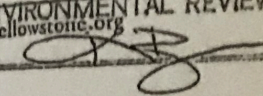




Greater Yellowstone Coalition

P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • (406) 586-1593 • fax (406) 556-2839 • gyc@greateryellowstone.org

FILED this 2nd day of
July AD 2008
at 4:59 o'clock P.M
MONTANA BOARD OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
by: 

1983 - 2008
*Celebrating 25 Years
of Conservation Success*
July 3, 2008

Montana Board of Environmental Review
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Board of Environmental Review:

On behalf of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, I am writing to urge the Board to again extend the public comment period on the proposed rulemaking to designate the Upper Gallatin River as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW).

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has supported ORW designation for the Upper Gallatin River since it was petitioned for that status in 2000. As you know, American Wildlands filed the original ORW petition, and until last year, it led that effort.

As you may know, American Wildlands dropped its water program last year, and with it, its commitment to leading the ORW campaign. At the same time, many of the groups that previously were at loggerheads over the ORW proposal – conservation organizations, developers, local property owners, and the Big Sky Water and Sewer District – joined together to pursue a more collaborative approach to protecting water quality in the Upper Gallatin River. This collaborative process is known as the Wastewater Solutions Forum.

Since its formation last year, the Wastewater Solutions Forum successfully raised \$60,000 to pay for a feasibility study that will determine how much it would cost to expand the Big Sky Water and Sewer District to include the Gallatin River corridor from the Corral Bar downstream to the Big Sky turnoff. The study will also quantify how expanding the Water and Sewer District would improve water quality in the Upper Gallatin River as compared to an ORW designation. HKM Engineering of Billings is currently putting the finishing touches on the study, and on July 22, it will present it to the Wastewater Solutions Forum.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition strongly prefers this collaborative approach to protecting water quality in the Gallatin River for two reasons. First, it has more community buy-in than the ORW proposal does. Second, and more importantly, it has the very real potential to actually improve

People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations.

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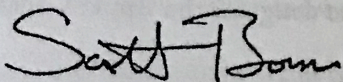
EXHIBIT
2

water quality in the Gallatin River by hooking up existing homes and businesses to an expanded Water and Sewer District. ORW designation would only affect future development.

That being said, we continue to believe it is important that the Board keep ORW designation on the table – at least for the time being – because it provides a powerful incentive for all the various stakeholder groups to continue to work together to arrive at a solution that everyone can agree to. If ORW designation were to be taken off the table, this collaborative process could well unravel.

In closing, we urge the Board to leave the public comment period open on the ORW proposal. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to call me at (406) 556-2823 or email me at sbosse@greateryellowstone.org. Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bosse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Bosse" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Bosse
Rivers Conservation Coordinator