

# *YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

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September 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yellowstone Conservation District (YCD) fully supports funding of the 2022 Fly Creek Surface and Groundwater Sampling Project grant submitted to the Montana DNRC FY23 CD grant program.

Water quality has long been a concern of farmers and ranchers who live along and around the Fly Creek watershed in both Big Horn and Yellowstone counties. Responding to their concerns, we support this project of monitoring ground and surface water salinity levels along Fly Creek. We also see this project as a critical component of YCD's long term Plan of Work that includes water quality in the Yellowstone River and its tributaries. Short term, the goal of providing safe drinking water for livestock is addressed in this project. But long term, assessing the trend of water and surface salinity in the Fly Creek watershed will help land managers and conservation agencies with future salinity control decisions.

Therefore, YCD is committed to supporting this project - and as in-kind direct support has committed to paying for a technician to conduct water sampling as outlined in the project narrative. We will also support programs to analyze and disseminate water sampling results as outlined. YCD is also committed to continuing long-term landowner awareness and education of salinity control in the Fly Creek watershed.

Cordially,

Chad Sedgwick, YCD Chairman