



Board of County Commissioners
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BCC 2018-059
February 06, 2018

Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski,

Over ten years in the making, the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project promises a better future for our timber and recreation economies by increasing the pace and scale of forest management, guaranteeing access to favorite backcountry areas and preserving our outdoor traditions for future generations. The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act stems from this collaborative working group including outfitters, wildlife advocates, community leaders, recreationists and timber industry representatives that promotes cooperative public-private stewardship across the southwestern Crown of the Continent.

As long-time champions of place-based collaboration, we have held the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project to a high standard and we intend to hold other public land legislation impacting our residents to a similarly high standard for collaboration and transparency. This includes legislation such as S2206, the Protect Public Use of Public Lands Act, which we are concerned was not developed through a transparent process that allowed for public input from interested stakeholders.

In Missoula County, it is a welcome opportunity when we can show support for a wide-ranging proposal backed by many diverse Montana communities. We are proud to reaffirm our endorsement of the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project through support of the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, which aims to address multiple challenges and opportunities in a single place-based collaborative effort. Collaboration is not an end in and of itself. As a tool it has the opportunity to show the way toward better solutions for public land management.

We urge the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to lend their support to the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, an agreement that is ten years strong and stands on its own.

Thank you for considering our comment.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

David Strohmaier, Chair

Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

Nicole Rowley, Commissioner

BCC/ac
CC: Lisa Murkowski; Maria Cantwell