

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Peggy Ratcheson <pratches@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 10:14 PM  
**To:** Chris Taggart  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] White Memorial Project

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing in support of your approving the Open Land Bond's investment in the C. Ben White Memorial project. This acquisition will protect in perpetuity 100 acres of critical habitat, including important riparian areas, cottonwood galleries, pocket wetlands, and connectivity to the Bitterroot National Forest. It will allow Ravalli County citizens and visitors to access the West Fork of the Bitterroot River for float and wade angling, picnicking, bird watching and dispersed camping. This project supports not only Montana's recreation economy, but also Montanans' way of life. The land Bond's investment is highly leveraged by local partners, with the Open Lands request being only one quarter of the appraised value. This project is a win-win for the entire community. Please vote in favor of approving the project.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Ratcheson, President  
Bitter Root Land Trust

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