to see this come to fruition.

Cheers,
Courtney

Courtney Stone
Communications Director
406-387-5555

Glacier Guides and Montana Raft [\[glacierguides.com\]](http://glacierguides.com)

Download [The Insider's Guide to Glacier National Park \[glacierguides.com\]](#)!

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Eco-conscious rafting, hiking, biking, backpacking, fishing, chalet tours, equipment rentals, and lodging in and around [#GlacierNPS \[instagram.com\]](#).

Please: Recreate responsibly. Leave no trace. Know before you go. Plan ahead. Play it safe. Be kind. Be patient. Be respectful. And enjoy Summer 2021!

#RaftHikeFishBikeStay
#GlacierGuidesMTRaft

From: [Debo Powers](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:53:14 AM

To members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Land Board,

I am writing to show my strong support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. This project is very important to the Columbia Falls community and will provide outdoor recreation in a beautiful, undeveloped landscape close to the city. In addition to enjoyment by citizens and habitat security for wildlife, it will also contribute to the growing economy in Columbia Falls and the Canyon Communities.

As a former state legislator, I can vouch for the tremendous support from citizens and community organizations for this project. I have toured the site and have personally donated to this project.

Please support this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Debo Powers
11499 North Fork Road
Polebridge, MT 59928

From: [Linda Newgard](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Purchase of 772 acres of CFAC property
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 1:26:54 PM

Dear Kris,

I am writing in support of the FLT purchase of the CFAC acreage. Conserving this wildlife habitat not only protects the welfare of the area's animals, but preserves the beauty and peace of this area so near Glacier NP.

One more potential commercial or dense residential development would, in my opinion, be a brutal thing on this vital corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Newgard

From: [Nancy Stone](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 2:24:47 PM

Hello Kris,

I strongly encourage the FWP to approve the purchase of the Bad Rock Canyon tract for Wildlife Management. Earlier this summer, I toured the proposed management area with Paul Travis of Flathead Land Trust. The land, the river and the fish and animals all need protection from development. It is a pristine, diverse and beautiful property that should be saved for future generations.

Nancy Stone
Whitefish MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: jblord@interbel.net
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: jblord@interbel.net [John Lord](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 4:44:44 PM

Hello Kris,

I support FWP's proposal to purchase land near Bad Rock Canyon and to manage that land as a wildlife management area.

The potential conservation and public benefits have already been noted in the press. Montana's open spaces are quickly being lost to urban developments, and those areas should be preserved whenever possible. Also, I am concerned that a potential high-density real-estate development adjacent to the Flathead River would negatively impact water quality.

I recognize that Wildlife Management Areas need to be seasonally closed in order to minimize stressing animals, or to conduct various work projects. Yet I hope that the proposed Bad Rock WMA will include a network of trails and be kept open to the public for compatible recreational activities for the bulk of any given year.

Sincerely,

John Lord
Rexford, MT

From: [Rebecca Hughes](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: [Joe Mann](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon comment
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:56:34 PM

Hello,

My husband Joe Mann and myself definitely endorse the purchase of this property by MFWP. I have had an opportunity to visit this amazing property on a tour with Flathead Land Trust. We understand the importance of protecting and preserving this diverse piece of land. Its' accessibility to the public allows for enhanced understanding of the need for conservation of wild spaces especially when they are in close proximity to rapidly developing communities. We look forward to frequent visits and walks through this scenic slice of wild paradise.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hughes and Joe Mann
321-591-7792 / 321-501-7971

P.O. Box 4
Kila, MT 59920

Sent from my iPad

From: [Caleb Deitz](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 7:58:27 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing to indicate my support of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA acquisition. As a local land manager and Columbia Falls resident I can personally attest to the importance of this site for a number of reasons. As you are fully aware this WMA will offer landscape connectivity, manageable wildland urban interface and an excellent resource for the citizens of Columbia Falls. Thank you for your dedication to this project, I and my children look forward to enjoying this WMA for years to come.

Sincerely,

Caleb Deitz

From: com14@astabowen.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 9:25:56 AM

Public Comment on Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project:

I have walked the area proposed for acquisition and strongly support approval of this project.

First of all, the value of this land as a wildlife corridor is irreplaceable due to the basic geography of the canyon and valley.

