

**Glenda Wiles**

---

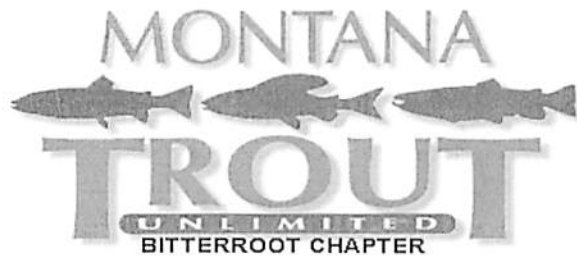
**From:** Doug Nation [douglas.p.nation@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 04, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Open Lands Bond funding of the KBK Project  
**Attachments:** Letter in Support of the Evans Easement 10-13{1}.doc

Dear Commissioners,

The Board of Directors of the Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited has asked me to submit this letter of support of, and ask your approval to expend Open Lands Bond money to complete, the Evans easement (KBK) project. Please include this letter when you consider this project.

Best Regards,

Doug Nation, President  
Bitter Root Trout Unlimited



Ravalli County Board of Commissioners

October 4, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I deliver this message on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We, and our Chapter membership of almost 300, are devoted to our mission statement – to conserve, protect, and restore the Bitterroot River and its watershed.

The reason for this letter is to urge your approval of the request to spend Open Lands Bond money to secure the conservation easement on the Evans property, also known as the KBK project. The fact that almost 1.5 miles of Bitterroot River make up the eastern boundary of the project, and includes the Lost Horse Creek and Bitterroot River confluence, is reason enough to approve this application and protect the riparian habitat contained on the property. When one considers the avian, ungulate, and aquatic habitat that will benefit from this conservation easement, the fact that the landowner will bear the lions-share of the cost of enacting this easement, and the fact that this project is the epitome of why the Open Lands Bond passed, by a significant majority, a vote of the citizens, there is no justifiable reason to deny this expenditure.

As members of Bitter Root Trout Unlimited, we see a need to conserve the economic and “quality of life” aspects that the Bitterroot River provides to current and future residents. This project is just such an opportunity. This stretch of the Bitterroot River is important to many wild and native fish species. The guide and outfitter industry, and its significant contribution to our economy, routinely use this area of the River when guiding their clients.

We believe that using public funds, through the Open Lands Program, to allow a landowner the opportunity to conserve such a unique and special piece of land and provide benefit to all Ravalli County citizens is the right thing to do. We hope that you agree.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts on this very important project.

Best Regards,

Doug Nation, President,  
Bitter Root Trout Unlimited