

Glenda Wiles

From: Marshall Bloom [drtrout@mtbloom.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 06, 2013 7:31 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: FW: Open Lands recommendation on Evans property (KBK project)

-----Original Message-----

From: Marshall Bloom [mailto:drtrout@mtbloom.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2013 9:12 AM
To: 'rstoltz@rc.mt.gov'; 'gchilcott@rc.mt.gov'; 'jriman@rc.mt.gov'; 'jburrows@rc.mt.gov'; 'sfoss@rc.mt.gov'
Cc: 'commissioner@rc.mt.gov'; Marshall E Bloom
Subject: Open Lands recommendation on Evans property (KBK project)

Dear Commissioners,

The Bitterroot Land Trust has been working with the property owners to place a voluntary conservation easement on the Evans property, also known as the KBK project. This area is informally known as the Lost Horse Bend. I heartily support this effort and endorse the use of Open Lands funds for this project. I have lived in the valley for more than 40 years and am very familiar with this property. It is a treasure.

When our Trout Unlimited chapter commissioned Monte Dolack to do a fine art print of the Bitterroot River, Monte scouted the entire river. He decided that the most iconic spot on the river was Lost Horse Bend, and his painting depicts the gorgeous long bend between Lick Creek and Charlos Heights. Monte tells us that Bitterroot River - Lost Horse Bend is one of the most popular prints in his gallery. And, no wonder! That section of the river and the land encompassed in the bend have a host of values and amenities including beautiful views, great fishing, wonderful riparian areas, and bird and wildlife habitat. In addition, Lost Horse Creek enters the river in this section, and some historians locate this area as the spot where Lewis and Clark crossed to the east side of the river in September 1805 on their way down the valley. It would be a travesty if another trophy private lodge on the riverbank spoiled the view and diminished the multiple values and amenities.

The county's Open Lands Board has forwarded a recommendation to you to approve the use of county Open Lands Program funds to assist the landowners with enacting the easement, and I understand a vote is scheduled at a meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013..

Due to work commitments, I am unable to attend the meeting, but urge you to accept the recommendation of the Open Lands Board and approve the use of Open Lands program funds for this project. Please enter my comments into the official record on this matter.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Marshall Bloom
663 Alvista Loop
Hamilton, MT 59840