



February 9, 2026

RE: Support for Case Ranch Hunting Access Support

Chair Robinson and members of the Commission,

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative supports local Montana ranching collaborations, rural development programs and 31 land trusts.

We wanted to go on record commending Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the MFWP Commission for this conservation project that will help maintain working agriculture, provide public hunting access and support a rich array of wildlife. We support FWP's role of ensuring perpetual public hunting via block management on the "Case Ranch" conservation easement, in partnership with Five Valleys Land Trust. The conservation easement includes a grant of perpetual hunting access managed by FWP on over 1,700 wildlife-rich acres that connect to another 65,000 acres of accessible public land.

We wholeheartedly support this project.

Thanks for your impactful work and public service for all Montanans and our visitors.

Respectfully,

/s/Gavin Ricklefs
Managing Director

/s/Jim Williams
Wildlife Biologist and Partnerships Manager

ensuring connected habitat and working lands for people and wildlife

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Protecting Montana's
Open Landscapes



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November 21, 2025

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
c/o FWP Liaison – Director's Office
PO Box 200701
Helena MT, 59620-0701

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Thank you for your willingness to consider accepting the assignment of public access management associated with the Case Ranch Company – Potomac Conservation Easement project.

On behalf of The Montana Land Reliance, I hope that you will move forward with partnership on this project and protect hunting access and wildlife habitat in Montana's Blackfoot River Valley.

This property currently supports more than 200 hunter days per year on more than 1,700 acres of the Case Ranch and provides access to thousands of acres of adjacent State and Federal public lands. Guaranteeing this access is an investment in the hunting and fishing heritage that helps define our rural communities.

Beyond its benefits for public hunting access this proposal improves vital habitat and connectivity for wildlife, keeps Montana's forests healthy, and conserves working agricultural lands.

MLR is pleased to support this project and sincerely hopes FWP will as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jordan Vana
Managing Director



FIVE VALLEYS
LAND TRUST

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Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

On behalf of Five Valleys Land Trust, thank you for your consideration of the proposed assignment of public access management associated with the Case Ranch Company – Potomac Conservation Easement project.

Five Valleys Land Trust has worked closely with the Case Ranch landowners and project partners to develop a conservation easement that protects the property's agricultural productivity, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space while ensuring meaningful and lasting public benefit. A central component of this project is the continuation and long-term certainty of public hunting access across more than 1,700 acres of the ranch, which currently supports more than 200 hunter days annually and provides important access to adjacent State and Federal public lands.

The Case Ranch occupies an important position within the Blackfoot River Valley landscape, supporting high-quality forest, grassland, and riparian habitats and contributing to regional wildlife connectivity between surrounding public lands. Conserving this property will help maintain a working ranching operation while protecting habitat values and sustaining Montana's hunting and outdoor heritage.

Assignment of access management to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks provides long-term certainty for both the landowner and the public, ensuring that access is administered by an agency with the experience and capacity to manage these opportunities in a consistent and effective manner.

Five Valleys Land Trust strongly supports this proposal and respectfully encourages the Commission to approve the assignment of access management for the Case Ranch project.

Sincerely,

Derek Goble
Project Manager
Five Valleys Land Trust



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