


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

MEMO

TO: John Tubbs, Director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
CC: Patrick Holmes, Natural Resources Policy Advisor to the Governor
Martha Williams, Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
FROM: Steve Bullock, Governor 
DATE: January 25, 2018
RE: Flathead Basin Commission

For over 30 years, residents of the Flathead Valley and Montanans across our state have benefited from cooperative efforts to monitor and protect water quality and the natural resources of the Flathead Valley under the framework of the Flathead Basin Commission. By and large, the Commission has proven an effective model for close coordination and collaboration among federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local resource managers in response to the clear direction established by the Montana State Legislature. The Commission has successfully facilitated an important forum for addressing a number of transboundary, interjurisdictional and interdisciplinary issues facing the region and its environment and remains an important vehicle for regional dialogue and deliberation.

In response to the expiration of the terms of several Commission members, I have identified new citizen members to join established partners on the Commission in their work on behalf of the basin. These new appointments afford an opportunity for the DNRC and the Commission to reaffirm the close cooperation and coordination envisioned in both the Flathead Basin's authorizing legislation and in the laws governing agency administrative attachments. The changes also offer an opportunity for the Commission to discuss its strategic direction and priorities in concert with key agency partners, the newly established Upper Columbia Basin Commission and others in the region. It is my hope that the Commission will build from its track record of past success and continue to provide recommendations to me, relevant state agencies and the Montana legislature on how it can best meet its longstanding mission and evolve to address new challenges and opportunities in the basin.

DNRC has earned a good reputation administering its agency attachments through the years. As my new appointments take their seats on the Flathead Basin Commission, I look forward to hearing news of mutual support, close cooperation, and cooperative strategies.