



BIG HOLE
WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Conservation Through Consensus.

Post Office Box 21
Divide, Montana 59727
(406) 960-4855
info@bhwc.org
www.bhwc.org

6/3/2026

Steering Committee

- Dean Peterson- Chair**
Rancher – Upper Big Hole
- JM Peck- Vice Chair**
Rancher- Lower Big Hole
- Roy Morris- Secretary**
George Grant Trout Unlimited
- Steve Luebeck- Treasurer**
Sportsman

Governing Board

- Jim Hagenbarth- Chair**
Rancher - Middle Big Hole
- Dave Ashcraft**
Rancher- Lower Big Hole
- Sean Claffey**
The Nature Conservancy
- Peter Frick**
Rancher- Upper Big Hole
- Jim Keenan**
Butte-Silver Bow Water Dept.
- Eric Thorson**
Fishing Guide & Outfitter
- John Jackson**
Beaverhead County
Rancher- Upper Big Hole
- Diane Hutton**
Resident- Retired USFS
- Liz Jones**
Rancher- Middle Big Hole
- Mark Kambich**
Rancher- Middle Big Hole
- Erik Kalsta**
Rancher- Lower Big Hole
- Randy Smith**
Rancher- Middle Big Hole
- Phil Ralston**
Rancher- Middle Big Hole
- John Reinhardt**
Rancher- Middle Big Hole
- Mark Raffety**
Rancher- Lower Big Hole

Dear FWP Commissioners,

The Big Hole Watershed Committee is at the forefront of collaborative conservation in Montana, with a 31-year track record of multi-stakeholder partnership for the benefit of the resources of the Big Hole watershed. Our efforts are all about water, and we count on voluntary conservation by water users to keep our river whole in dry years.

Our Governing Board is primarily ranchers, most with senior water rights. Beaver have historically been considered a pest to our daily operations of managing and moving water onto our pastures and fields. But we also see the immense potential of beaver as a water-storage tool, when they are put in the right places. We have sponsored many projects where people act like beaver to mimic the function they provide on the landscape. Natural water storage is an important part of the water storage puzzle- and nowhere will natural storage be more successful than in places where beaver can set up a home and maintain a series of dams- for free!

We are excited about the Moose Creek relocation site and have put two years of effort with our partners to receive a beaver translocation. We urge that you approve the beaver translocation locations during your June meeting and allow groups like ours to begin preventing unnecessary lethal treatment of beavers. We should be putting them higher in our watersheds where they can hold back snowpack for the benefit of all water users downstream.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions,

Pedro Marques
Executive Director
pmarques@bhwc.org
406-552-2369



PARK COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL
— COUNCIL —

Dear Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission,

Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) would like to thank Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for the opportunity to provide our comments on Section 87-5-711, MCA. PCEC serves as a local grassroots environmental group with more than 500 members and 2,300 supporters. We urge the Commission to approve the three pilot transplant locations of the Montana Beaver Transport Program (MBTP). Translocations as listed in the proposal will provide a public benefit and a nonlethal tool to address conflicts arising from beaver activities and the likelihood of conflict in proposed translocation sites is limited.

The pilot transplant locations at Spotted Dog WMA, Moose Creek drainage, and Flying D Ranch represent a step forward in Montana's adaptive management strategy. Recognizing the beaver not as a nuisance, but as a cost-effective natural solution for restoring ecosystem function builds climate resilience across the state.

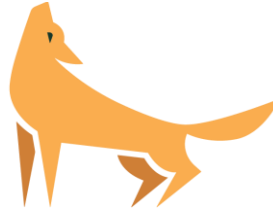
While we appreciate the thought that has gone into this pilot program, we encourage MBTP to incorporate a long-term adaptive monitoring program that tracks beaver survival, dispersal and hydrogeologic response. This accountability is essential to refine the program over time and validate that expected environmental outcomes are being achieved. We also urge FWP to extend this monitoring to a five-year minimum, incorporating standardized metrics for dam establishment, hydrologic changes, and riparian vegetation response.

The transplant program strategy is a prime example of responsible wildlife management and public lands restoration planning. Landowner outreach is a vital part of a program such as this one, and we appreciate the efforts that have been made with the assurance this outreach will remain a part of the program. We encourage FWP to continue to conduct intensive site selection and vetting to ensure conflict in transplant locations are limited. This targeted approach maximizes ecological gain while minimizing the need for lethal removal, benefiting the state's overall water security and ecosystem health.

