



Region One
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
Ref: 024-06-18
June 18, 2019

Darlene Bridges
200 Ranger Station Road
Bigfork, MT 59911

Re: Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon Project

Dear Ms. Bridges,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon. This marathon route will travel through black and grizzly bear habitat; however, grizzly bear density in the proposed project area is very low.

Race participants need to be made aware of the wildlife, including bears, that they may encounter during the race. Faster paced activities, such as trail running, pose a higher risk in bear country. Increased speed can increase the likelihood of surprising a bear at close range. Even during planned events with numerous participants, negative bear encounters including fatalities, can and have occurred. We recommend that all race participants be required to carry bear spray.

If you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

/s/ Jessy Coltrane

Jessy Coltrane, PhD
Wildlife Biologist