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First name: Aaron
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom this may concern,

As someone born and raised in Montana I am in awe every time I find myself in the wild of this great state. Whether sitting alone on a ridge waiting for an elk to cross moments before the sun rises or wading in a stream with my son hoping a trout rises, nothing is more valuable than these moments. Moments like this are only made possible through public access to public lands. As more and more people move to MT, opportunities like this become more and more difficult to find. Our land is our greatest resource and the thing we should be most protective of for future generations. Looking back on history, one of the biggest follies of our previous generations was not seeing the value of land and letting it go for short-term gain. The most commendable, foresighted and valuable thing done by leaders was preserving public land and access for future generations. Any decision made should be done so with the future of the public in mind and not that of private interest. We have already lost too much of our land to mining, railroad and timber companies. The new movement seems to be the accumulation of land because as the world becomes more populated, space and resources become the ultimate luxury. Any transaction made should be a gain for the people of Montana not a loss. Not a short-term monetary gain that leaves us cleaning up the mess or with less to show, but a gain that our future generations will look back on and be proud of. Thank you and please not only protect our public lands and access opportunities but fight like hell to increase them too!

Sincerely,
Aaron D. Hedges