We support and urge the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission to approve beaver translocations into the three pilot locations during 2026-2028, allowing the beaver to fulfill its vital role in restoring and fortifying Montana's watersheds.

Sincerely,

Taylor Brandt & Alecia Jongeward



PO Box 8884, Missoula, MT 59807 • www.footloosemontana.org
406-544-5727 • anja@footloosemontana.org

June 4, 2026

Re: Approval of beaver transplants for 2026 through 2028

Submitted via <https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/commission/june-2026-meeting>

FWP Commissioners,

We ask that you put the decision on this proposal on hold until FWP provides the public with information about trapping.

Footloose Montana has long advocated for nonlethal wildlife management. When conflicts arise between people and wild animals, agencies should prioritize compassionate coexistence and relocation whenever possible rather than killing animals simply because they have become ‘inconvenient.’

At first glance, the beaver ‘transplant’ program sounds like a positive thing. However, FWP provides no information on continued trapping in the three release areas; whether temporary closures will be implemented, and how long any protection might last. Without that information, we can only suspect that beavers once translocated will be trapped again for such frivolous reasons such as recreation and private profit.

After all,

- **FWP promotes recreational trapping, including trapping of beavers:** Montana trappers reportedly kill 6000 beavers every year. As semi-aquatic animals, beavers, once caught in a foothold trap or Conibear trap, often struggle violently for up to 20 minutes while drowning.
- **Trapping is allowed in at least two of the three locations beavers would be released into**—the Moose Creek drainage in upper Big Hole watershed (trapping of otter, muskrats and otter during November, and beaver trapping Nov 1 – April 15), and the Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area (WMA), (beaver trapping in all November and the second half of May, and otter trapping Nov 1 – April 15).
- **FWP caters to trappers while excluding the general public:** In their 2025 draft environmental assessment, FWP defers to trappers, by noting timidly that some temporary trapping restrictions may be needed, that trappers may be asked to voluntarily

not trap beavers. This is followed by immediately assuring trappers that these restrictions will not impact the trapping of other ‘furbearers’ in the areas. Finally, FWP writes that potential benefits of restoring beavers to streams in Montana include, “Maintaining a viable and accessible population of an important furbearing animal to sustain trapping opportunities and heritage into the future” (p 15).

- **FWP is withholding information to the general public:** By not providing information on whether or not translocated beavers will eventually be trapped, FWP is excluding the general public from the decision-making process. And without a clear commitment to suspend trapping of these beavers and other wild animals in the area of translocation, this project appears less like a positive conservation/climate initiative and more like a revolving door in which beavers are repeatedly translocated and existing beaver populations augmented only to benefit trappers.

FWP’s lethal beaver management: Unscientific, Unethical and Undemocratic

FWP’s view of beavers as ‘furbearers’ (mere carriers of fur to be killed for recreation and commerce) is un-scientific, unethical and reflects an undemocratic approach to wildlife management.

Science tells us that beavers are ecosystem engineers and climate warriors. Beavers are highly intelligent, sentient and social beings, who are loyal to one another and take great care of their families. Once caught in traps, beavers often struggle for up to 20 minutes while drowning—this is animal cruelty and should not be allowed, period. Finally, FWP’s deference to wildlife killers—trappers—while excluding the public is undemocratic and thus unacceptable.

We ask that you put the approval of beaver translocation for 2026-2028 on hold until FWP provides the public with clear information on the purpose, terms and consequences of this project. In order to make an informed decision, the public needs to know:

- if and for how long trapping of beavers will be suspended,
- how far from the water source trapping of beaves might be suspended, and
- if trapping of all wild animals will be suspended, or only beavers. If the latter, and given the indiscriminate nature of trapping, how will beavers be protected from ongoing trapping of other wild animals in these three release areas.

Sincerely, Anja Heister, PhD

Co-founder & Executive Director of Footloose Montana

E: anja@footloosemontana.org | P: 404 544 5727

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

I support beaver trapping and relocation because beavers are animals, just like you and me. They deserve a life instead of punishment for making a home in the wrong place.

Beaver activity supports fish, wildlife, and our own communities alike. Additionally, beavers provide significant economic and ecological benefits through water filtration, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge that maintain the cold, clean waters that Montana's outdoor recreation economy depends on.

