

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement Environmental Assessment Public Hearing

Libby City Hall, Libby, MT

July 14, 2021 – 6:00 pm

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

Commenter 1:

“Dorian Boling from Libby, I’m here representing my family because they’re on a big hike today. I just want to say me and my entire family support this easement and any future easements cause it’s really important to keep the public access around here cause so much of it’s blocked and it’s here in Montana for hunters and hikers and I just want to say we support it.”

Commenter 2:

“Joe L. As long as it doesn’t block off any public access, I support it. Ya know, as long as public access is always allowed on Stimson property, or who’s ever property, ya know, I think that’s a pretty important thing. It’s there for us to enjoy.”

Commenter 3:

“Bruce Vincent and I’d like to, I support the proposed action alternative. And encourage the state to adopt that as quickly as possible. *inaudible* ... supports public access and allows the land to retain its re-growing potential.”

Commenter 4:

“Rick Johnson. I think Alternative A is the way to go. We don’t want to see houses spring up all over the place out there and that’s what’s gonna happen if this land gets sold or traded or whatever. The fish and game people aren’t going to have any control over it. We need to leave it the way it is. I agree with proposal A. Thank you.”

To ktempel @ mt.gov

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement

Comments Must Be Received By

July 28, 2021

COMMENT FORM

Name: Karen Sheets
 Address: (Street) 215 Grove St (PO Box 551)
 (City/State/Zip) Thompson Falls, MT 59873
 E-mail Address Karen59873@yahoo.com

Please submit your comments in the following space. Attach additional information to this form if you wish.

I fully support Alternative A to purchase the conservation easement from Stinson Lumber Co.

It's important to keep wildlife connectivity corridors and limit human encroachment into wildlands. This is especially important considering the recent upswing in Montana's population.

The conservation ~~act~~ easement will stay on this property in perpetuity and that is critical since Stinson may decide to sell to another entity.

I hope the remaining purchase price of the easement can be attained.

Please leave your comments with us this evening or mail to address on reverse side of this form. Thank you



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
MONTANA**

July 27, 2021

Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
PO Box 9257
Missoula, MT 59807

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II
Conservation Easement
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn: Kris Tempel
490 N. Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: ktempel@mt.gov

RE: Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement Proposal

The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (MT BHA) submits this comment in strong support of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' (FWP) proposal to purchase a conservation easement on 27,289 acres of Stimson Lumber Company land near Libby, Montana. MT BHA represents approximately 3,000 dues-paying Montana members who care deeply about public fish and wildlife habitat, public access and fair chase hunting and fishing practices. We strive to protect large parcels of backcountry fish and wildlife habitat, as well as the opportunity for fair chase hunting and fishing experiences.

As stated in the Draft Environmental Assessment as provided by FWP, the proposed conservation easement would protect important key winter-range habitat and increase landscape connectivity for the movement of elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer and moose. In addition, the proposed easement would allow Stimson Lumber Company to retain ownership of the timberland while also securing public access in perpetuity. Preserving these public recreational opportunities is of high importance to our community, as the Draft EA states that the land currently provides 26,500 days per year of public hunting and angling use. It is for this reason that BHA has offered written comments in support of numerous Forest Legacy Program-funded conservation easements, including our 2019 written support for this proposal and the FY21 Forest Legacy Program application to support the purchase.

Throughout our great state and much of the rural West, recent global events have triggered a surge in property values. That fact alone makes it even more imperative that our organization lend our support to the approach of collaborative funding mechanisms for this project including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Forest Legacy Program, in addition to the landowner considering selling at below-market value.

For all of these reasons, Montana BHA offers this comment in support of the FWP Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement as currently proposed in the Draft EA published in June 2021.

Sincerely,

Molly VandeVoort, Flathead Board Member
The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/MONTANA_BHA
MONTANA@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG

7/5/2021

To Ms. Tempel and Agency:

Re.: Kootenai Forestland Phase II Conservation Easement

The proposed Kootenai Forestland Phase II Conservation Easement should be approved. The area preserves habitat for many species, such as wolves that are threatened under the Endangered Species Act, Grizzly Bears, Bull Trout and Canada Lynx.

Hunting will continue should this easement is finalized. Stimson Lumber's careful logging practices will also continue. Good stewardship of these uses preserves the character of the land while providing valuable work, recreation, and revenue.

A mainstay of this easement is that it will join the Thompson River Conservation Easement, Kootenai Valley Conservation Easement, and other adjoining conservation easements. Adding the Kootenai area will help guard against real estate development which would threaten the area's integrity.

I stand with many other Montana citizens who value our land. Conservation is necessary to preserve the Montana we love.

Please approve the Kootenai Forestland Phase II Conservation Easement.

Sincerely,

Gail Shay Linne
106 Murray Avenue
Whitefish, Montana 59937

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. comments on the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. (FWI) strongly supports the proposed conservation easement between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Stimson Lumber Company on 27,929 acres of forest lands in Lincoln County. Stimson acquired these lands from Weyerhaeuser in 2017 and 2018. As shown by recent sales, corporate timberlands in northwest Montana are undergoing major transitions in ownership and potentially use. That could have a dramatic impact on wildlife, habitat and hunting and angling opportunities. The proposed CE will remove the residential development potential from the identified lands, essentially preserving the status quo on those lands.

Converting those lands to residential properties would fragment wildlife habitat, increase wildlife conflicts and markedly decrease public access.

The identified lands border on Kootenai Forest lands for 109 miles and share 16 miles of border with the Thompson-Fisher Conservation Easement. Protecting the Stimson lands protects not only those lands but the ecological integrity of the adjacent lands. The identified lands encompass a 40 mile migratory corridor and high value winter range important for several ungulates. The lands are also home to several threatened species. The lands also would protect 14 miles of streams and adjacent riparian habitat which is crucial seasonal habitat. And the lands are adjacent to nearly 200,000 acres of other conservation easements that protect wildlife, habitat and ongoing forest management.

