

September 27, 2026

Swamped Project

Libby Ranger District

12557 MT Hwy 37

Libby, MT 59923

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept these additional comments from me on behalf of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Council on Wildlife and Fish, Center for Biological Diversity and Native Ecosystems Council (hereafter Alliance) on the Swamped Project EA.

The EA states the project will have no effect on bull trout and bull trout critical habitat.

Page 4 of the Aquatics Reports states:

***Project effects are too insignificant to measure where occupied habitat exists.***

The U.S. FWS states in the attached document: ***Critical habitat is the specific areas within the geographic area, occupied by the species at the time it was listed, that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and that may need special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include***

***areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation.***

The EA is in violation of the ESA because it is almost impossible for the project to have no effect on bull trout and bull trout critical habitat. The Swamped Aquatics Report only analyzed the effect of the project on occupied critical habitat but the attached FWS document states: "Critical habitat may also include areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation." Please consult with the FWS on the effect of the project on bull trout and all bull trout critical habitat in the area.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Garrity

Executive Director

Alliance for the Wild Rockies

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Helena, MT 59624

And on behalf of:

Sara Johnson

Native Ecosystems Council

P.O. Box 125

Willow Creek, MT 59760

And on behalf of  
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PO Box 5256  
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And for

Steve Kelly  
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And of behalf of

Kristine Akland

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