Second, this project has been an extraordinary collaborative effort between public, private and corporate interests. Such broad support lays an excellent foundation for constructive use and management going forward.

Third, development trends in the region suggest that such an opportunity is unlikely to come again.

I hope this acquisition will receive prompt approval and proactive management to coordinate the various uses and values of the land.

'Asta Bowen
Somers, MT

From: [Alan Gratch](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:10:24 AM

As advocates for open spaces and preservation of the natural environment, we support conservation of the Bad Rock Canyon parcels. Please vote for approval and encourage all other decision-makers to vote approval.

Alan and Sallie Gratch, Logan Creek, Tally Lake Ranger District.

From: [Terri Smiley](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Environmental Assessment - Bad Rock Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:41:42 AM

I am writing to in support of the Environmental Assessment for the Bad Rock Conservation easement. I urge approval and full speed ahead on acquiring the easement.

I have lived in the Flathead Valley since 1991. My family homesteaded in Montana. I am a registered voter.

Thank you.

Terri Smiley
3020 Columbia Falls Stage
Columbia Falls MT 59912
406-250-1741

From: [Nancy Hyde](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:22:03 PM

Hello,

The purpose of the email is to voice support for the acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon land in Columbia Falls. The land is so very valuable for many reasons ... especially water quality but also for public enjoyment and to maintain open space in this fast growing county. Please approve the acquisition of this valuable parcel.

Nancy Hyde
Whitefish, MT

From: [Highwater](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 1:34:25 PM

Hi Kris,

I am wholeheartedly supporting the purchase of the Bad Rock property. It is vital to wildlife by providing them sanctuary and a migration corridor that is becoming increasingly fragmented.

It is no secret that the valley is becoming overrun with newcomers. I have heard the DMV has had 40,000 new driver's license applications since January. Housing is unobtainable. Demand for land is through the roof.

It would be irresponsible for FWP not to purchase this property. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to conserve critical habitator see it be totally developed within 1-2 years.

Part of the quality of life here IS the open spaces and wild preserved sections. Flathead Land Trust as well as other conservation groups like Ducks Unlimited (I am a district director), RMEF, and all the others also are behind conserving this large tract of land for future generations.

Sincerely

Scott R. Jahnke, DO

From: [Lorraine Carlson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021 8:33:43 AM

I am writing in support of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. I am **strongly in favor** of the purchase of the 772-acre project land which is slated to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area.

I was born in the Flathead and my brother continues to own the family farm there. We have friends who live along the Flathead River near Columbia Falls who will be directly affected by the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. We all spent many summers attending the United Methodist Camp on Flathead Lake and my immediate family often rents a place on Flathead Lake to use as a family vacation spot. My husband and four fishing buddies often enjoy week-long fishing adventures, as well.

We are very interested in wildlife management in the Flathead Valley. Protecting public recreation access, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality are critically important to our family. Please do vote to purchase the 772-acre project land.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Carlson
6314 Hillview Way
Missoula, MT 59803

From: [Salena Beckwith](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon conservation project
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 10:30:35 AM

We are in support of the FWP purchase of this area for wildlife conservation and recreation. We understand that funds are available for the purchase. Preserving this undeveloped area is an advantage to all of us who reside and recreate in this area.

Mark and Salena Beckwith
Columbia Falls, MT
Salena
406.249.8878

From: [heyimamira bb](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:36:59 PM

Hello my name is Chris StandingRock and I think it would be awesome if they purchased this area to protect access and for a wildlife management area! Thank you!

From: [Emma Wear](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Bad Rock Canyon Environmental Assessment
Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:41:55 PM

Hello,

After reading the draft environmental assessment on the proposed Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project, I wish to voice my strong support for this proposal.

Both as an aquatic ecologist and an avid paddler, I am impressed by the number of threatened and endangered species that this habitat corridor has the potential to benefit. Further, much of our local economy depends on the tourists who come to see pristine habitats and wildlife; it is to all of our advantage to maintain healthy populations of those charismatic organisms, rather than allowing this key passage to be sold off for likely development. I also support the Gateway to Glacier Trail, and maintaining public access to this land use is an additional compelling reason for FWP to acquire this property.

