



Bob Harrington  
State Forester  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
2705 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804

December 17, 2013

Dear Mr. Harrington,

Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) has over 400 members and heartily endorses the proposed Alvord Lake Community Forest grant application. If not protected soon, this only private parcel on Alvord Lake will be converted to other uses such as development, docks, and housing that would greatly jeopardize this parcel's values that include Alvord Lake water quality, recreation opportunities, strong community values that have been established on Alvord Lake and important wildlife habitats. Alvord Lake provide habitats for an important loon nesting territory, other waterfowl, shorebirds, osprey, eagles, and neotropical migrants. This is a well-known area where the public can view common loons and other birds from the trail without impacting the nesting habitat and this trail used to be maintained around the entire lake for wildlife viewing. Wildlife viewing here is an important public use and educational opportunity that could be restored and encouraged with the acquisition.

The restoration aspect of the proposed Community Forest Plan is also important to restore forest and wildlife habitats and conserve a key parcel that is surrounded by the Kootenai National Forest lands or the Kootenai Valleys Conservation Easement held by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. FAS strongly supports conservation education and this proposed Community Forest Program would benefit both ongoing and future conservation education efforts.

FAS appreciates the support that this new Community Forest Program provides to local communities who are engaged in long-term forest management and community activities. The successful implementation of the grant will build upon previous conservation efforts in the area including the Forest Legacy Program, as well as provide opportunities for coordinated land use with adjacent landowners. We believe that this grant would greatly help members of the Troy community protect an important parcel, expand new opportunities for recreation, education, and community outreach and encourage new resource-related economic development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Lopp, President  
Flathead Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904

Robert Rasmussen  
1027 Billings Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601  
*robertsrasmussen@yahoo.com*

**Send your official letter to Robert!**