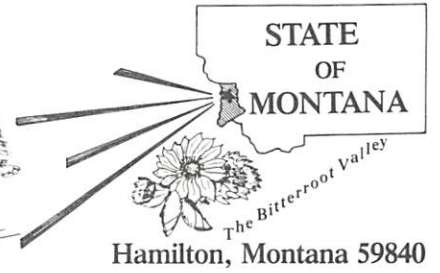
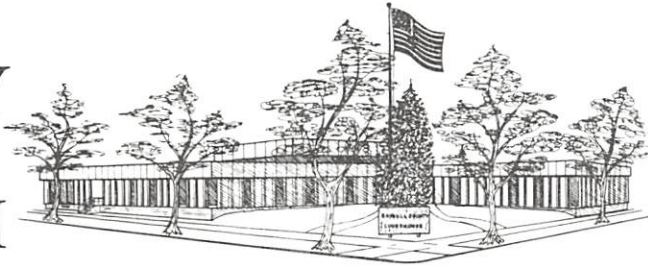


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



November 05, 2019

Matt Anderson, Supervisor  
Bitterroot National Forest  
US Forest Service  
801 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Hamilton, MT 59840

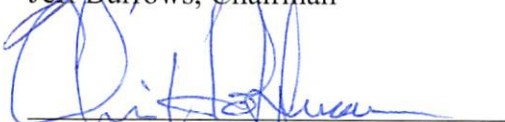
Dear Matt,

On October 3, 2019, the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners heard a presentation by Dr. Marshall Bloom of the Bitterroot chapter of Trout Unlimited regarding their request to rename the West Fork river access site near the West Fork Ranger Station, informally known as Canoe Access. The chapter would like the access to be renamed the Dave Campbell River Access Site. As you know, the late David Campbell served as a Ranger on the Sula District and the West Fork District from 1989 to 2013.

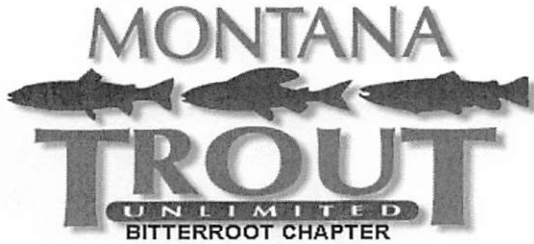
The Board of County Commissioners offers this letter in support of the request being made by Dr. Bloom and Trout Unlimited. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Burrows, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Hoffman, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Chilcott, Member



P. O. Box 262

Hamilton, MT 59840  
[www.bitterroottu.org](http://www.bitterroottu.org)

September 3, 2019

Matt Anderson, Supervisor  
Bitterroot National Forest  
US Forest Service  
1801 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Supervisor Anderson,

This letter is submitted by the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is on the behalf of our membership and other sportsmen/conservationists, but more truly on behalf of the trout, streams, recreation, and other natural resources of the Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) and adjacent lands who are unable to write on their own.

We are writing to request that the West Fork river access site near the West Fork Ranger Station on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, informally known as Canoe Access, be renamed "Dave Campbell River Access Site" in recognition of the late David Campbell, who served as Ranger on the Sula District from 1989 to 1997 and on the West Fork District from 1997 to 2013, and at the time of his retirement from the Agency in 2013 was the longest serving District Ranger in Region One of the US Forest Service. Dave died unexpectedly on March 25, 2019, and we feel it would be a fitting tribute to recognize his contributions, public outreach and leadership by naming this access for him. We have worked with the current West Fork Ranger and several other BNF staff members to draft this proposal.

Our TU chapter has as its mission to conserve, protect and restore trout fisheries and associated natural resources, with a particular emphasis on native trout. Both the Sula and West Fork Ranger Districts of the Forest encompass some of the finest fisheries for native cutthroat and bull trout in western Montana, and the streams they inhabit on the district are among the best remaining habitat for these species. And the same holds true for the Selway River in Idaho which is in the West Fork District from its headwaters through the upper reach. It was for his advocacy and support of these natural resources and the recreational fisheries they enable that we wish to name the river access site for Dave Campbell.