Thank you,
Dr. Emma Wear
Bigfork, MT

From: [Asta Bowen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:06:35 AM

Public Comment on Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project:

I have walked the area proposed for acquisition and strongly support approval of this project.

First of all, the value of this land as a wildlife corridor is irreplaceable due to the basic geography of the canyon and valley.

Second, this project has been an extraordinary collaborative effort between public, private and corporate interests. Such broad support lays an excellent foundation for both use and management going forward.

Third, development trends in the region suggest that such an opportunity is unlikely to come again.

I hope this acquisition will receive prompt approval and proactive management to coordinate the different uses and values of the land.

'Asta Bowen
Somers, MT

From: [Erik Alvarado](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 10:49:28 AM

My name is Erik Alvarado and I live in Missoula. I believe the FWP has the obligation to purchase this property to protect the integrity of the landscape

Erik Alvarado
1012 w pine st
Missoula mt 59802

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Monica Elser](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:44:06 PM

Dear Kris Tempel:

I and my family support the acquisition by MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks of the 800-acre Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project near Columbia Falls for the creation of a new Wildlife Management Area.

I have been fortunate to be able to tour this property and it is indeed a hidden gem of diverse habitats from healthy cottonwood galleries to wetlands and small creeks. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a piece of the Flathead Ecosystem that both animals and the growing number of people can use for generations to come. Ensuring more open spaces, especially in a growing community such as Columbia Falls, will allow both local residents and visitors to continue to have easy access to nature for hiking, biking, and fishing along the Flathead.

Sincerely,

Monica M. Elser

From: [Joel](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Purchase
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:51:09 PM

Dear Ms. Tempel,

Please add my enthusiastic support for acquiring approximately 772 acres of forest along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat, while providing free public recreation access. I can not think of a more timely and important conservation acquisition in the Flathead Valley at this time. I would also like to commend you, and everyone involved, for your skill, professionalism, and perseverance in helping to make this this potential acquisition a reality. So many of us appreciate all you do to preserve our state's natural resources now and for the future. Thank you for that hard work and dedication.

Joel Tohtz
195 Caroline Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

From: [Matt Holloway](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Conservation Project--YES!!
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 8:45:23 AM

Dear Kris,

I wholeheartedly approve the acquisition of the Bad Rock Conservation Project land, and want it to be known for record that I support the project moving forward.

Not only will this provide riparian habitat, animal corridors, and the landscape-level protection of which there needs to be more, but it will also keep the every-growing subdivisions out of this unique piece of land. Columbia Falls is growing quickly and spreading outwards every day. The protection of this particular corridor and landscape is critical.

Please let me know that you formally received this.

Thanks again for your time, effort, and attention!

Best,
Matt Holloway
836 10th Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

All best,
Matt Holloway
Education Consultant, Owner

406.270.7429
matt@hollowayeducation.com
www.hollowayeducation.com [hollowayeducation.com]
Holloway Educational Resources
-A College Path For Everyone-

From: [Rob & Carol](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] badrock canyon conservation project
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:27:48 PM

Dear Sir:

When we have an opportunity to acquire open space we should purchase it
The rate of growth and development will soon eliminate all such lands
and we will become an area that all these people are trying to escape.
Please purchase this extraordinary piece of land for the wildlife
corridor and the opportunity for people recreate in open outdoors.

Thank you for your time.

Robley Carr

550 4th Avenue East N.

Kalispell, Mt 59901

From: [Christina Bjergo](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 8:31:42 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. It is important to balance growth with ecologically minded land stewardship.

Thank you,

Christina Bjergo
Polson, MT

From: [Michele Tohtz](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon property acquisition
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 10:10:14 AM

Dear Ms. Tempel,

I am writing in full support of the proposal to acquire approximately 772 acres of forest along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls. Your efforts to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat while preserving recreational access are a clear benefit to everyone now. They will also immeasurably benefit future generations. Thank you for your efforts to make this acquisition a reality.

