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October 22, 2020

Leanne Marten
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
USFS Region 1

Cc: Carolyn Upton
Forest Supervisor
Lolo National Forest
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Re: LWCF Fiscal Year 2022 Missoula Valley Frontcountry Access Project

Dear Ms. Marten and Ms. Upton:

My name is Walker Conyngham and I'm the President of Hellgate Hunters & Anglers, a Missoula based conservation organization which represents over 400 sportsmen and women in our community. I am writing to express my organization's support for the Missoula Valley Frontcountry Access Project. The acquisition of these 18,000 acres in the Lolo National Forest for public use and public access will benefit our members and the community at large

Hellgate Hunters & Anglers is dedicated to ensuring access and opportunity for hunters and anglers across Western Montana. This project would help Missoula expand the public land recreational opportunities available to our growing population and would benefit hunters and anglers in particular.

The proposed acquisition, funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, would:

- Bolster hunting and angling opportunities
- Increase public access for all individuals
- Maintain habitat for fish and game species
- Ensure habitat connectivity
- Protect our watershed
- Help retain our valley's wild character

Please work to ensure that this project is completed in the near future. We appreciate your work on behalf of our public lands and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Walker Conyngham
President, Hellgate Hunters & Anglers