



May 18, 2026

RE: Support for Upper Thompson Conservation Easement

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 from Avista regarding the purchase of a conservation easement on Green Diamond Resource Company in the Thompson River drainage. Under the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement (CFSA), Avista has worked collaboratively with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) and other agencies and stakeholders to enact many programs in support of native salmonid conservation in the Lower Clark Fork River (LCFR) area. Many of these efforts have focused on protecting and/or enhancing tributary habitat to benefit native target species (e.g., Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout), of the CFSA.

Under the CFSA Avista has contributed to numerous conservation easement purchases, including \$250,000 to this proposed conservation easement. In 2001, Avista contributed \$550,000 to a conservation easement that protected over 37,000 acres of private timberlands in the Thompson River drainage. In addition to conserving important riparian habitats, Avista appreciates the benefits facilitated by this conservation easement in protecting wildlife habitat and ensuring public access, while still allowing responsible and sustainable timber harvest; all of which are important components in maintaining the unique qualities of the LCFR area.

Avista is committed to working with partners to leverage CFSA funds towards meaningful conservation of critical tributary habitat in the LCFR area and appreciates the opportunity to voice our support for this conservation easement purchase.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Moran", is located below the text of the letter.

Sean Moran
Fisheries Biologist, Avista