Michele Tohtz
195 Caroline Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

--

[Joel and Michele Tohtz](#)
[195 Caroline Road](#)
[Kalispell, Montana 59901](#)

From: [David Cohen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Conservation Project
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 2:37:22 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of Columbia Falls as well as a business owner with two retail spaces in Columbia Falls. I'd like to express my opinion regarding the Badrock project - the valley as well as the local area already have a serious shortage of actually affordable housing, the addition of more luxury housing only exacerbates this problem and will further add to the congestion, lack of skilled labor, and other issues that are resulting from the recent and ongoing influx of people. As a store owner I would stand to do better and better with all the new people and especially those with expendable income, however it really only increases stress. I vote for less development - and more quality of life as would be improved by ensuring that this precious piece of land stays that way. Please, please don't let this place resemble all the other prime riverfront towns! Let the animals have their space too, it is only right.

David Cohen

GENESIS KITCHEN

proprietor

www.genesis-kitchen.com [genesis-kitchen.com]

cell (575) 430-2420

store (406) 897-2667

From: [Onno Wieringa](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Badrock Canyon
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 7:38:47 AM

Good Morning

I think spending State money for the Badrock Canyon land is the right thing to do. There is plenty of available land for building more housing in the immediate area although only one last piece like this one. Not that this is a vote however I think the State of Montana is on the verge of a sound decision by supporting this purchase for all of us.

Onno Wieringa
9550 Hwy 2 East
Hungry Horse Montana

From: [Dean Marsh](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon WMA
Date: Sunday, September 5, 2021 10:55:08 AM

Dear Kris Tempel,
Having reviewed the draft environmental impact assessment of the proposed Bad Rock Canyon WMA, I fully support Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks purchasing this 772 acre property. Thank you for making my support part of the public record.

Sincerely,
Dean Marsh
Kalispell, MT

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

From: [Susan Wilkinson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Big Rock Conservation Project
Date: Sunday, September 5, 2021 4:26:05 PM

I feel so fortunate as I stand in Big Rock Cyn to have such an amazingly beautiful property in Columbia Falls. As growth in the Flathead Valley continues to soar, I ponder what a remarkable opportunity we have to preserve these lands from development. The possibilities of land usage for recreational interests far exceed biking and hiking. I also envision that it has great potential as a learning center for children and adults.

This project is a win/win for humans, wildlife and nature at its best.

Thank you a million times for all the hard work that has brought this neat to fruition.

From: [Jesse Johnston](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for the Bad rock conservation project
Date: Monday, September 6, 2021 9:26:22 PM

Hello my name is Jesse Johnston, I manage the Lucky Star Ranch. This is the ranch that borders the bad rock conservation project. Our ranch sits above the Cfac land you are trying to acquire. So I have a pretty accurate idea what's going on below me, on our pasture land and on the Cfac land. I'd like to comment on the bike trail. I think it is a good idea for it to continue all the way through. I also think there should be a shut off time, maybe in the fall. When The elk and deer are in rut. Possibly a shut off time in the winter, as the elk are wintering in that area. I'm not extremely solid on that, but it should be in conversation. Also I have worked hard with Cfac to help control weeds along the river. This is something that needs to be continued, and I am very serious about it. As far as hunting goes, might be important to think about how the hunters are going to interact with other people recreating down there at the same time. Right now fwp has slowed only one hunter a day to be down there at a time.

Thanks,
Jesse Johnston

From: [teresa.narduzzi](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:41:50 AM

Hello

Since I only get a penny for my thoughts, I would like to put my two cents in regarding the purchase of the Bad Rock Cayon land.

I strongly believe this project should go through. Too often land is sold to private landowners forever preventing anyone access to dip toes in the water or listen to the birds sing. This is such a beautiful, small, piece of land this should forever be preserved.

--406 885 0085

Thank you.

Teresa Narduzzi

From: [Sheila Welch](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:42:10 AM

Hello!

I'm writing in reference to the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. I would like to convey my strong support for this project. It would be such a great asset to Columbia Falls and a good way to preserve this land while providing opportunities for public use.

Thank you!
Sheila Welch (406)270-6755

From: [Bob Ratliff](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock canyon comments
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:43:38 AM

Hello,

I just wanted to leave a comment for the WMA proposal at bad rock. The only thing I think that should be restricted in the area is dogs. I have seen so many dogs off leash at parks in flathead county and people not cleaning up their dog waste that I think it would be a problem for the proposed WMA at bad rock. Furthermore, I think that having dogs there would cause a lot of the animals in the vicinity to push off. However, the only exception I would see would be for the youth hunters (I do not have kids so I have no skin in the game) for bird hunting.