By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Hunter Ament
1213 mirror lake ln.
Billings, MT 59105

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Sincerely,

Ted Anderson
109 Hawthorne Ave.
Lewistown, MT 59457-1906

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Sincerely,

John Applegate
245 Duloher Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Sincerely,

Carol Barney
PO Box 104
W. Yellowstone, MT 59758

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am a third generation Montanan writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

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My grandmother lives in an old log cabin a stone's throw from Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Gallatin River. Over the many decades my family has spent on the property, the beavers after which the creek was named have notably and continuously decreased--my grandmother can't recall the last time she saw a beaver or any signs of them on the surrounding landscape. There are countless areas like this across Montana that have visibly changed due to the absence of beavers, and by supporting these pilot projects, we have the chance to begin meaningful restoration of this incredible species and the ecosystems they inhabit.

As Montanans, we know that our water resources are paramount to our livelihoods. We rely on clean, healthy waterways for drinking water, recreation, agriculture, and wildfire prevention. Beaver activity supports fish, wildlife, and our own communities alike. Additionally, beavers provide significant economic and ecological benefits through water filtration, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge that maintain the cold, clean waters that Montana's outdoor recreation economy depends on.

I am thankful to FWP for supporting the MBTP and through these pilot sites, the Commission can allow for restoration of vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Julia Barton
1612 W Babcock Street
Bozeman, MT 59715-4025

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By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Steven Beauprey
107 39th street
Butte, MT 59803

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Sincerely,

London Bernier
1111 1/2 S Willson Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

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As a stream and wetland restoration practitioner, my organization has worked directly with montana ranchers and farmers on beaver focused restoration projects and have seen first hand how the reintroduction of beaver on creeks and rivers have helped to slow runoff, improved stream function, reduced erosion, improved the duration and extent of soil moisture and increased forage production near the restored areas. The reintroduction pilot program would be a great way to demonstrate that beaver reintroduction is a cost-effective tool for landowners looking for ways to improve the condition of their land.

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Sincerely,

Jeannette Blank
418 S 9th St
Livingston , MT 59047

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Sincerely,

Kristin Boggs
3378 S. 22nd Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

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Sincerely,

Timothy Border
PO Box 348
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

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Sincerely,

Sarah Bouska
43 Bonnie Lane
Livingston, MT 59047

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Sincerely,

Bo Bruinsma
1648 LEWIS AVE
Billings, MT 59102

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Sincerely,

David Cleveland
308 Slough Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

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Sincerely,

Ralph Cristiani
117 Gloria Ct
Bozeman, MT 59718

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It's time that we reverse the damage we did by almost completely removing beavers from our landscape so long ago.

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Sincerely,

Leslie Dalbey
35122 Caldbeck Ln
Polson, MT 59860

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I have been an advocate for beaver restoration for many years, and believe if managed properly they can be very useful helpers for our ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

Roger De Haan
1489 Meridian Rd
Victor, MT 59875

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Dickson
1930 Montana Ranch Trl
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

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Sincerely,

John E Dunkum
601 E Beckwith Ave
Missoula, MT 59801-4422

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Having beaver on the landscape protect's my fifth generation family farm in many ways. Without protection from fire and drought there is no value in my land or it's production. Beavers are the cheapest and most effective way to protect the land and the resources vital to living and growing on it.

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Sincerely,

Eleanore Eberts
995 Egan Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

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I'm a biologist (B.S., Zoology; M.S., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) in complete agreement with Greater Yellowstone Coalition that beavers should be restored to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beaver activity supports fish, wildlife, and our own communities alike. Additionally, beavers provide significant economic and ecological benefits through water filtration, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge that maintain the cold, clean waters that Montana's outdoor recreation economy depends on.

By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Kristine Ellingsen
216 Mill Street (no mail at this address)
Gallatin Gateway (no mail!), MT 59730

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Ellen Feaver
901 Flowerree St
Helena, MT 59601

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Sincerely,

john feckanin
405 east summit
livingston, MT 59047

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Sincerely,

Constance Fiske
84 Bridle Bit Loop
Clancy, MT 59634-9646

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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I know that MT F,W, & P understands these things including the history of this keystone species. I just want to say that I support these projects and want to see nature operating at all levels the way it should.

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Sincerely,

Michael Ford
1003 W Park
Anaconda, MT 59711

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Sincerely,

Susan Gallagher
2485 Arnica Dr
Bozeman, MT 59715

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I believe ecosystem health is paramount if ecosystems are to remain resilient, given the many challenges they face today. Protection of established viable ecosystems and rewilding of impaired ecosystems help to achieve this, with beavers playing a major role in the rewilding process, where applicable.

