



September 11, 2020

Mr. Rick Northrup
Wildlife Habitat Bureau Chief, FLP Program Mgr.
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Montana Great Outdoors Conservation Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Northrup,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide Montana Wood Products Association's (MWPA) support for the Montana Great Outdoors Conservation Project. We understand The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) are applying for Forest Legacy Program (FLP) dollars to conserve approximately 130,000 acres of SPP Montana, LLC land in northwestern Montana. As the mission of the FLP is to conserve privately managed forestland and to increase access for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities, we believe the project fits the mission of the program.

SPP's private timber ownership in Lincoln, Flathead, and Sanders Counties provide economic, community-oriented, and ecological benefits. Placing these lands under a conservation easement will ensure these lands remain working timberlands, providing good jobs in the woods and fiber for local mills. Managed timberlands decrease the threat of wildfire and provide important access for wildfire suppression.

Access to 130,000 acres of public open space for timber management, recreation and hunting is important to all Montanans. In addition to the economic and recreational benefits, these forestlands protect the scenic landscape for its natural scenic values and fish and wildlife habitat along the Thompson Chain of Lakes corridor between Libby and Kalispell, Montana.

Thank you for your efforts on this once in a lifetime opportunity. If you need any assistance, please contact us.

Julia Altemus
Executive Director