Stimson Lumber Company has been a good neighbor. They practice responsible forest management, the lands are projected to produce 2-3 mmbf of lumber annually sustaining 4 full-time workers and up to 50 seasonal workers. Under current management, the lands are also projected to produce more than \$2 million annually for recreation including hunting and angling. Stimson has a reasonable public recreational use policy.

This proposed Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation easement would help stitch together a larger framework of protected lands that protect wildlife and their habitat, protect public access including hunting and angling and would protect healthy forest lands that contribute to the local economy. Flathead Wildlife, Inc. strongly endorses this conservation easement.

Jim Vashro, President

Flathead Wildlife, Inc.



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

July 22, 2021

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Region 1
Kris Tempel
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Kootenai Forestlands Phase 2 Conservation Easement Draft EA

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is Montana'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.

The 27,289 acres within the proposed conservation easement are home to a wide array of wildlife species and recreation opportunities. This easement would protect critical winter habitat and migratory corridors for elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and moose while also providing habitat for lynx, grizzly bears, and bull trout in addition to several species of nongame. Additionally, MWF has a significant number of members who either live near, or recreate in, areas proposed under this conservation easement and will benefit from continued public access to these lands.

Northwest Montana has an active timber industry that provides income to rural communities and Stimson Lumber has provided jobs for Montanans while sustainably managing timber for years now. Conservation easements, such as this one, will ensure the public have continued opportunities to hunt, fish, and recreate on private timber lands while also allowing sustainable timber harvest that supports these rural economies to continue.

MWF strongly supports the proposed Kootenai Forestlands Phase 2 Conservation Easement and we thank FWP for the opportunity to voice support of this project. We also would like to thank Stimson Lumber for continuing to place a high value on conserving Montana's forests and recreation opportunities. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Eric Clewis, MWF's Western Montana Field Coordinator, at eclewis@mtwf.org.

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



F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Manufacturers

Box 1429 Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone (406) 892-7005 Fax (406) 892-1612

www.stoltzelumber.com

July 6, 2021

Kris Tempel
ktempel@mt.gov
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Ms. Tempel,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Draft EA and the associated +/-27,000-acre conservation easement under consideration with Stimson Lumber Co. in Lincoln County. Our review of the Draft EA shows a comprehensive consideration of the project. We encourage you to not under state the social and economic benefits of conservation of these working landscapes.

Stimson's private timber ownership in Lincoln County provide economic, community-oriented, and ecological benefits. The culture and economy of NW Montana is greatly influenced by the traditional open access to these industrial forestlands. There is a unique, and likely short-lived opportunity to work with the owner of these lands to conserve the historical working forest and public access these lands have provided.

Placing these lands under a conservation easement will ensure these lands remain working timberlands that provide jobs in the woods and fiber for local mills while ensuring healthy forests continue to provide clean water, clean air and healthy wildlife habitat. Our friends, neighbors and employees will be able to access 27,000 acres of open space for non-commercial, non-motorized recreation, including hunting, fishing, berry picking, or just exploring. In addition to the economic and recreational benefits, these forestlands protect the landscape for its natural scenic values and fish and wildlife habitat.

Maintaining working landscapes is essential to maintaining the viability of the forest management infrastructure in NW Montana. As we have seen in so many western states, the ability to manage our public and private lands for wildfire, water, wood, wildlife and recreation becomes uneconomical without a robust forest products industry infrastructure. Projects like these provide multiple benefits to public and private lands alike. These benefits are rarely given adequate consideration.

Stoltze has experienced firsthand how quality of life and the economy in NW Montana has been enhanced through previous working lands conservation projects. Thank you for your efforts on this once in a lifetime opportunity to protect the 27,000 acres within the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Project. If you have any questions, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Paul R. McKenzie
Vice President, General Manager



Good for you. Good for our forests.
www.sfi-program.org
SFI-00160



Member Since 1966



Charter Member

WRH NEVADA PROPERTIES, LLC
P.O. Box 376
Rexburg, ID 83440
(208) 351-6487

July 28, 2021

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
ktempel@mt.gov
(406) 751-4573 - Mobile
(406) 752-5501 - Office

VIA U.S. AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Attention: Kris Tempel
Reference: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II
Conservation Easement
Subject: Public Comment Period

Dear Ms. Tempel:

I am the Manager of WRH Nevada Properties, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company ("WRHNP"), which is the owner of approximately 821,500 acres of deeded real property interest, private Mineral Estate properties located in northwestern Montana.

It is my understanding that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks ("FWP") and Stimson Lumber Company ("Stimson"), are currently engaged in negotiations for what is being referred to as the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement Project, which aims to place a Conservation Easement over 27,289 acres of land in northwestern Montana to the east and south of Libby, Montana. Approximately 3,560 acres of the real property proposed to be placed under the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement are covered by WRHNP's deeded Mineral Estate.

This correspondence is in response to FWP's June 2021 Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement and serves to put FWP and Stimson on formal notice that the proposed Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement is subject to WRHNP's existing and dominant deeded mineral rights. The Montana Supreme Court has expressly held that the mineral estate and the remaining estate are not of equal dignity and that the mineral estate is the dominant estate under Montana law. (*Hunter v Rosebud County* (1989) 240 Mont. 194, 198.) Further, "Montana law permits the owner of a dominant mineral estate to use reasonably the surface estate in the production of the mineral." (*Burlington Resources Oil & Co. LP v. Lang and Sons Inc.* (2011) 361 Mont. 407, 412; see also *Western Energy Co. V. Genie Land Co.* (1981) 195 Mont. 202, 209 ["It is obvious...that a mineral reservation carries with it implied rights of use of the surface which are not necessarily 'exploring,' 'mining,' or 'extracting,' but may be indirectly related to those activities"].)

