



May 18, 2026

RE: Support for East Fork Bull River Non-Native and Hybrid Trout Suppression

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

Hello Commissioners,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed “East Fork Bull River Non-Native and Hybrid Trout Suppression” project. Through the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement, Avista has worked collaboratively with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) to implement projects for the benefit of the natural resources and public over the past 26 years. These efforts have focused on both protecting and enhancing native salmonid populations (i.e., Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Mountain Whitefish) as well as enhancing recreational fisheries in the Lower Clark Fork River system. We believe MFWP has found a sensible and appropriate balance of managing for both outcomes consistent with the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan. The proposed East Fork Bull River Non-Native and Hybrid Trout Suppression project will be an important component for maintaining that balance.

The negative effects of non-native species on native salmonids in the East Fork Bull River have been documented for over 20 years. A project to suppress non-native fish in the East Fork Bull River was reviewed and approved through the MEPA process in 2006. From 2007 through 2009, Avista funded a suppression program that was successful in reducing non-native fish densities in the East Fork Bull River by 70%. However, recent monitoring has documented increasing non-native fish densities and incidents of hybridization. Non-native fish suppression in the East Fork Bull River will help to protect and enhance native salmonids in this important rearing tributary and such an effort is consistent with the goals of the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with MFWP and believe the proposed action will provide meaningful benefit to native salmonids without compromising recreational fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sean Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Moran  
Fisheries Biologist, Avista