



North Fork Watershed Protection Act Passage: Comments by Community & Business Partners

Michael Jamison, Glacier Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association

“By ensuring that the North Fork valley is not industrialized, the passage of this bill safeguards both our wild inheritance and our region’s economy. It guarantees a future for traditional timber harvest, and it defends our outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing. It protects private property rights, and it doesn’t cost taxpayers a single dime. We are proud of the vision and the balance found by our leadership in bringing this important legislation to full Congressional approval.”

Bob Brown, former Montana Sec. of State and former president of the Montana Senate

“This proves the old adage: it’s surprising what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.” Brown, a Republican, has worked across the political aisle for decades to protect the North Fork Flathead River from upstream industrialization, including Canadian mine projects.

John Bergenske, Conservation Director for British Columbia-based Wildsight

“We are very happy to see the U.S. government honoring transboundary commitments between Montana and British Columbia that protect Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. In 2011, Canadian legislation eliminated the threats of mining and oil and gas development in the British Columbian Flathead. Since then, Canadians have been awaiting reciprocity from south of the border. This U.S. legislation is incredibly important to protecting a world-class landscape, and it demonstrates our friendship and ability to cooperate as transboundary neighbors.”

Chas Cartwright, former superintendent of Glacier National Park Superintendent, current chair of the Flathead Basin Commission

“This is the kind of reciprocal action that’s been needed on the US side of the border for years. Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake and the overall Crown of the Continent will directly and significantly benefit from this legislation.”

Dave Hadden, Headwaters Montana

“Passage of this bill represents a real success for the Flathead Valley. It not only protects Glacier National Park, but also the municipal water supply for the city of Whitefish as well as commercial operations at destinations such as Whitefish Mountain Resort. Nearly 40 years in the making, this effort shows that people here can work across party lines and agree on issues important to everyone.”

Joe Unterreiner, President of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

“Passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act is great news for Glacier National Park, Montana, and Kalispell’s regional tourism economy. We commend Senators Tester and Walsh and Congressman Daines for crafting a bipartisan solution to protecting the Glacier Park-adjacent North Fork area for the benefit of millions of visitors, businesses, and jobs for our state.”

Paul McKenzie, Lands and Resource Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber

“I am glad to see Senators Tester and Walsh and Senator-Elect Daines working together toward solutions for public lands issues that make sense for Montana. We encourage all of our elected officials to continue to seek innovative solutions through bipartisan cooperation that provides legislative certainty for both the management and protection of our public lands natural resources. Stoltze is happy to see passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, and we look forward to similar progress being made on the issue of active management of our public lands for multiple use benefits.”

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