Stimson has never owned the deeded real property mineral interests on the subject WRHNP property. WRHNP will not allow any trespass or conversion of WRHNP's mineral or surface entry rights, and WRHNP will not permit any conservation easements to be placed over WRHNP's Mineral Estate that could in any way undermine WRHNP's existing mineral or surface entry rights.

WRHNP's deeded Mineral Estate originates from fee simple lands originally purchased by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company ("Anaconda") from the Northern Pacific Railroad beginning in 1899. Anaconda and Big Blackfoot Milling Company subsequently sold and conveyed the surface estate while reserving the mineral estate in these lands through many transactions to many buyers which created many mineral deeds. Anaconda conveyed the surface estate in the lands relevant to this letter and the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement to timber company J. Neils Lumber Company in 1956. Anaconda reserved to itself and all successors and assigns the real property Mineral Estate along with the right to access, explore for, and mine any and all mineral commodities present. In many of the conveyances, including the J. Neils Lumber Company deed, Anaconda also included surface "buy back" provisions covering the entire approximate 3,560 acres, giving Anaconda, in addition to the rights provided by Montana Law, the right to repurchase the surface estate for mining purposes.

WRHNP legally succeeded to Anaconda's deeded real property mineral interest, surface entry, and surface buyback rights when WRHNP acquired its approximately 821,500 acre Mineral Estate from CR Montana via a bankruptcy proceeding sale in 2016. Although we acknowledge that Stimson has the right to sell or grant Stimson's surface estate to whomever Stimson chooses, WRHNP wants all parties to be aware that no one but WRHNP can grant away any of WRHNP's legal rights to the deeded Mineral Estate and WRHNP's related surface entry and

surface buyback rights. Please be advised that WRHNP will enforce these rights to the fullest extent of the law.

The many deeds that convey WRHNP its vast Mineral Estate are very different and quite exceptional from most mineral interest conveyance deeds since, as explained above, in most instances convey to WRHNP in addition to the deeded mineral interest, the right to “buy back” or repurchase the surface estate property for exploration or mining purposes. The opinion of WRHNP’s attorneys and in discussion with special counsel for the Internal Revenue Service, when a third-party interest has been deeded the right to reacquire the surface estate, it would be impossible to guarantee perpetuity for purposes of a conservation easement.

With the purchase of the 821,500 acre deeded Mineral Estate in 2016, WRHNP received a vast amount of mineral deed and mineral information for the Mineral Estate properties. Historically this information was unusable because it had been warehoused in a building at a reclaimed mine site, in boxes, on shelves, in desks and in file cabinets that contained hundreds of thousands of pages of mineral deed, mineral exploration data, maps, reports and other information pertaining to WRHNP’s vast Mineral Estate. Mr. Charles “Casey” Ross with the help of six geology GIS interns spent years organizing and compiling all of the information into a very usable database with over 400 Gigabytes of data. The information dates from the late 1800’s and includes more than a century’s worth of mineral property information compiled by some of the world’s largest mining companies that previously owned the Mineral Estate, other mining companies that were in joint venture with the Mineral Estate owners, and mining companies that leased property from the Mineral Estate owner for mineral exploration. The information, mapping, reporting and exploration data in the GIS database has always been held privately, is proprietary and adds significant value to the Mineral Estate properties. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to perform a substantiated and valid mineral interest remoteness study on the deeded WRHNP mineral property without this information. None of this information is in the public domain and would not be available to anyone attempting to perform a ‘so remote as to be negligible’ opinion. In fact, there is very little mineral information, if any, concerning the WRHNP Mineral Estate in the public domain since this property has been held privately for well over a century.

The Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement state that a significant portion, \$6,000,000.00 of funding for the Easement will be provided by USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. It is WRHNP’s understanding that the Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines FS-1088 dated May 2017 require that during project development the State shall evaluate title and third-party interests. To date, WRHNP has not been contacted concerning the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines state, “The minerals ownership must be determined before acquisition, and if there are severed mineral interests, then the outstanding mineral interests must be acquired to the extent possible. In the case where the mineral rights are not, or cannot be, acquired, a determination by a qualified geologist must be obtained as to the likelihood of mineral development (see Section 8 - Project Eligibility and Development for additional information on title and third-party interests). The acquisition can proceed if the possibility of mineral development is ‘so remote as to be negligible’. If severed mineral rights cannot be acquired, and those severed rights pose a threat to surface disturbance (that is, the “remoteness” standard cannot be met), that portion of the property is not eligible. Limited (impact, footprint, duration) oil and gas extraction might be permissible if it is determined that the conservation values can be protected and the activity will not have negative impacts. Surface mining must be excluded from FLP tracts except for gravel sites in support of allowed activities on the property and, on a case-by-case basis, on adjacent properties where such uses are in support of those same conservation values, for example, reciprocal road-maintenance agreements for timber management.”

Had WRHNP been contacted, as it appears the Forest Legacy Implementation Guidelines suggest, its geologist could have provided information pertaining to the valuable mineral interest potential that the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement property includes. It appears that the Forest Legacy Implementation Guidelines require that the mineral property owner be contacted with regard to acquisition of the severed mineral interests and, if they cannot be acquired, then a qualified geologist must be obtained to determine the likelihood of mineral development. If it is determined that mineral development does not meet the “remoteness” standard, the property is not eligible for Forest Legacy funding.

The Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement Appendix C: Draft Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Deed of Conservation Easement Section B. Departments Rights, Paragraph 1. Preserve and Protect. To preserve, protect, and enhance by mutual agreement, in perpetuity, the Conservation Values subject, however, to the rights reserved by the Landowner in this Easement in Section C below, and further subject to all third-party rights of record in and to the Land that are not subordinated to the terms and conditions of this Easement. In recognition of Montana law on this point, the proposed conservation easement under landowner rights provides: ‘If a third party owns or leases the oil, natural gas, or any other mineral substance at the time this Easement is executed, and their interests have not been subordinated to the Easement, the Landowner must notify the Department as soon as practical after Landowner becomes aware of any proposed exploration or extraction activity by such third party, which is not subject to the terms of this Conservation Easement unless expressly subordinated thereto. Landowner and the Department shall confer to review the proposed activity and to determine proposals to best mitigate any potential impact on the Land

and the Conservation Values of the proposed activities. Subject to Montana Code Annotated §82-10-504, Landowner and the Department shall subsequently cooperate in an effort to encourage the third party to adopt recommended mitigating measures in the third party's exploration and development activities.

