

July 7, 2020



Ravalli County Board of Commissioners  
215 South 4th Street  
Suite A  
Hamilton, MT. 59840

RE: Support for acquisition of C. Ben White Fishing Access Site

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Bitterroot Conservation District Board of Supervisors (BCD) to express our strong support for the proposed acquisition of the C. Ben White Fishing Access Site on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. This acquisition will provide numerous recreational opportunities for the citizens of Ravalli County, and will also conserve 97 acres of prime aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat.

In particular, the BCD believes that this project represents a rare opportunity to ensure that approximately one-half mile of the West Fork main stem and associated side channels will remain in their natural state for perpetuity. Preserving the ability of the river in this stretch to function naturally and migrate throughout its floodplain will have significant benefits for the health of the fishery and riparian habitat.

In light of the many conservation and recreational values associated with this project, the BCD encourages approval of the requested funding from the Ravalli County Open Lands Bond Program for the acquisition of the C. Ben White Fishing Access Site.

Sincerely,

Bitterroot Conservation District Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Mark", is positioned below the typed name.

Jeff Mark  
Chairman