Thank you,

Bob Ratliff

From: [Nancy Gresham](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:55:47 AM

Greetings,

With all of the pressure on the outdoor resources, it is even more important now to preserve every possible area possible. This as well as future generations will be grateful.

Thank you.

Nancy Gresham

From: [Clancy Cone](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:57:01 AM

We've been impressed with the beauty, the value to wildlife n the accessibility for hikers to enjoy a quiet, unique spot.

Learning the mechanisms supplying the water underground from the river made us realize how special this place is

This seems to be a very valuable site to preserve for the future

From: [Chris Peterson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:16:19 AM

I'd just like to send my support for the Bad Rock WMA. I had an opportunity to do a short film there with permission for a couple of months and can attest to its biodiversity and unique habitat. My only concerns would be to limit the number of trails to one or possibly two and to keep trails from active bald eagle nests. Also, camping should be prohibited as should any sort of motorized use on trails, including electric bicycles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Peterson
Columbia Falls

From: [Deirdre Coit](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:18:10 AM

I support this project! Please approve it. We are losing way too much open space as compared to when we moved here in 2005. We need to protect the corridors along the river and give our wildlife a chance to survive. At present we have 5 grizzly bears that pick off our choke cherry trees along the river. We fully intend to give them the opportunity to visit each year!

Please approve the Bad Rock Project!

Deirdre Coit
450 Sonstelie Road
Kalispell, MT
755-1006



[\[compass.com\]](http://compass.com)

From: [Joan Schmidt](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon property
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:24:31 AM

Hi Kris,

My husband and I have been on a tour with the Flathead Land Trust and recommend that this property remain open for valley residents and others. It is exceptional land and we have donated to keep it open. Please know that 6 members of this family support this Conservation Project.

Thank you, Joan Schmidt, Brent Higgins and family

From: [Janice Jackson-Moore](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:26:10 AM

Kris,

I want express my support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. My husband and I have walked the property a number of times and have witnessed herds of elk, as well as lots of birdlife in the area. It is an essential wildlife travel corridor and habitat, not to mention being an easily accessible public recreation area. In light of all the growth and development in the Flathead, we fully support and encourage this project and hope that the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Land Board will also support this project and see it through to completion.

It is a remarkable area that deserves protection and a real asset and gift to all who experience it.

Best regards,
Janice Jackson-Moore

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MT Outdoors](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:59:39 AM

I think I have already contacted you regarding the Bad Rock Conservation Project. But in case I have not, I wanted to contact you again that I fully support this project. As a member of the Flathead Land Trust I know that projects such as this one are very important to conserving our ecosystems and wildlife habitat. I hope it will have your support as well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Pipkorn
678 Trumbull Canyon Road
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-892-7457

From: [Connie Johnson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad rock conservation project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:03:51 AM

We are fully supportive of the Bad Rock conservation Project. It protects critical wildlife corridors.

Thank you for your efforts to create this conservation area.

Connie Johnson
George Losleben
Whitefish, My

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Support
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:31:13 AM

Hey Kris,

I fully support the proposed conservation project at Bad Rock Canyon to transition the property into a WMA. The project has all the objectives well balanced for people, the environment, and wildlife.

I support the proposed public access closure to ensure wintering wildlife are not disturbed during a critical time for their energy reserves and offspring, I fully support recreation opportunities and non-motorized public access the rest of the year on trails created by Gateway to Glacier, and I fully support the removal of development rights from the landscape.

This is the type of project future generations will be so thankful we completed now. Thank you.

Although these views might be shared by Whitefish Legacy Partners, these are my own personal comments.

Alan Myers-Davis
Director of Development
Whitefish Legacy Partners

From: [Nora Jaffe](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:35:08 AM

Friends:

I write in support of the Bad Rock Canyon Proposed Wildlife Management Area Acquisition.

This land is close to areas of growing habitation which makes it both desirable to preserve and threatens future urban development if it is not.

If acquired for management and preservation:

- riparian and wetland areas will be maintained
- the public will gain an additional managed area for recreation
- threatened species will be protected
- animal corridors will be preserved and
- adjacent areas of conserved land will be enhanced

Thank you for your consideration and positive action on this matter.