This Conservation Easement does not restrict any third parties owning or leasing any of the oil, natural gas, or any other mineral substances under the Land from a right of ingress or egress or prevent such third parties use and occupancy of the surface of the Land. Nothing herein shall require the Landowner to indemnify the Department for exploration or extraction activity by any third-party mineral interest owner.'

While WRHNP does have the third-party legal right to develop its subsurface mineral interest, a conservation easement and the interests promoted by conservation easements are directly adverse to the interests of the WRHNP deeded Mineral Estate. The proposed Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement would place negative restrictions or prohibitions on the type and magnitude of development and will impact the value of WRHNP's Mineral Estate. Although the Landowner and the Department might try to encourage mitigating measures in the third party's exploration and development activities, WRHNP would not be bound by any such conservation easement. WRHNP's deeded Mineral Estate interests are senior and recorded many years prior to any provisions that may be contained in the proposed conservation easement for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement Area. The Montana Code Annotated §82-10-504 that is referenced appears to only be relevant to oil and gas developers or operators and WRHNP mineral interests do not include hydrocarbons.

Internal Revenue Code Section 170(h): National Perpetuity Standards For Federally Subsidized Conservation Easements *d. Mineral Restrictions* states: "Section 170(h) as originally enacted provided that, in the case of a contribution of any interest where there is a retention of a *qualified mineral interest* (defined as subsurface oil, gas, or other minerals and the right to access such minerals), the conservation purpose will not be treated as protected in perpetuity if at any time there may be extraction or removal of minerals by any surface mining method. This surface mining prohibition presented a problem for conservation easement donations with respect to land where the mineral estate had been severed from the surface estate. In some locations, separation of the estates was common and had occurred many years before the proposed donation of the conservation easement. In addition, in many cases the often unknown owners of the mineral estate were unlikely to exercise their extraction rights because either no known mineral interests existed or extraction of any known mineral interests was not commercially feasible. To permit landowners owning such severed estate lands to claim tax benefits for conservation easement donations, Congress amended Section 170(h) in 1984 to create a special rule pursuant to which a deduction for the donation of a conservation easement as to severed estate lands would be allowed provided (1) the separation of the estates occurred before June 13, 1976, and (2) the

possibility of surface mining occurring on the property (and consequent negative impact on the conservation purposes of the easement) was ‘so remote as to be negligible’. In other words, Congress created a special ‘so remote as to be negligible’ exception to the surface mining prohibition that applied to certain limited circumstances.

The Treasury Regulations, which were issued in 1986, incorporated the statute’s limited ‘so remote as to be negligible’ exception to the surface mining prohibition. The Treasury Regulations explain that determining whether the probability of surface mining is ‘so remote as to be negligible’ is a question of fact that must be made on a case-by-case basis, and relevant factors to consider include geological, geophysical, or economic data showing either the absence of mineral interests on the property or the lack of commercial feasibility of surface mining at the time of the contribution. The Treasury Regulations also confirmed that, if the ownership of the surface and Mineral Estates first became separated after June 12, 1976, no deduction was allowed unless surface mining on the property was completely prohibited. In 1997, Congress amended Section 170(h) again, this time to provide that the special ‘so remote as to be negligible’ exception to the surface mining prohibition applies to severed estate lands regardless of the date on which the two estates separated.

These mineral extraction provisions illustrate two important points. First, the ‘so remote as to be negligible’ rule involves an intensely factual case-by-case inquiry. Second, when Congress and the Treasury wish to provide a special ‘so remote as to be negligible’ exception to a specific requirement in the Code and Treasury Regulations, they do so expressly.”

The current prices for gold, silver, most base metals and industrial minerals are near, or at, an all-time high. As a result, the world of mining exploration has changed radically in the past year. Mining companies are raising huge sums of new money and there is a quickly improving market for minerals and the sale or leasing of mineral interest properties. This year WRHNP has been contacted by multiple exploration and mining groups wanting to purchase or lease various WRHNP mineral interest parcels. The rising prices for minerals are making mining projects once considered somewhat marginal, now commercially feasible and very profitable. Forward outlook for the price of minerals and commodities is set to rise substantially. Earlier this year Bank of America Corp. raised its 18-month gold-price target to \$3,000.00 an ounce, more than 50% above the existing United States price record, in a report titled “The Fed Can’t Print Gold”. The United States Government recently required the Secretary of the Interior to identify critical minerals and make it the policy of the Federal Government to reduce the Nation’s vulnerability to disruptions in the domestic supply chain from Reliance on Critical Minerals from Foreign Adversaries that are essential to the economic and national security of the United States, which also adds to the current increased value of minerals and mineral properties.

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
July 28, 2021
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Because of the increasing value of minerals and renewed interest in mineral exploration and mining, there are at least two very possible events that would violate the perpetuity requirement for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement property. The deeded right to buy back, or reacquire, the surface property for exploration or mining purposes may be exercised and the very definite possibility of surface mining, either of these events will violate Internal Revenue Code Section 170(h): National Perpetuity Standards For Federally Subsidized Conservation Easements and the perpetuity requirements for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy Program.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have concerning this information. I would be glad to discuss this issue with you.