Dave's involvement with BRTU and the fisheries in the Bitterroot literally began the day he drove through Hamilton on his way to Sula when he pulled over off the highway,

introduced himself as the new ranger and offered to help with a kid's fly fishing class. From that day, he was a regular feature at projects and events that BRTU and other sporting/conservation groups hosted. Dave loved fishing and rafting and spent much of vacation and leave time pursuing these opportunities. On several occasions he floated the Selway both for recreation and also to assess the status of the bridges and sites along that river.

When the District had projects in which fisheries, riparian habitat or water quality figured, Dave made certain that he or members of his staff briefed BRTU and other organizations so that they would have an opportunity to review and comment on the projects. Some of these projects involved road rehabilitation, natural fire, timber harvest or other active management, and they drew vociferous opposition and criticism from groups opposed to such activities. Dave interacted with these groups in a very non-confrontational, professional manner even though he recognized that his efforts were in vain.

I would like to briefly note several accomplishments that we feel highlight Dave's dedication and particularly warrant naming the site for him.

1. In the early 2000's, it was necessary to rehabilitate the road paralleling Deep Creek which drains into the Selway near Magruder Ranger Station in the Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness. In order to preserve the historic nature of that road, which is very close to Deep Creek, and a spawning stream for anadromous salmonids, Dave felt it was important to match the new and old road materials as much as possible. This involved identifying a quarry at some distance. The effort that his team put in to make sure that the project restored the road without damaging the stream or riparian habitat was very meticulous.
2. Also in the early 2000's, wilderness fires in the Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness burned extensively along the Magruder Corridor and along the Selway Road below Magruder Crossing. The following year, there were large debris flows that frankly obliterated the road. The rehabilitation of the roads could have had serious negative impacts on the Selway River, but again Dave made certain that the projects were done in a very sensitive but effective manner.
3. Dave's drive to work at the West Fork Ranger District Office took him along the West Fork of the Bitterroot year-round and he appreciated in the early 2000's that the recreational pressure on that relatively small stream was increasing dramatically largely due to the high quality fishery for native westslope cutthroat. Since many of the access points were on USFS land, he worked diligently with others in the Forest to replace the dock and wharf permit system with an outfitter and guide permit system. This action involved numerous interactions with outfitters and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), and was the critical catalyst for the current recreational plan on the West Fork and upper Bitterroot (see final bullet).
4. Dave recognized the need for a permanent river access site at the location we propose to name for him. He and his team undertook the project and saw to its permitting and construction. Since the sign had a canoe on it, the site became

known as Canoe Access, although in 2016 a sign was erected naming it "West Fork."

5. After his retirement in 2013, Dave became a valued member of the BRTU Board of Directors. In that role he made certain that our club was well informed about BNF proposals that fell within our scope, and heartily participated in our projects and educational efforts.
6. However, Dave's greatest contribution before his untimely death was his role as a BRTU representative on the Bitterroot River Recreational Advisory Committee (BRRAC). This was a grassroots instigated effort by BRTU, several outfitters and flyshop owners to address excessive crowding and commercial outfitting on the West Fork that expanded the efforts that Dave started while West Fork Ranger. MFWP selected the BRRAC members from applicants and initiated an extensive process that resulted in the highly successful and well received Upper Bitterroot/West Fork Permit Program. I am not going to detail the entire process or the specifics of the program, but suffice it to say that Dave's expertise and his way of maintaining civility in a contentious forum was key to the success of the process and its acceptance by all the committee members.

This meager list in no way captures all the efforts that Dave made while a Ranger in the BNF. He was a dedicated public servant who felt that the position of District Ranger was the best in Agency and he represented the USFS with great pride and integrity. It is for all of these reasons that we feel it is fitting to rename the West Fork or Canoe Access as the Dave Campbell River Access Site.

Therefore, we urge you as Forest Supervisor to support this request and we look forward to working with you and others at the Regional and Washington Offices to bring the project to completion.

Please note that we have discussed this concept with the Campbell Family, and they are in full support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,