Nora Taylor Jaffe
Bigfork area (Swan Lake) property owner

From: [Dale Crosby Newman](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment- Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:52:14 AM

I am in Favor of the conservation easement for the Bad Rock property. I do have concerns as to how the property is used going forward. In the past the property was fully closed to public access creating a winter range for Elk and Deer. Prior to the FWP allowing access for hunting, I would see an Elk herd of up to 150 animals on the property for the majority of the winter. It is now rare to see Elk using the property. It takes very little pressure to push the animals from the area. I have further concerns on the conflict between the walking trail and hunters. The land will inevitably become used more as people discover the amenity. I am already seeing 10-20 people per day walking the road. Many with dogs running free. I don't see how Hunting will fit this acquisition in the near future. I support the protection of the resource but see a major problem in the conflict of use.

Best regards, Dale Crosby Newman

From: [Marianne](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:55:00 AM

I wish to voice my support for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project.
Marianne Madler
920 Dakota Avenue
Whitefish MT 59937

Sent from my iPhone

From: badrockbooklady@gmail.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:11:28 PM

Hello!

I am writing in support of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. This is such an amazing opportunity for our community, the wildlife and the preservation of natural places. We had to opportunity to tour the area with the Upper Flathead Neighborhood group. It an amazing piece of land with such diversity. I grew up in this area and my Aunt and Uncle's property looked down on this land from across the river. It has always been dear to my heart! The chance to preserve the natural integrity of that area and give wildlife and all of nature a bigger space to breathe is one that we need to make sure does not slip through our fingers.

I am in full support of the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project!

With much sincerity and hope,

Cynthia Ritter
Bad Rock Books, LLC
406-892-0515

Thanks to all who have voiced support to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) for the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project through the comment period which is open on the [draft environmental assessment](#) for the project. If you have not had a chance to comment, please do so! If you commented last fall during the scoping period please comment again as comments received through the scoping process last fall will not be considered for the Environmental Assessment process.

Your support through commenting on the Environmental Assessment is critical to show the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Land Board the community support for the project – we need the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Land Board approval to complete the project. The comment period is open through Sept. 8. Please send your comments to Kris Tempel at MFWP (ktempel@mt.gov or Bad Rock Canyon WMA, MFWP, Attn: Kris Tempel, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901). Thanks so much!

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

From: [B Watt Jorck](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:27:26 PM

Dear Kris Tempel:

As a homeowner near Columbia Falls, I was thrilled to hear about the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. What a wonderful opportunity to both protect the water and fish therein as well as crucial wildlife habitat for protected, endangered and just enjoyable animals. The bonus is that it will provide free public recreation access to our Montana nature while protecting it from (ugly, harmful, non-ecologic) urban or manufacturing development.

This is clearly a win-win. And because the project is already mainly funded (perhaps fully funded now?) by various public and private parties, I cannot think of a single reason for the Montana FWP not purchasing the property and protecting it as a wildlife management area.

Please support this purchase and protect our beautiful Montana wilderness and its natural inhabitants.

Thank you so much.

--

B Watt Jorck
MT Hwy 40 W
Columbia Falls, MT

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain.

From: [Cheryl Moore](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:04:24 PM

Dear Kris,

I fully support the addition of the Bad Rock Canyon project to be managed by you folks for the betterment of the environment for people and the wildlife in Montana!! This kind of habitat is crucial to save not only for future generations but the survival of so many species of wildlife. What a wonderful thing to have happen, when it really does come true!

Thanks for all you do,
Cheryl Moore
Rollins, Montana

From: [Mary Devenny](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:11:51 PM

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like to lodge my interest in seeing the Montana Fish and Wildlife dept. manage the 772 acre Bad Rock Canyon acreage as a wildlife management area to protect our recreation access, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

If there is anything else I can do assist in helping to make this happen, or you make my voice heard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mary Devenny

859 St Andrews Dr

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

613-725-6529

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: [Tamara Balkenbush](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:37:14 PM

Hello

I support the purchase of this land by FWP.

Tammy Balkenbush

POLSON, MT

406-314-9272.

