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25 September 2015

Alicia Stickney
Conservation and Resource Development Bureau
Montana DNRC
P.O. Box 201601
1625 Eleventh Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Re: RDPG grant for Beal water treatment

Dear Alicia:


Montana Trout Unlimited supports the application of Butte-Silver Bow Local Government for a DNRC Reclamation and Development Planning Grant to help fund necessary design work to upgrade the water treatment facility at the abandoned Beal Mountain Mine. Ever since the mine closed we have been advocating for interim water treatment and site stabilization at the mine, as well as a strategy and necessary funding for permanent reclamation and restoration. Maintaining workable, efficient and effective water treatment at the site is critical for ensuring protection of ground and surface water resources in the area, as well as the aquatic community in German Gulch. Without continuing collection and treatment of solution from the leach pad, the site poses a serious threat to an important native cutthroat fishery as well as other aquatic life in German Gulch.

We have been to the site at least a dozen times in the last few years, and have seen first hand the condition of the water treatment system. The physical plant is run down and poses safety issues to workers. Further, certain features of the reverse osmosis treatment system need revamping. The sooner this work occurs, the better. We don't believe that continuing treatment in perpetuity is the ultimate solution for resolving the water management issues at this site. However, until funding is found for an effective permanent solution at the Beal Mountain Mine, the important tasks of water treatment and site management as overseen by the U.S. Forest Service deserves strong support. Approval of this grant will indicate the State

of Montana supports the important work of its federal partner to protect German Gulch.

By all means don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Farling". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bruce Farling
Executive Director