



13 May 2014

Mr. Kevin Slovarp
City Engineer
City of Missoula
435 Ryman
Missoula MT 59802

RE: Stormwater treatment retrofit for Caras Park and Buckhouse Bridge

Dear Mr. Slovarp,

Montana Trout Unlimited represents 3,900 conservation-minded anglers statewide, including approximately 900 who are members of TU chapters in the Missoula and Bitterroot areas. We support the City of Missoula's proposal to retrofit the stormwater collection and treatment projects at the Caras Park and Buckhouse Bridge outfalls, and urge the City to pass on our endorsement to potential funding sources.

The Caras Park outfall is a significant source of pollution, as it discharges untreated stormwater from more than 60 acres of downtown streets, alleys and parking structures directly into the Clark Fork River. The Buckhouse Bridge outfall, which drains 75 acres – including Reserve Street and the Highway 93 corridor – is another sizeable source of contaminants. Retrofitting these outfalls so that discharge can be collected and treated could reduce significant sources of sediment (such as road sand), de-icer, VOCs, metals such as lead, gasoline and oil, antifreeze and any number of wastes that potentially include bacteria or possibly viruses. Further, these projects will enable the city to intercept solid waste that otherwise ends up as river trash.

Implementation of these projects will further the many years of investment Missoulians and Bitterrooters have made in cleaning up the Clark Fork River while also improving the fishery in the Bitterroot River. Missoula now has a significant fishery for wild fish downtown. The Bitterroot, after years of neglect is now often the third or fourth most heavily fished river in the state. Investing in improving river health and the associated benefit of enhancing a fishery is good for community pride as well as for generating economic activity. In this case, it also enhances existing investments in Missoula's riverfront park system.

We can attest to the fact that preservation and improvements of Montana's rivers, including the Clark Fork and Bitterroot, has helped diversify local economies by providing incentive for businesspeople, professionals and retirees with transfer income who are seeking to invest in places with a high quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend our support to solid and necessary projects at Caras Park and Buckhouse Bridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Farling".

Bruce Farling
Executive Director