Powered by Cricket Wireless

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: nmcrew@aol.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Conservation Project
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:41:29 PM

I am writing to express my support for the Bad Rock Canyon conservation Project.
I have previously donated money to the Flathead Land Trust in support of this project.
As the population in the valley continues to grow, I feel it is very important to conserve areas such as this for the protection of wild life and to offer opportunities for our residents to experience unspoiled areas such as this

Marcia Manning
nmcrew@aol.com

From: [Helen Pilling](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock canyon conservation area.
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:32:41 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm strongly and whole heartedly in favor of protecting the land that once we was CFAC, on the east side of the Flathead river. Thanks to the Flathead Land trust and many others who have been working so hard, it can be saved from development forevermore.

The Bad Rock canyon River corridor is a crucial migration route and habitat for wildlife that is being crowded out from all directions. Non motorized public access will encourage the healthy working interface between the highway and the river.

Please approve the Bad Rock canyon conservation project. With your help we, the concerned and conscientious citizens of the flathead valley, will continue to work for the safety and protection of wild lands and wildlife, neither of which can speak for themselves.

Thank you sincerely, Helen Pilling

From: [Katherine Holley](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:08:24 PM

Hello, I am writing to express strong support for Montana FWP's acquisition of the CFAC land in Bad Rock Canyon. This is an exceptional opportunity to preserve land for wildlife habitat and water health. I can think of no reason to not proceed. PLEASE move forward with this land conservation project!

Katherine Holley
3874 MT-40, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: [Bonnie Poux](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment regarding Bad Rock Canyon Environmental Assessment
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:31:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Kris,

I want to voice my support regarding the Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project. I am in full support of preserving this area as a wild space, free from development. It needs protection, and it appears that MFWP is in a position to do that with strong support from our community and vital donors.

I have lived in the Flathead Valley for 31 years, and have seen extreme changes in that amount of time. The rampant development that has happened in the past few years, and especially in the last 2 years is disturbing to say the least...

The fact that this land (Bad Rock Canyon area) was 'protected' from development by the aluminum plant for so long is a blessing, and a curse. Could it be developed into housing and hotels and gas stations and development into 'Anywhere USA'? Sure, just look at the valley now...

Could it be developed into human habitation even with the toxins left by the aluminum plant? Probably, even with those concerns, because of greed.

Are we going to let the lights of the stars continue to be more erased by more houses & condos and street lights and traffic - further confusing and causing death to our beloved wild life and the winged ones?

Should we, however, save the open space for the creatures that were here before us?
YES OF COURSE!

This area is a vital corridor for the amazing wildlife that call this place home. Please leave it undeveloped.

As a gateway to Glacier National Park, we owe it to ourselves, as well as to our visitors and our future generations to have this open space to enjoy, to respect, to protect and to learn from.

Thank you,

Best regards,
Bonnie Poux
President, Access Organics
Office: 406-758-6620
Cellular: 406-260-7545
Bonnie.poux@accessorganics.com



From: [Jon Moe](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Black Rock
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 7:06:32 AM

I support the acquisition plan. This is a vital fishery and recreational area...recreational and economically.

Jon Moe
1065 Cap Road
Helena, MT 59602

From: [Christopher Holdhusen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Conservation Project support
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:16:28 AM

I strongly support the conservation of this land on the Flathead river for multiple use, it's a fantastic opportunity.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Stevie Burton](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment- Bad Rock Canyon WMA proposed acquisition
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:38:31 PM

I am writing in support of acquiring the 772 acre property in Columbia Falls to be managed as the Bad Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area. This is an important wildlife corridor and would also protect a 1.3 mile stretch of Flathead River frontage and the adjacent wetland and riparian areas that would otherwise be threatened by development. This is a rare gem of land in the Flathead Valley.

