



94 Avista Power Road
PO Box 1469
Noxon, Montana 59853

April 22, 2021

Travis Rehm
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 1
5427 Highway 200
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Dear Travis,

Please accept this letter of support from Avista for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership grant application being submitted by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) for management of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil to benefit the recreational fishery on Noxon Reservoir in 2022.

Avista owns land adjacent to and beneath Noxon Reservoir. In addition, we are a member of Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Plants Task Force (a project partner) and have been involved with the Task Force monitoring and treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil since it's discovery in Noxon Reservoir in 2007.

Our planned contribution to the project includes \$68,382 in-kind match for time spent on the project by our Fisheries Biologist Paul Kusnierz and our Fisheries Technician Tim Tholl. Avista will be collaborating with MFWP to plan the project, collect aquatic vegetation and fisheries data, and report results.

It is Avista's intent to provide \$68,382 in-kind match; however, this amount is pending formal approval through our Clark Fork Settlement Agreement Management Committee process for projects that will take place in 2022. We anticipate that the Management Committee will approve this funding request based on continuing support from Avista and MFWP for the project.

Avista views this project as being consistent with Clark Fork Settlement Agreement and the State of Montana's fisheries goals and objectives for Noxon Reservoir. The Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Plants Task Force has been diligently implementing an integrated approach to managing aquatic invasive plants ever since Eurasian watermilfoil was confirmed in 2007. Continued efforts such as this project are extremely important to meeting the fisheries management goals of the State of Montana and the aquatic invasive species management goals of Sanders County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Nate Hall".

Nate Hall
Avista Clark Fork License Manager