



Public Lands/Water Access Association
PO Box 80987
Billings, MT 59108
www.plwa.org

Fish and Wildlife Commission
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commissioners,

I represent the Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA), an organization with a long history of protecting public access to public land and water. I submit this letter to further clarify our position with regard to the petition submitted by the George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Skyline Sportsmen Association, Anaconda Sportsmen Association, and PLWA in light of the upcoming public meeting on November 12. These groups requested that the Commission accept the "Preferred Alternative" in the petition submitted in order to spur action in the management of the Madison River.

I want to emphasize that PLWA does not agree with all aspects of the Preferred Alternative. PLWA represents a membership with an interest in protecting and maintaining public access to the Madison River. In particular, PLWA is concerned about the potential for limiting boat access for the purposes of wade fishing on the upper float section. Our support for the adoption of sensible river recreation rules should not be mistaken for blanket support for the petition put together by the Madison River Foundation.

PLWA does support initiating rulemaking and public comment, either on the petition or on an alternative proposal. I am confident that public comment will show resounding support for maintaining or expanding existing public access. It is critical that the public continue to use and enjoy one of the most recreated rivers in Montana.

Sincerely,

Paul Burdett
Executive Director
(406) 690-0960
paul@plwa.org
PUBLIC LAND/WATER ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.