I would also like to express gratitude to CFAC/Glencore for providing this opportunity and considering the public interest by giving the State the option to purchase this property.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Burton
Kalispell, MT

From: [Steve Kono](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Cc: [Colleen Konopatzke](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BAD ROCK CANYON CONSERVATION
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:41:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

HELLO MFWP, I WOULD LIKE TO VOICE MY OPINION ON THE WFMP PURCHASING THAT 772 ACRES. I AM A 60 YEAR OLD MALE. I AM A BORN AND RAISED RESIDENT OF COLUMBIA FALLS. THIS LAND IN QUESTION IS TRULY MY BACK YARD. I AM A VERY ACTIVE OUTDOORSMEN. I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS ON THIS PROPERTY OBSERVING THE WILDLIFE IT HAS TO OFFER. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE PROTECT THIS AREA. THERE IS DIVERSE ECO SYSTEM THERE FOR MANY SPECIES. FOR OVER 45 YEARS I HAVE WALKED IN AND WATCHED ELK HERDS THAT LIVE THERE. MANY WHITE TAIL DEER. ABUNDANT BEAVER POPULATION. BEAR, FOX, MARMOTS AND MANY OTHER ANIMALS. THERE IS DOZENS OF DIFFERENT BIRD SPECIES THAT LIVE THERE ALSO. MUCH OF THIS PROPERTY HAS BE PROTECTED BY PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND WITH ARCO COMPANY ALSO KEEPING IT OFF LIMITS EXCEPT WALK IN. IT HAS BEEN VERY WELL TAKEN CARE OF THROUGH THE YEARS AND THAT MUST CONTINUE. I STRONGLY SUPPORT MFWP MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PURCHASE. IT IS CRITICAL THIS AREA IS PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY JUST LIKE MY FAMILY HAS DONE FOR THE LAST 120 YEARS. MY FAMILY HOMESTEADED PROPERTY IN BADROCK AREA IN 1886. MANY GENERATIONS OF LOCALS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE APART OF THIS WILD LIFE SANCTUARY. IT IS A VERY SPECIAL PIECE OF LAND AND WE NEED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN THIS AREA THRU THE LAST 50 YEARS PLEASE CALL ME I WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP.

Thank you,

Steve Kono
Penco Power Products
Parts & Acc. Manager
406-755-6229
pencopartsmgr@centurytel.net



From: [Vern Jorck](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:09:19 PM

Dear Ms. Tempel

I am a property owner in Columbia Falls. I am encouraging Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to finalize the purchase of approximately 772 acres of forest along 1.3 miles of the Flathead River near Columbia Falls to protect water quality and important fish and wildlife habitat, while providing free public recreation access. The property would be protected as a Wildlife Management Area under this proposal. The property is winter range for elk, moose, and white-tailed deer. The property is highly developable and threatened by the rapidly growing city of Columbia Falls, but would be protected as a Wildlife Management Area under this proposal. The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) has decided to dispose of this property. Completion of the project would safeguard vital habitat and a travel corridor for bull trout and grizzly bears, Endangered Species Act-listed Threatened species found on the property.

I can think of no reason not to proceed with this project.

Sincerely,
Werner W. Jorck
3874 Hwy 40 W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: [Kristen Sims Barbaree](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Badrock Canyon Land Purchase
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:53:12 PM

Hi,

I am writing in support of MT FWP acquisition of the Bad Rock Canyon WMA in Columbia Falls. This property will serve future generations with enjoyment of public lands, and provides spectacular habitat for area wildlife.

Thanks for reading,

Kristen Barbaree

Columbia Falls, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sheena Pate](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bad Rock Canyon Conservation Project
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:21:28 PM

Good afternoon Kris,

The Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council is in support of MT FWP purchasing the 772-acre Bad Rock project land. We were able to join a tour with an array of stakeholders earlier this year and were taken back that this incredibly diverse wildlife habitat was in such close proximity to the heart of Columbia Falls. This property managed as a wildlife management area will not only secure critical wildlife habitat, but ensure outstanding water quality. As Flathead Valley housing development continues at record pace it's more important than ever to protect key wildlife corridors, complex hydrological areas and unique front country recreation opportunities.

By MT FWP acquiring this property there is an added benefit of providing quiet recreation with outstanding values that can't be experienced elsewhere within close proximity to town. This broadens the community's connection to the great outdoors and provides a living classroom for those visiting. The benefit of having public lands near communities is an economic asset attracting people and businesses.

The draft Environmental Assessment for the acquisition addresses concerns of balancing the protection of wildlife habitat and movement with recreation. We hope there will be interpretative signage at trailheads conveying the importance of this unique ecosystem, in addition to the posting of rules and regulations. Montanans overwhelmingly support conservation of wildlife migration corridors and this project appears to do that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers,
Sheena Pate

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