



Oct. 23, 2017

Brian Robbins
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Anaconda Unit Office
1300 Maguire Road
Anaconda, MT 59711

Dear Mr. Robbins,

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA) works to conserve Montana's wildlife, wild places and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage. In addition to our support for hunting and fishing, members of HHA are dedicated to conserving Montana's non-game wildlife and natural habitat, and to ensuring that future generations are able to enjoy the same high-quality outdoor experiences we grew up with.

After careful consideration, HHA fully supports the proposed DNRC land exchange near Drummond and Philipsburg. Having adequate access to public lands is important to hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The exchange would result in the acquisition of 1,680 acres of private land near lower Willow Creek in exchange for 640 acres of state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation trust land near East Fork Reservoir. Additionally, this would improve access to approximately 4000 acres of adjacent U.S. Forest Service land.

Though the public would be losing access to approximately 640 acres near East Fork Reservoir, the exchange would increase opportunities for hunters and anglers to enjoy thousands of acres of land that were not previously accessible, much of which will provide good hunting opportunities for deer, elk, and upland birds. Land exchanges that result in a net gain in both acreage and improved access are a benefit to all Montanans and ensures that outdoor recreationists will gain adequate access to public lands.

If you have any questions regarding HHA's support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kit Fisher", written in a cursive style.

Kit Fisher
President, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers