IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
BUTTE DIVISION

COTTONWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL) LAW CENTER, <i>et al.</i>)	Case No. 2:21-CV-00093-BMM
Plaintiffs,	DECLARATION OF STEVE ATENCIO
YELLOWSTONE MOUNAIN CLUB,)	
Defendant.	
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)	

I, Stephen Atencio, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and, if called as a witness, would competently testify.

2. I submit this declaration on my own behalf and as a member of Cottonwood Environmental Law Center (Cottonwood).

3. I am a resident of Bozeman, Montana.

4. I have been a member of Cottonwood for two years.

5. As a member of Cottonwood, I donate time to the organization.

6. I am a lifelong fisherman dedicated to protecting water quality in Montana.

7. I have fished and recreate on the West Fork of the Gallatin and Gallatin River watershed (the Watershed) on a regular basis for 10 years. I generally fish the Gallatin above and below Williams and Axtell bridge as well as day trips into the Canyon. I worry about the possibility of declining fish populations, unsafe water quality for anglers and boaters.

8. This area is important to me because I believe our rivers and other wild spaces are vital to ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them. From a recreational standpoint these are resources we should protect rather than allow them to be degraded for the convenience of a select few.

9. The Yellowstone Club is discharging nitrogen pollution into the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River. The discharge hurts my conservation and recreational interests in the Gallatin River, its tributaries, and the watershed. The algae blooms mean there are fewer fish to catch.

10. The Yellowstone Club should not continue to build houses that generate pollution if they cannot adequately dispose of the pollution they currently produce.

11. The Yellowstone Club's Clean Water Act violations are destroying the South Fork of the Gallatin River and contributing to the destruction of the main stem of the Gallatin.

13. Degraded water quality in the Watershed negatively harms my interest in using the Gallatin River for fishing. I do not want to wade through algae because of the Yellowstone Club's Clean Water Act violations.

14. If the pollutant discharge is not enjoined, my opportunities to fish or recreate in the Watershed will be harmed because I will be forced to travel further to fish upstream of the discharge, or travel to another watershed entirely. Failure to enjoin new construction in the Yellowstone Club will further exacerbate the harms caused by their unlawful Clean Water Act violations. The illegal discharges cause irreparable harm to my conservation interests in maintaining and restoring the water quality of the Gallatin River and its tributaries. 15. Enjoining the Yellowstone Club from constructing any structure that has a sewer connection at the wastewater treatment plant will redress my conservation, recreational, and aesthetic interests in the Watershed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2021.

Steve Atencio