REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS Projects Submitted for Funding to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust requests public comments on project proposals submitted for funding by the Trust. The Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust was established by the US Congress, funded by proceeds from the sale of federally leased cabin sites on Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The purpose of this Trust is to provide a permanent source of funding for the acquisition of publicly accessible land in the State of Montana in order to:

- Restore and conserve fisheries habitat, including riparian habitat;
- Restore and conserve wildlife habitat;
- Enhance public hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities;
- Improve public access to public lands.

Two independent oversight Boards, a Joint State-Federal Board and a Citizen Advisory Board, are responsible for ensuring the goals of the trust are met. Board meetings are open to the public and public participation is encouraged.

An interim application has been received. The first phase of review by the Citizen's Advisory Board has been completed. The project is now being moved to the Joint Federal-State Board for review and public comment. Written comments on the project will be accepted for a 30-day period beginning March 11, 2024 and ending 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024. The project recommended by the Citizens Advisory Board for funding is the Birdseye project submitted by Prickly Pear Land Trust.

A copy of the proposed project nominated for funding is available via email at <u>fwctrust@mtoutdoorlegacy.org</u>. You can also call Deb Lane at 406-461-9524.

Following the comment period, the Joint Federal-State Board will review comments and act on the proposal.