#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 29, 2026 2:29:34 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 29, 2026 3:56:39 PM
Time Spent: 01:27:05

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Kelley Brown**
City/Town:	**Libby**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**kb68@reagan.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

Yes. All for it

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 31, 2026 12:59:38 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 31, 2026 1:05:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:03

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**zach whipple-kilmer**
City/Town:	**Thompson Falls**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**zachcore@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

My name is Zach Whipple-Kilmer and I live in Thompson Falls. I am writing in support of this project. I am a life long outdoorsman and having this acreage available like it's been forever is important in keeping our outdoor heritage alive, especially in a fast changing rural Montana. Thousands of people depend on this piece of land to fill their freezers and teach their families and neighbors about hunting, trapping and fishing, among other things. I urge you to please pass the easement.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 31, 2026 1:06:10 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 31, 2026 1:12:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Eastern Sanders County Collaborative**
City/Town:	**Plains**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**SANDERSCOLLAB@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

The Eastern Sanders County Collaborative (ESCC) is formally commenting on this project as a group. We are a local group of natural resource representatives who work on local land management issues in support of industry and sustainable use of our natural resources.

We have members from forestry, hydro, ranching, irrigation and mining. We believe that this piece of land is vital to the continuation of Sanders County resource management. Water from this easement is used to support Eastern Sanders County ranchers and irrigation. There is a major timber project being worked on this area to start in about a year.

Our group (and our members of the mining community) believe the due diligence was completed in making sure there is legal access for subsurface mineral extraction. The parties involved have been forthright and supportive of these mining claims and mineral rights..

We ask for a due pass to continue to provide access to these lands for resources and also public access to lands that have been historically open to the public for generations. Thank you for your time.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 01, 2026 7:37:31 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 01, 2026 8:04:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:08

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Thomas Keegan**
City/Town:	**SAINT IGNATIUS**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**dippergrizz123@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

Please approve this important CE.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 04, 2026 11:00:31 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 04, 2026 11:06:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Kevin Farron**
City/Town:	**Missoula**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**kevin@mtwf.org**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

On behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), who for 90 years has worked to protect Montana's fish and wildlife, public lands, clean waters, and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage, please accept these comments in full support of the Upper Thompson Conservation Easement – Phase 2.

The 13,297-acre conservation easement will provide invaluable wildlife habitat and connectivity, as well as outdoor recreation for the public. Added to the adjacent properties that have also been conserved in perpetuity, this addition would bring the area's total to more than 315,000 connected acres, including nearly 50,000 from this 2-phase Upper Thompson project alone.

These diverse timberlands in NW Montana are home to moose, elk, black bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and some bighorn sheep. As the EA points out, 42% of elk checked at game check stations in Region 1 over the last five years have been harvested on private property, a testament to the productivity of lands like these and the open-gate policies NW Montanans have enjoyed for decades. The lands being considered for this conservation easement currently provide nearly 4,000 public hunting and angling days annually, a good measure of the sort of opportunity the state would be securing perpetually if the easement is accepted.

Additionally, the area provides habitat and mobility for grizzly bears and Canada lynx, and is suitable for wolverines as well. Specifically, the property borders nine miles of the USFWS-designated Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and provides an important connectivity corridor between the CYE and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. It's also inside the Heart of the Salish Priority Area identified under Secretarial Order 3362's big game winter range and migration corridors. Protecting the cold-water tributaries and streams will benefit both bull trout and native Westslope cutthroat too.

Most importantly, we want to again express our deep gratitude to Green Diamond for their willingness to open their gates and conserve wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Their donation amounting to 34 percent of the easement's appraised value, an astounding $5,744,000, is incredibly generous. We also thank our friends at the Trust for Public Land ushering this project and for securing $1,000,000 from private fundraising efforts to make it happen. A tip of the hat to the USFS Forest Legacy Program, plus Avista, NorthWestern Energy, and the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust as well for rounding out the funding needed to make this project a reality.

We enthusiastically support Alternative A, and ask the Commission to approve the purchase of the Upper Thompson Conservation Easement – Phase 2 as proposed.

-Kevin Farron, Conservation Director
Montana Wildlife Federation

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 04, 2026 12:54:49 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 04, 2026 1:01:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Matt Fregerio**
City/Town:	**Missoula**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**mfregerio@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

Please vote to approve the purchase of Upper Thompson Conservation Easement. Our family has recreated on this land for decades and it is vital to keep it intact and open to the public for generations to come.

Respectfully,
Matt Fregerio

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 05, 2026 12:48:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 05, 2026 1:14:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Jim Vashro**
City/Town:	**KALISPELL**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**jsjvash@montanasky.us**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. has represented sportsmen and women in northwest Montana for more than 70 years, emphasizing preserving our hunting and fishing heritage, wildlife habitat and maintaining public access. Hunters and anglers enjoyed free and open use of corporate timberlands for more than a century. That is why it was a seismic shock when Plum Creek Timberlands announced a merger with Weyerhauser Corporation in 2015 and Weyerhauser subsequently announcing the sale of 630,000 acres in 2019. Fortunately, Green Diamond Resources purchased 291,000 of those acres with the goal of continuing forest management and putting most of the lands under conservation easements which would maintain working forests, maintain wildlife habitat and continue public access in perpetuity. This latest proposal, the Upper Thompson Conservation Easement - Phase 2, continues that commitment. Flathead Wildlife recommends the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve this conservation easement. Three things are of note. One, the Sanders, Lincoln and Flathead County Commissions all approve of this easement. Two, the easement would be purchased with a variety of funding sources. The Montana projects have ranked high in the USFS Forest Legacy funding rankings. Trust For Public Lands did significant fund raising to support the project. Most importantly, Green Diamond is donating 34% of the value of the easement to show their commitment to staying in Montana. Third, this proposed 13,297 acre conservation easement links up with more than 280,000 acres of existing easements along with adjacent USFS and state lands to retain a large block of northwest Montana as working forests, providing wildlife habitat and public access. Flathead Wildlife heartily supports adopting this easement. Jim Vashro, President, Flathead Wildlife, Inc.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 9:18:54 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 9:23:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	**Kyle Mitchell**
City/Town:	**Plains**
State/Province:	**MT**
Email Address:	**kyle.mitchell.mt@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upper Thompson Conservation Easement- Phase 2, Region 1

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commissioners,

On behalf of over 4,000 members of Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, I am writing to express our strong support for the Upper Thompson Conservation Easement – Phase 2.

Over the past 10 years, our region has lost more than 20,000 acres of public access within a 10-mile radius of the city of Plains alone. Approving Phase 2 permanently secures public access to lands that have been traditionally used for more than 130 years by hunters, anglers, hikers, campers, birders, and motorsports enthusiasts, while preventing adjacent public lands from becoming landlocked.

Additionally, Phase 2 preserves forestry jobs and safeguards critical wildlife corridors in the Cabinet Mountains for species such as grizzly bears, Canadian lynx, elk, deer, and moose. This project supports FWP's landscape-scale management goals and benefits the local economy in the Thompson River Drainage.

We appreciate the hard work and partnership of Green Diamond Resource Company and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to develop this proposal. We strongly urge the Montana FWP commissioners to approve the Upper Thompson Conservation Easement – Phase 2 to ensure lasting benefits for Montana's wildlife, waters, and local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kyle Mitchell
Flathead Valley Board Member
Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Cell: (406) 552-3435
Email: kyle.mitchell.mt@gmail.com

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments