

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1/23/09
4B

Custer County Conservation District

3120 Valley Drive East
Miles City, MT 59301

Phone: 406-232-7905 ext. 103
Fax: 406-232-3965
Email: carol.watts@mt.nacdn.net

January 15, 2009

Long Range Planning Committee
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Letter of Support - Yellowstone River Conservation District Council

Dear Representative Dave Kasten,

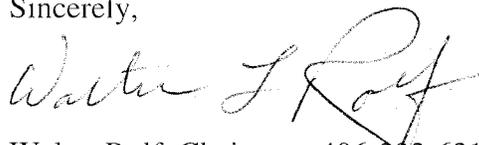
We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council and its efforts toward completing the Yellowstone River cumulative effects study and planning process. The progress made by the Council and its committees to date in managing and enhancing the Yellowstone River Corridor is a direct result of the perseverance of its members, the continuing public interest in its activities, and the close working relationship it enjoys with both state and federal agency representatives.

The Custer County Conservation District has been involved with the Yellowstone River Conservation District since their inception. We fully support their request for \$100,000 per year, which is necessary to cover their cost of operations and to be able to complete the cumulative effects study.

We are also in full support of the Council's RDGP (Reclamation & Development Grant Program) application for the Yellowstone River Riparian Restoration Project which is a necessary first step in controlling Russian olive and salt cedar. These two invasive species pose a very serious threat to the Yellowstone River.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at your convenience. Thanks again for the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council.

Sincerely,



Walter Rolf, Chairman 406-232-6217
Custer County Conservation District