Sincerely,
WRH Nevada Properties, LLC



W. R. Henderson
Manager

WRH/tw

From: [Kate Baxter](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:14:37 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Kate Baxter
1611 W Main St
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

From: [Dan Fox](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:14:17 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

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We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Dan Fox
1440 5th Ave W
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Don Clark](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:14:06 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

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It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Stimpson has been a very good Company to work with and the other conservation easements with them are working very well.

It is a win-win. They keep their timberlands while our wild animals keep the forest and hunters and hikers can continue to access these lands.

These conservation easments are the only things keeping some Montana characteristics and holding off some of the rich people who come in and purchase huge sections of our forests and eventually close them to access.

Don clark

Regards,
Don Clark
319 Warren Rd
Libby, MT 59923

From: [Jan Bertelsen-James](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:13:33 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

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We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Jan Bertelsen-James
121-B Dewey Ave
Eureka, MT 59917

From: [John Ruth](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:13:29 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement. Preservation of our last best places in Montana for everyone who lives here and comes to visit is a priceless treasure we can pass onto our children and future generations.

Regards,
John Ruth
121-B Dewey Ave
Eureka, MT 59917

From: [Jamie Giddings](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:13:24 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Jamie Giddings
PO Box 1511
Plains, MT 59859

From: [Mary Warthen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12:53 AM

I'd like to express support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement. It's a step toward keeping what makes Montana the destination it is for generations to come. Help keep wild Montana wild for all the 4 and 2 legged who wander her wonder.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Mary Warthen
111 Spring St
Hot Springs, MT 59845

From: [Nicole Ferguson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12:53 AM

IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PEOPLE AND LAND, TAKE THESE AND MANY MORE STEPS TOWARDS PRESERVATION and righting past wrongs. You are faced with an opportunity to make the right choice for the people and the natural world, and purchasing this conservation easement is one very valuable and tangible step in the right direction. The people support this. Ask them. Listen to the people who were here first.

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx. Their habitats are shrinking thanks to our choices as humans, and it's time to change course. These creatures deserve to live there as much as we deserve to exist peacefully among them. With the climate changing and the ever increasing scales of natural disasters we are experiencing, as well as the shortages of resources to protect our most sacred communities, it makes no sense to continue expanding human occupancy and lower the defensible spaces.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for recreation, hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest and wild crafting would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Thank you for reading,
Thank you for your work.

Regards,
Nicole Ferguson
Plains
Plains, MT 59859

From: [Duane Day](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12:49 AM

DEar Kris, I truly appreciate FWP considering purchase of Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement and creating community input. I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

Overall, in the US we need to be very aggressive to protect wild lands from overuse.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Duane Day
7196 US-93
Lakeside, MT 59922

From: [Rob Uithof](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12:48 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Rob Uithof
31978 US Highway 2
Libby, MT 59923

From: [Robin Vogler](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12:42 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Robin Vogler
958 Blue Lake Ln
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [Carole Jorgensen](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Draft EA
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 6:40:48 PM

Please accept my comments supporting the proposed action of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II easement.

This area is extremely important to maintain the wildlife and diversity in Montana, particularly species in peril such as wolverine, grizzly bears and bull trout, as well as the other species mentioned in the EA. I spent several years evaluating the potential impacts of the Rock Creek mine—and the impacts of existing mines such as Montanore when I was employed by USFWS. That evaluation showed how special, valuable and vulnerable this ecosystem is. Contiguous forest habitat is becoming more and more fragmented in NW Montana. Landowners are increasingly cutting up open habitat with fencing and roads, having exotic species ranches, uncontrolled dumps, wildlife attractants, roads and other disturbances. Large ranging animals are finding it more difficult to find safe passage during migration or seasonal habitat changes. Climate change makes movement patterns even more essential, allowing plants and animals to move to suitable habitat if historic habitat is impacted.

This unique area is being impacted in dozens of ways. If these lands are developed, it would serve as another barrier to wildlife and plants that need connected habitat to respond to changing seasons and the habitat changes resulting from climate change. Development introduces weeds and exotic species, already a significant issue in NW Montana. The conservation easement would also support healthy riparian/aquatic systems. We have seen the impacts of non-forest development on streams and aquifers, and groundwater. Forest management helps maintain the ever threatened water tables. We have seen the impacts of recent changes to predator management and development would increase chances of depredation, human-wildlife adverse encounters and imbalances in wildlife ecosystems. These animals need active support if we are to maintain the values that Montanans (and US citizens) appreciate in this area.

FWP should be praised for a well-thought out long term conservation strategy that will maintain public access, continue to provide habitat, and allow commercial but habitat compatible uses on these lands.

I totally approve the proposed action and encourage management to go forward with this proposal. Great job!

Sincerely, Carole Jorgensen

723 Parkway Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
541-941-4241

From: [Mary Meyer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:58:35 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Mary Meyer
2971 MT-200
Trout Creek, MT 59874

From: [Carter Meyer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:58:24 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Carter Meyer
2971 MT-200
Trout Creek, MT 59874

From: [Lorie GUTKNECHT](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:58:19 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Lorie GUTKNECHT
PO Box 1288
Marion, MT 59925

From: [Dave Crone](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:58:18 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Dave Crone
PO Box 1527
Plains, MT 59859

From: [Richard DeGroot](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:58:15 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Richard DeGroot
303 Dogwood Ave
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Carol Seilhymer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:15:58 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Carol Seilhymer
PO Box 242
Plains, MT 59859

From: [Therese Ely](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:15:32 AM

I'm writing this as the smoke from record numbers of wildfires in our Montana has shuttered many of us indoors.

As stewards of God-given resources it is our mandate to use these gifts wisely. Our forests are not there for wreck less greedy consumption. We know that thoughtfully planned forest management can reduce damage from natural wildfires. Tree diversity is improved, watersheds stay intact, animal habitat is preserved. Proper management provides jobs for our timber workers and homes for ourselves.

I support the Kootenai conservation easement. Our climate is changing, whether human caused, natural cycle, or some of both. We need to even more carefully and wisely care for our land. Otherwise we could lose all in a choking smoke.