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Sincerely,

Doug Gledhill
1270 Lonesome Pine
Billings, MT 59105

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Sincerely,

Erika Grabbi
5 Canvasback Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718-1233

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Sincerely,

Rochelle Gravance
P.O. Box 1205
Columbus, MT 59019-1205

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Sincerely,

David Gregg
299 Rowland Rd
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Barbara Gregovich
1301 W Porphyry St
Butte, MT 59701

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Sincerely,

Kristy Halderman
1623 STONY MEADOW LN
Billings, MT 59101

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Sincerely,

victoria Hall
821 Lakeview dr
Hamilton, MT 59840

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Sincerely,

Amy Halsey
565 Johnson Street
Lander, WY 82520-2161

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MT

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Sincerely,

Carol Hanson
1683 Tschache Lane #327
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Beavers are vital to our ecosystem and I'm so impressed that Montana FWP are stepping up for them.

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Sincerely,

Jessika Hard
804 North 11th Street
Livingston, MT 59047-1606

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Guenter Heinz
250 Pings Rd
Eureka, MT 59917

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Sincerely,

Carolyn Heppel
1397 North Fork Road
Big Sky, MT 59716-1232

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Sincerely,

Alan Hilden
720 Judicial Ave
Billings , MT 59105

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Sincerely,

Marilyn Hill
PO Box 160277, 2925 Little Coyote Road
Big Sky, MT 59716-0277

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Beaver's offer a natural and sustainable approach to ecosystem management.

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Sincerely,

Jason Himmel
2912 Westwind Way
Bozeman, MT 59718

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Sincerely,

Nancy Jochem
9270 Trooper Trail
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Conservation and being a steward of the Earth's resources are vital for the survival of our planet.

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Sincerely,

Amy Jones
1075 Lazy Moose Trl
Essex, MT 59916

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We are fortunate to have beaver in the stretch of the Gallatin River where our family ranch is located just south of Four Corners, MT. While they don't always do what I might like them to do with their "engineering work", they are a vital piece of the healthy habitat we are blessed to have and there needs to be a way to relocate them when their activities cause problems with irrigation systems etc. that cannot be remedied otherwise. To trap and kill them is wrong and this pilot program deserves to be approved for the sake of beavers and healthy habitat.

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Sincerely,

Kathryn Kelly
10474 River Road
Bozeman, MT 59718

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Sincerely,

Michael King
209 5th Avenue
Helena , MT 59601

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Sincerely,

Trace Klein
1115 South Spruce Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715-5952

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Bozeman, MT 59715

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By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Kovalcik
612 Companion Way
Belgrade , MT 59714

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Marian Kummer
3399 Michener Creek, #160988
Big Sky, MT 59716

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Patrick Leary
4659 Pinnacle Trail
Victor, ID 83455

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Leo Leckie
PO Box 965
Gardiner, MT 59030

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Lomax
149 Oakmont loop
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Meaghan Macdonald-Pool
3117 Fen Way Apt A
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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I grew up in the Livingston area and will never forget the beauty of a small valley filled with pools, rushes and moose out by my grandparents ranch. The whole scene was created because of a huge beaver dam. Now, more than ever, we need more situations which protect our water and access to it in Montana. Beavers are a simplistically beautiful solution with very few drawbacks.

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Sincerely,

Corrina Martin
1745 Morocco Dr
Billings, MT 59105-5430

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Siri Martin
107 39th Street
Missouia, MT 59803

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Graeme McDougal
12611 MT Hwy 324
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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We have recently had to trap (and kill) beavers in our HOA pond due to the lack of support for FWP's well-researched beaver live-trapping and relocation program. This cannot be passed quickly enough! When the work of quarantine pond building and actual moving of beavers begins, we will be on the front lines. PLEASE let this program proceed!!!

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Sincerely,

Jack Minter
2325 Three Bears Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Minter
2325 Three Beard Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

erika montgoery
8402 little gullt run
bozeman, MT 59715

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Sincerely,

Wayne Mortimer
405 W. Olive Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Beavers get the job done. They are the most efficient engineers - and a keystone species for all wildlife functions. In this critical time of water rights and land restorations - I support the efforts of the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy waters. Period. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

Voting for these efforts makes environmental and financial sense. Do our Montanans proud. Vote in favor.

Sincerely,

K Murdock
235 s 4th st e
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Mike O'Connell
2908 Westridge Dr.
Bozeman , MT 59715

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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I'm a fly angler and I love seeing beavers while on the river. They make a big difference in improving riparian areas and enhancing fish habitat.

