



February 9, 2026

Robert Davies, District Ranger  
Hungry Horse Ranger District  
Flathead National Forest  
10 Hungry Horse Drive  
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

Re: Granite Moccasin Project

Dear District Ranger Davies,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and as a Montana resident, I write to express our strong support for the Granite Moccasin Project on the Flathead National Forest. The Proposed Action will improve forest health and resilience to high-intensity wildfires, improve habitat diversity for wildlife, and enhance hunting and fishing opportunities for Montana's sportsmen and women.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

The Proposed Action will move the 67,536-acre project area towards the desired conditions described in the 2018 Flathead National Forest Land Management Plan. The Proposed Action also supports local wildland-urban interface (WUI) wildfire risk reduction goals, including roughly 30,380 acres of the project area in the WUI, identified in the Flathead County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Proposed Action supports state forest

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<sup>1</sup> Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Flathead County, MT. 2021. Flathead County Office of Emergency Services. [https://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Community-Local-Government/Flathead\\_Wildfire\\_Protection\\_Plan\\_2021.pdf](https://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Community-Local-Government/Flathead_Wildfire_Protection_Plan_2021.pdf)

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health improvement and wildfire risk reduction goals, including about 1,595 acres identified as “priority areas” for high fire risk in the project area, detailed in the Montana Forest Action Plan.<sup>2</sup>

CSF supports the 4,689 acres of proposed vegetation management treatments, including commercial and precommercial thinning, improvement cuts, even-aged harvests, and prescribed burns that will reduce tree densities to improve species composition and structural diversity to increase forest resilience to wildfire, insects, and disease. The treatments will increase habitat diversity for wildlife and reduce fuel loadings to protect infrastructure, historic sites, and communities in the WUI. We support the 300 acres of silvicultural treatments in the Middle Fork of the Flathead River Wild and Scenic River Corridor and the 2,250 acres of vegetation management in the Inventoried Roadless Areas. Considering the 14,203 acres of Recommended Wilderness in the project area, the adjacent Great Bear Wilderness, and the adjacent Glacier National Park, we are encouraged by your proactive approach to addressing wildfire threat in an area where the ability to conduct forest restoration work is limited.

CSF represents the interests of Montana’s sportsmen and women, the primary funders of state-based conservation efforts and significant contributors to Montana’s economy, that depend on access to the Flathead National Forest to pursue their outdoor pastimes. Hunters in Montana support 12,100 jobs, \$334 million in salaries and wages, \$47 million in state and local taxes, with a total economic effect of \$1.125 billion.<sup>3</sup> As reported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 2025, Montana’s sportsmen and women generated more than \$94.8 million for conservation funding, supporting the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks through the “user pays – public benefits” American System of Conservation Funding.<sup>4</sup>

Thank you for considering our input, and we look forward to reviewing the environmental assessment.

Sincerely,



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<sup>2</sup> Montana Forest Action Plan. 2020. The Montana Forest Action Advisory Council convened by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. [https://dnrc.mt.gov/\\_docs/forestry/Montana\\_Forest\\_Action\\_Plan\\_12.22.2020.pdf](https://dnrc.mt.gov/_docs/forestry/Montana_Forest_Action_Plan_12.22.2020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Economic Impacts of Hunting and Target Shooting – Technical Report.” Southwick Associates, produced for the Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation. December 2021. <https://sportsmensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-Economic-Impact-of-Hunting-and-Shooting-Technical-Report-V2.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://congressionsportsmen.org/reports/montana-american-system-of-conservation-funding-fact-sheet/>

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