Regards,
Therese Ely
11 Shale Ct
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Garrett Boon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:15:26 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

I enjoy recreating all over western Montana, and would love to see access protected through this easement.

Regards,
Garrett Boon
304 Rittenours St
Plains, MT 59859

From: [Paul D Johnson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:14:56 AM

I would like to express my extremely strong support for the Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Conservation Easement. The public is losing valuable habitat and recreational opportunities at an alarming rate!

We have to secure any opportunities to keep the outside wild as you say. Please defend the public and move forward with the plan.

Thanks

Regards,
Paul D Johnson
332 Goathead Rd
Troy, MT 59935

From: [Haley Eakin](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:14:42 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Haley Eakin
1220 Vine St
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [John Maxwell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:58 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement. I do wish the lumber industry wouldn't cut down so much.

Regards,
John Maxwell
1611 W Main St
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

From: [Bret Luedke](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:54 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Bret Luedke
520 Grouse Ridge Dr
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Donald Burgard](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:54 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Donald Burgard
236 3rd Ave W
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Paul Gerson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:49 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement. It is another great example of public-private partnership for the greater good of all Montanans, present and future.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Paul Gerson
9 4th Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Jeff Gideon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:48 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Jeff Gideon
170 Meadow Creek Rd
Fortine, MT 59918

From: [Fred Dauber](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:44 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

This being said, I would have to know what is the definition of "sustainable harvest" of timber. Basal area of trees left? Number of trees/acre? Age classes of remaining stems? How are the standards measured and by whom? Wide open topic but I'm sure someone other than myself is asking the same questions. Would like to know the answers and if you can point me in the right direction I would sure appreciate it.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Fred Dauber
41498 Bartel Ln
Ronan, MT 59864

From: [william crawford](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:30 AM

I would also like to be able to use atv's to access this area and to prospect for gold .I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
william crawford
539 Dome Mountain Ave
Libby, MT 59923

From: [Karen Downs](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:27 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Karen Downs
PO Box 3392
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: [Ryan Hanson](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:04:17 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

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It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Ryan Hanson
320 Ponderosa St
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Mark Connell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:03:04 AM

While the precise numbers ebb and flow at different times, human population growth -- including in the United States in particular -- appears to be inexorable. The sheer number of people in our country increases by literally millions each and every year, many of whom visit Montana (with a significant number joining us as permanent residents) expressly because of our uncrowded mountains, forests, rivers, wildlife and spectacular vistas. At the same time, however, the landscapes that draw them are absolutely fixed in size and number, and nothing we can do can expand the acreage and resources available.

This situation of steadily increasing demand and permanently limited supply threatens the quality of the experience -- the "wildness" -- that makes Montana special.

What we CAN do now, however, is to carefully protect what we still have, and it's the responsibility of those who serve us as public servants to do so whenever possible.

The Stimson Lumber conservation easement now under consideration by MFW&P presents a great opportunity to permanently protect a sizable chunk of wild Montana in the northwest corner of the state, while simultaneously protecting jobs, the local economy, and the wide range of recreational interests of the local and visiting public. This is indeed a "once-in-a-lifetime" chance for a major "win / win" that shouldn't be missed.

Please support the purchase of this 27,289-acre conservation easement for the lasting benefit of current and future generations of our citizens.

Regards,
Mark Connell
4605 Arnica Rd
Missoula, MT 59803

From: [Bryce Hartford](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:02:48 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Bryce Hartford
540 Peaceful Dr
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [P Phillips-Sullivan](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:02:33 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
P Phillips-Sullivan
1637 2nd St
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Rebecca Brumfield](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:02:31 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Rebecca Brumfield
13428 Crescent Moon Dr
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [Steph Gabbard](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:02:09 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

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It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Steph Gabbard
8900 Hwy 2 E
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

From: [PATRICIA PEEBLES](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:01:47 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
PATRICIA PEEBLES
13428 Rising Wolf Dr
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [Charles Evans](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:01:42 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Charles Evans
305 W 6th St
Libby, MT 59923

From: [Megan Dagle](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 9:01:25 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

It is vital to continue to make opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Megan Dagle
227 Caroline Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Jamie Burkholder](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 8:57:43 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Jamie Burkholder
494 Kokanee Bend Dr
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: [Karen Carter](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 8:54:10 AM

I am sending my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is a very important way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Karen Carter
563 Riding High Drive
Eureka, MT 59917

From: [Molly Miller](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 4:20:29 PM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Molly Miller
704c 13th St E
Whitefish, MT 59937

From: [Chanel Geer](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 9:14:38 AM

Good morning to you ~

I wanted to weigh in on the proposed conservation easement. We own 40 acres between Libby Creek And Bear Creek. Our 40 acre property, our neighbors on one side with 200+ acres and our other neighbors on the other side with 1200+ acres all of us have Montana Land Reliance Conservation Easement on our property. We are so thankful for the easement as us nor our neighbors can subdivide any of the properties. Because you know with the price of land now a days and especially land that has beautiful up close views of the mountains, it would be going up for sale, if they could. Our easement also makes us keep weed control at bay. If this proposed easement is for the sole purpose to halt any future subdivisions and weed control, absolutely. I would be so nice to be able to get some excellent horseback riding, bike and hiking trails that aren't in the wilderness and are close to town.

From: [Doug Ferrell](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Conservation Easement
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 5:56:17 AM

Kris Temple
Mt FW&P,

I want to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

I am very familiar with this area, and use these lands for hunting and recreation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Ferrell
21 Riverfront Drive S.
Trout Creek, MT 59874

406-827-4341 (landline & best number)
406-291-8626 (cell - not good for messages)

From: [Pat McLeod](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for conservation easement
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 8:56:15 PM

As a resident of Lincoln County and active outdoor enthusiast, I support the proposed purchase of recreational easement on Stimpson Lumber Company Land. The easement purchased several years ago in the Troy area has been wonderful. I frequently hike on the easement near my home on Savage Lake.