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Sincerely,

Jody Olsen
145 Nostalgia Ln
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Sincerely,

James Opie
1623 Stony Meadow Ln
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

We have seen firsthand the immense benefits of welcoming beavers back to their historic range. We live on a creek outside Bozeman, where beavers are currently returning after decades of being killed. We have seen so many birds and other wildlife return and thrive due to the habitat restored by beavers. During this time of increased anxiety over drought and wildfires, they are a welcome addition to the landscape. We've often wished we could transplant "unwanted" beavers to our site, but understand there is no program currently in place for this. This pilot program is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Mariah Palmer
660 Kelly Creek Road
Bozeman, MT 59715-8273

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am writing in strong support of Montana's Beaver Transplant Pilot Projects.

Beavers are one of the most effective and affordable natural tools we have for restoring damaged streams, improving water security, and building climate resilience. Their dams slow and store water, recharge groundwater, reduce erosion, and create wetland habitat that benefits fish, birds, and wildlife across entire watersheds. In a state facing increasing drought, declining snowpack, and higher wildfire risk, these ecological functions are not optional -- they are essential.

Beaver-created wetlands also act as natural fire breaks and help moderate extreme runoff events, reducing downstream flood damage. These benefits would cost taxpayers millions of dollars to replicate with engineered infrastructure, yet beavers provide them at virtually no cost once established.

The pilot structure is also a responsible approach. It allows the state, tribes, landowners, and conservation partners to evaluate outcomes, refine methods, and ensure that relocations are conducted safely, ethically, and with community support. This is exactly the kind of science-based, collaborative restoration work Montana should be investing in.

I urge the state to move forward with these pilot projects and to continue expanding beaver-based restoration as a core strategy for watershed health, climate resilience, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Thank you for considering my comment.

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Sincerely,

Sharon Patton-Griffin
256 Dune Drive

Great Falls, MT 59404

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Sincerely,

Erich Pessl
522 W. Olive St.
Bozeman, MT 59715

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I have worked to create beaver dams analog structures in areas beavers have historically inhabited and have seen their effects first hand. However it takes a lot of work and time to maintain these structures. Relocating beavers to new areas will help maintain structures like this in perpetuity, raising the water table and creating drought resiliency.

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Sincerely,

Madeline Pike
4087 Carbon St
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Dan Porter
4277 Nelson Road
Belgrade, MT 59714-8748

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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I support restoring beavers to waterways because they help improve habitats for lots of wildlife as well as improving water storage.

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Sincerely,

Betty Potter
8470 Sunset Hill Road
Greenough, MT 59823-9614

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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We have altered our planet enough. We need to let it heal. Bring back beaver and bison and give nature a chance.

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Sincerely,

Virginia Pueringer
2088 Outlook Trl., #1969
Big Sky, MT 59716

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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In addition ecotourism will be enhanced by opportunity for seeing beavers in their natural habitat

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Sincerely,

Martha Rhoades
2300 Ridgewood Ln S
Billings, MT 59106

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

As Montanans who value our precious watersheds we support the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

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Sincerely,

Gail and John Richardson
5263 Cimmeron Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Sincerely,

Emilie Ritter
2761 Favor Loop
Helena, MT 59601-8514

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Rebecca Ritter
27 Sweetgrass Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

OR

Beaver activity supports fish, wildlife, and our own communities alike. Additionally, beavers provide significant economic and ecological benefits through water filtration, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge that maintain the cold, clean waters that Montana's outdoor recreation economy depends on.

By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Douglas Rohn
1858 Hunters Way
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Theresa Rollins
34 Woodside Rd
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

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Sincerely,

Cecily Ryan
100 Leah Ann Ln
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am Dr. Schott.

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

WE MUST TRANSPORT THE BEAVERS! THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM!

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Sincerely,

Sandy Schott
121 Johnson Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers provide significant economic and ecological benefits through water filtration, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge that maintain the cold, clean waters that Montana's outdoor recreation economy depends on. These benefits are increasingly important as we face worsening drought and climate conditions.

By supporting these pilot sites, the Commission can restore vital beaver populations, improve water storage and habitat resilience, and enhance Montana's outdoor recreation and ecosystem health. I urge you to vote in support of these program sites.

