

LINCOLN COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

BRENT TESKE, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 1, LIBBY

JIM HAMMONS, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 2, TROY

NOEL DURAM, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 3, EUREKA

CORRINA L. BROWN
CLERK OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY RECORDER

May 7, 2026

Dear Mr. Gassmann,

On behalf of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, I submit the following comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Ripley Project.

Lincoln County supports the Ripley Project and appreciates the Forest Service's efforts to address the deficiencies identified in the 2023 U.S. District Court decision through the supplemental analysis process. The County also appreciates the updated review of grizzly bear, Canada lynx, wolverine, and whitebark pine considerations included in the SEA.

Active forest management within the project area is important to reducing hazardous fuel conditions, improving long-term forest health and resilience, and supporting the economic stability of Lincoln County and surrounding communities. Timely implementation of vegetation management and restoration activities is particularly important given ongoing wildfire risk and forest health concerns within the region.

Based on our review of the supplemental analysis, Lincoln County supports the FONSI determination and believes the SEA adequately addresses the issues identified for supplemental review, provided that the mitigation measures and project design features identified by the Forest Service are implemented as described.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please include this letter in the project record.

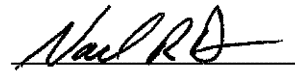
Sincerely,



Libby Commissioner



Troy Commissioner



Eureka Commissioner