Hope the funding comes together for protection of the land from development.

Pat McLeod
2291 Bull Lake Rd
Troy, MT 59935

From: ltmoose2@aol.com
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conservation easement
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:43:53 PM

I am in support of the conservation easement on Stimson Lumber Company property by Libby Montana.

Lisa Flynn
Eureka, Montana

From: [Pam Brown](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KOOTENAI FORESTLANDS CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:17:37 PM

Dear Mr. Tempel, Hello, we are Zane & Pamela Brown & have lived in Trout Creek Mt. our entire lives. We've raised our family here & are enjoying watching our grandkids being raised here. We are very concerned about the huge influx of people moving to northwestern Montana. When we read about the proposed Kootenai conservation easement we were very happy to see it. Montana is a place that people should see & enjoy, not continue to be developed, or it will eventually become very, quickly....like everywhere else. We also strongly agree that the timber & other natural resources should be managed properly & could be a sustainable source of income. Thank you for you time, Zane & Pamela Brown

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rosemary McKinnon](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phase 11 conservation easement on Kootenai forest lands
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:37:45 AM

I am writing in support of the proposed conservation easement on the Kootenai forest lands. I could not be more delighted that the opportunity has arisen for conservation of fish and wildlife habitat on 2700+ acres east of Libby and south of MT hwy. 37. I own two homes. One is in Kalispell where there has been phenomenal growth over the past 30 years and where conservation projects seem to find themselves limited in scope as urban areas increasingly encroach on wildlife habitat. My second home is on Lake McGregor where I have also observed increasing growth in the past couple of years. Land prices in Flathead county have skyrocketed and there appears to be no end in sight to pressure on the unique environment that draws people to NW MT. The Thompson river basin and Fisher river represent a relatively untouched landscape where key landscape connectivity can be maintained in order to preserve the very recreational activities which draw people to Montana - hiking, hunting and fishing. We need to maintain this connected habitat as winter rangeland and a migration corridor for elk, moose and deer while also protecting threatened bull trout, Canadian lynx and grizzly bears.

Please do not pass up this great opportunity to preserve our natural heritage. It is the very essence of what makes NW Montana unique and the envy of much of the rest of the country.

Sincerely yours,
Rosemary McKinnon
465 Orchard Ridge Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Robert Kehn](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on proposed conservation easement near Libby
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 12:30:33 PM

I believe a compromise needs to be negotiated so that appropriate acreage can be sold for commercial and residential development. 5 - 10% of these lands should be suitable for such development. Suitable being not highly productive for forestries and readily accessible to maintained roads. I would like to see Stimson Lumber put this relatively small amount of land (5-10%) up for sale to any and all parties. Other wise I am fine with it as long as public hunting and other recreation will not be hindered by this proposed easement. Robert (Bob) Kehn, 289 Mahoney Road, Libby MT 59923

Sent with [ProtonMail \[protonmail.com\]](#) Secure Email.

From: [MW Radz](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Stimson land
Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:47:37 AM

Ok thank you. I will review in more detail.
I will not be able to attend the public forum. My only comment would be...

‘Will these subject lands be open to overnight camping? Believe Weyerhaeuser allows overnight camping, why Stimson does not?’ (I could be wrong?)

Mark Radzwion
688 Lime Butte Rd
Troy

On Jul 7, 2021, at 10:34 AM, Tempel, Kris <ktempel@mt.gov> wrote:

Yes, that information is shared with the public through the Environmental Assessment document. There is a map on page 2 of the document that shows the property being proposed for a conservation easement.

To find the EA, click on this link (https://fwp.mt.gov/public-notice/news/2021/jun/0629_kootenaiforestlandsce), and then under Related Documents, click on the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Draft EA.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Kris Tempel

Habitat Conservation Biologist
Wildlife Division, Region 1
[Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#)

490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
Ph: (406) 751-4573
Cell: (406) 249-7481
[Montana FWP](#) | [Montana Outdoors Magazine](#)

<image001.jpg>

From: MW Radz <mwradz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:10 AM

To: Tempel, Kris <ktempel@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stimson land

Wondering if the exact location of the proposed land, 27,000 acres, slated for conservation, can be shared with the public?

27,000 Acres of Timberland Slated for Conservation Near Libby

Proposed land deal on property owned by Stimson Lumber Company would protect wildlife habitat, secure recreation opportunities and maintain a working forest

From: [charles.malek](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] conservation easements
Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:28:02 AM

I fully support all conservation easements.
Charles Malek
Plains mt

From: [FWP General](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Thank you
Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:30:26 PM

Public comment for the record
Thanks!

From: Kelly Kinney <kelly.kinney92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:29 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you

Hello,

I just read in the Western News about how Fish Wildlife and Parks/the State of Montana wishes to conserve land by Libby and the Kootenai river and I just wanted to give you a big thank you.

I'm okay with the increased tourism, but the amount of people wanting/trying to move here has been worrying me. I've been feeling worried about the wildlife and their habitats, and about how our culture/way of life such as fishing, camping, hunting, firewood gathering and being a small community of people could possibly come to an end one day with all of the people trying to build homes here.

Thank you again for preserving our land and for all the work you do. It means a lot to me.

Kelly

From: [Travis Heater](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:24:27 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I strongly support the proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement. Maintaining these lands as a working forest with continued public access is very important for both the economic health of Lincoln County as well as the recreation potential for the residents of Lincoln CO and those from out of the area.

Maintaining this area as a working forest with proper timber management will provide a perpetual source of wood products for local logging and mill companies and their employees. This will also provide the added benefit of reducing the potential of catastrophic fire damage to nearby private property and decrease the potential of this area being developed into subdivisions or other homesites within the front country further increasing the potential for fire related death and destruction.