Sincerely,

Mark Schulein
PO Box 805
Livingston, MT 59047-0805

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I absolutely support the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range. Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state until MAN got involved with no science! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Patricia Simmons
357 Pine Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

I believe that the science clearly speaks for itself. Montana needs its wetlands, and the wetlands need beavers. We can learn to live with them in their home. Our future truly depends on our cohabitation.

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Sincerely,

Kari Simonson
5423 Glenellen Dr #14
Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Beavers are vital ecosystem engineers that historically helped maintain healthy watersheds across the state. Over-trapping in the 1700s and 1800s, followed by extensive alteration of streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, left many waterways degraded. Beaver-modified systems slow and store water, recharge groundwater, and create resilient habitats that benefit wildlife habitat and our communities. These benefits are especially important as Montana faces increasing drought, wildfire, and climate pressures.

I have spent a lot of time in wild places in Montana and I've seen first-hand how beavers benefit the environment.

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Sincerely,

Jason Sloat
56548 West Rd
Charlo, MT 59824

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Melissa Smith
2736 CLOVER DRIVE
Great Falls, MT 59404

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Jenny Sowell
694 Harper Puckett Rd
Bozeman, MT 59718-9714

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Sincerely,

D Curtis Starr Jr
4960 Cheyenne Trail
Billings, MT 59106

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I strongly support the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

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Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Michael Stock
702 Pleiades Place
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the three proposed pilot beaver transplant sites using the Montana Beaver Transplant Program to restore beavers to suitable areas of their historical range.

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Sincerely,

Susan Suskiewich
201 Spring Creek Hills Rd
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Janie Talalotu
8871 Santa Anita Road
MISSOULA , MT 59808

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Sincerely,

Kathryn Tilly
444 Lost Horse Road
Hamilton, MT 59840-9764

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Sincerely,

Samantha Treu
2316 42nd street
Missoula, MT 59803

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Sincerely,

David Tucker
2512 Westridge Dr
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Sincerely,

Anita Vasquez
2332 S. 9th St W
Missoula , MT 59803

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MONTANA

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Sincerely,

David Vietz
2860 , Travis Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

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Sincerely,

Vickie Voss
22335 Wallace Creek Rd
Clinton, MT 59825

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Sincerely,

Jon W
12 Water St
Gardiner, MT 59030

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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Sincerely,

Gail Waldby
614 S 12th St
Livingston, MT 59047

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Sincerely,

Susan Wayne
25925 Barton Rd
Loma Linda, CA 92354

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Sincerely,

Krystal Weilage
835 15th St
Butte, MT 59701

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Sincerely,

O. Alan Weltzien
510 South Dakota Street
Dillon, MT 59725

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Beavers are beautiful and intelligent animals. The dams they build are wonderful to see. The water trapped by the beaver dams is used by the beavers, and it also benefits the fish, ducks, geese, turtles, deer, elk, moose, wolves and other wildlife that are at and near to the beaver dams. The dams also help prevent soil from being washed away.

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Sincerely,

Koi Woodson
630 S. 11th Street
Livingston, MT 59047

June 7, 2026

RE: Approval of Beaver Transplants for 2026 to 2028

TO: FWP Fish& Wildlife Commissioners

I am a 3rd generation Montanan commenting on the FWP proposal to approve translocating beaver into areas of their historical range within R2 the Spotted Dog WWA, R3 Moose Creek drainage in the upper Big Hole watershed, and R3, the Flying D Ranch. There is no such thing as “problematic beavers” but instead unsustainable trapping and killing of beavers who serve an invaluable role in restoring watersheds, creating wildlife habitat, and addressing the effects of climate change along with proposals from the MT Public Service Commission to build numerous AI data centers which require vast water resources, many in arid regions of the state.

My biggest concern with this proposal is there are no safeguards to guarantee that once beavers are reintroduced to areas within their historical range, they will be quickly trapped out where the trapping season runs from 5.5 months to 9 months of the year and allowed an unlimited number of beavers trapped, thus a complete waste of taxpayer dollars for these relocation efforts. It has happened before and it will happen again without closing beaver trapping in these areas.

FWP needs to pause, and provide the public with science-based information first before a management decision can be made. The FWP proposal fails to answer whether translocated beavers will be protected from traps, whether temporary closures will be implemented, and how long these closures will remain in effect. To date FWP has shown favor to trappers in their management decisions and comments such as mine have very little or no consideration. Continuing the translocation of beavers from one place to another is just a bait and switch strategy if trapping is not closed for extended periods of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Gunderson, PhD.

Swan Valley, MT