Access to public and open private lands in NW Montana and many other areas of the west is continuously being decreased or eliminated for recreationalists and other users. After the recent loss/potential loss of access to similar timberlands to the east of this area earlier this year, the permanent protection of access to this area that has seen public access for all of recent history is vital.

Thank You,
Travis Heater

From: [Pat Simmons](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project comments
Date: Friday, July 2, 2021 3:36:33 PM

Hi Kris,

I support the conservation easement of the Kootenai Forestlands Conservation Project for all the reasons you describe in your EA! Sure hope you can obtain the additional funds needed. You should also consider federal funds in the America the Beautiful, LWCF, Biden Administration – Interior Department, and other bills before Congress as this project addresses Climate Change – protecting forest lands from housing development.

*FWP received 6 comments through the public scoping process with all commenters expressing support for this proposed project. One commenter expressed concern that the recreational opportunities afforded by the conservation easement should not interfere with “wildlife, endangered wildlife, wildlife habitat which should be priorities” and expressed concern with “the incursion of e-bikes, bicycles, snowmobiles, various motorized vehicles” which can interfere with non-motorized activities like hiking, photography, bird watching and cross-country skiing. FWP response: The terms of the conservation easement **allow FWP and/or the landowner to temporarily restrict the public access to the property if wildlife or wildlife habitat is being negatively impacted.** The terms of the Multi-Resource Management Plan restrict the Page 6 use of motorized vehicles, including motorized bicycles, to open roads only. **Hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers are allowed behind closed gates, barricades, and earthen barriers.** There may still be interactions between mountain bikers and those hiking/walking the property but given that biking use would be allowed on forest roads and **not single-track trails, negative interactions should be minimized.***

I’m still concerned with your responses above. How often are you going to have FWP personnel on this property to monitor wildlife habitat incursions, along with before and after wildlife counts including some wildlife cameras? And for tree management – overseeing the actual logging to make sure proper forest management designated by the State of Montana is actually monitored, corrected and fined if necessary? Are you going to limit and remove logging roads; require/allow helicopter and horse logging to protect wildlife? Research shows that roads interfere with wildlife migration, normal movement in the landscape including loud sounds from equipment and commercial users. Mountain bike versus hikers – the bikers win; us hikers have to jump, move, fall, etc. so I hope your forest roads will have speed limits, be wide enough and have signs on them “be considerate of hikers and wildlife”. If FWP is like the US Forest Service, I worry that there will not be enough overseeing of this huge landscape.

I hope you’ll have signage telling loggers and recreators and hunters that this is a public conservation easement to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat as reminders and an education program to teach people about conservation and compassion for all users.

Thank you.
Patricia Simmons
357 Pine Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

Psimmons100@gmail.com

From: [stacy boissicat](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed easement near Libby (positive comment)
Date: Friday, July 2, 2021 12:13:42 PM

Good Afternoon,

I would like to take the time to comment with my support for the purchasing of the easement near Libby, mentioned to protect the natural habitat and provide ample area for low impact recreation. I believe preserving the natural environment and providing space for the animals is critical at this time when Montana is becoming more densely populated and at the same time seeing more visitor traffic just recently as well. Spaces such as this are truly important for preserving the quality of life here in MT.

Thank you,
Stacy Boissicat
(Resident)

From: [Nicho Hash](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conservation Easement near Libby
Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:07:47 PM

Please vote yes for the purchase!
Nicho Hash

From: [Dorian Boling](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Easement south of Libby
Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:04:32 PM

I support this easement and any others that FWP is doing or wanting to do to keep public land open that is already open.

Thank you for your time,
Dorian Boling
Libby MT

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

From: [cody andrews](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LAND
Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:23:41 PM

NO MORE CONSERVATION LAND , ENOUGH ! THERES MORE THAN ENOUGH
ALREADY , NO MORE !! ALL IT EVER DOES IS SCREW THINGS UP ! NO MORE
!

IRISH WOLFHOUND , GENTLE WHEN STROKED, FIERCE WHEN PROVOKED
....unknown

From: [Malcolm Edwards](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conservation Easement Phase II
Date: Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:50:32 AM

recommend to proceed with the easement. it has many public and wildlife benefits
Malcolm Edwards
Montana

From: [Addrien Marx](#)
To: [Tempel, Kris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:37:55 AM

I'd like to express my strong support for Fish, Wildlife & Parks' proposed purchase of the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement.

The easement is an ideal way to protect key wildlife habitat, provide public access, and support jobs and the economic health of our community. The area is important winter range and a migration corridor for elk, deer, and moose and a haven for threatened species like bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

It would also offer excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, and the jobs provided by continued sustainable timber harvest would greatly benefit the community.

We live in a special place here in northwest Montana, and I encourage FWP to support our families, communities, and outdoors by completing the purchase of this easement.

Regards,
Addrien Marx
3172 MT-83
Seeley Lake, MT 59868



PO Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904-9173
www.flatheadaudubon.org

July 21, 2021

Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn: Kris Tempel
490 N. Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

re: Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement

Dear Ms. Tempel,

Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) represents about 400 members from northwest Montana. Our mission is to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity; promote awareness and appreciation of the natural world through education and advocacy; work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues; provide community services such as school programs, work projects, and field trips.

FAS has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kootenai Forestlands Phase II Conservation Easement and we endorse adoption of Alternative A, the proposed action. We agree that the proposed action would maintain and protect valuable fish and wildlife habitat and migration corridors while allowing for continuing professional forestry operations and maintaining compatible public access.

The risk of these lands being developed in ways not compatible with fish and wildlife is very real so a conservation easement prohibiting incompatible development and specifying how fish and wildlife habitat is to be managed is highly desirable.

The affected fish and wildlife species and their habitats are extensively discussed and provisions in the Conservation Easement address their needs so FAS need not reiterate that. Forest products and public access to these lands are important to the community and this Conservation Easement provides for that to continue in perpetuity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gael Bissell, President
Flathead Audubon Society